

Workshop discusses views on SQU's future plans



MUSCAT — An international workshop titled "Towards a Long-term Strategic Plan for Sultan Qaboos University" kicked off yesterday under the auspices of Dr. Ali bin Saud al-Binnani, SQU Vice Chancellor. The two-day workshop aims to present and debate

views on various options for the future of the university.

In the opening ceremony of the workshop, Olivier Renard, Adviser to the Secretary General of The Research Council of Oman (TRC), gave an overview of the strategic planning process of SQU.

He said that the objectives of the future planning included stimulating creativity, promoting knowledge and creating a shared view.

Prof Steven Brint from the University of California and Prof Richard James, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, also presented papers.

StanChart Bank scholarships to Indian schools

By A Staff Reporter

MUSCAT — Standard Chartered Bank has offered RO 15,000 to the Board of Directors Indian schools in Oman to be given away as scholarships to children of Indian schools for three consecutive years at RO 5,000 every year. The Board of Directors has evolved a system for disbursement in such a way that maximum number of students are benefited. The scholarships under 4 main categories will be disbursed among 56 children from the Indian schools.

The categories are Excellence in Vocal/Instrumental/Classical Music, Classical Dance, Dramatics or any other performing Art (13 scholarships), Excellence in promoting community activities or for having made individual contribution to protect the Environment/Reducing Environmental Degradation in Oman (12 scholarships), Excellence in Sports (10 scholarships), and Merit cum need based (21 scholarships).

Standard Chartered Bank has been very particular that at least one of the scholarships is given in recognition of contribution towards protection of environment or reducing environmental degradation in Oman. Twelve such scholarships will be given to children from 12 different schools.

Sultanate grants financial aid to WHO's Yellow Fever initiative



By Maryam Khalifa

MUSCAT — The Sultanate has granted annually \$50,000 to the World Health Organization's (WHO) Yellow Fever Initiative over a period of five years to support the WHO campaign to raise funds for an aggressive immunisation campaign for yellow fever.

The Sultanate is the first country in the GCC and WHO's countries of the East-

respond to an outbreak of yellow fever in any country when ever needed.

Among such countries that would significantly benefit from this vaccine initiative include countries of the Sub-Saharan Africa and many other countries of the world that are chiefly afflicted by this disease, she told reporters.

According to delegates of the WHO Headquarters, about \$300 million over the time is

the global partners in immunisation and bilateral assistance with the WHO in support of this kind of initiatives, she stated.

The purpose of her tour to the region is to provoke networking for regional vaccine self-reliance and networking for food safety to determine the safety of the imported and exported food for the safety of the public.

The visit is also aimed at promoting innovative research and intellectual property and to explore the potential contribution on several aspects of health security, hepatitis and meningitis.

Her visit to the Sultanate is also aimed at looking at how the WHO and the Sultanate can work together to improve the health issues in this part of the world given the fact that the Sultanate is an example of an excellent health system in

Geneva International Orchestra to hold classical concert

By A Staff Reporter

MUSCAT — In appreciation of the leading position of the Sultanate of Oman in the world, Switzerland has decided to join the Omani people in their celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the accession of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos to the throne.

François Longchamp, the President of the Government of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, said, "The Government of the Republic and Canton of Geneva is proud to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the reign of His Majesty the Sultan of Oman by offering, in turn, a classical concert by the International Geneva Orchestra in Muscat this autumn. In so doing, the Government of the Republic and Canton of Geneva wishes to confirm its excellent relationship with your country by reinforcing the ties of friendship and deep respect that bond our two states."

The Honorary Consul



Prince Eric, François

General of Switzerland in the Sultanate of Oman Youcef Fartas said, "Amidst the celebrations of the Sultanate's National Day I have the honour of introducing the International Orchestra of Geneva. Their concert is presented as a gift by the people of Geneva and Switzerland to the people of the Sultanate of Oman in celebration of the 40th National Day of the Sultanate of Oman."

Meanwhile, the former president of the Republic and Canton of Geneva and President of the Geneva International Orchestra Dominique Folini said, "There is no doubt the Royal Oman Sym-

phony Orchestra, when joining on stage the Geneva International Orchestra for the last work of our programme, will share our emotion and our happiness, thus illustrating our two cultures coming closer."

On this occasion, Prince Eric I Sturza, President of the Executive Board, Banque Baring Brothers Sturza SA, said, "The relationship between the Sultanate of Oman and Switzerland is as beautiful as music and as harmonious as opera. Even if geography separates them, Oman and Switzerland share many values, aspirations and ideals. On an international level, both practise non-interventionism in the affairs of others. Both countries give the same priority to education, health and quality of infrastructure, environmental protection and the acceptance of foreigners."

Therefore, it is normal that we join the Omani people in their National Day celebrations.

1st anniversary of Oman Air's high-tech fleet

By A Staff Reporter



MUSCAT — Oman Air is celebrating at this year's World Travel Market (WTM), as it marks the first anniversary of the launch of its fleet of Airbus A330 aircraft. The airline is also marking the success of the first six months of its pioneering inflight mobile phone and wi-fi connectivity package.

With a huge, brand new exhibition stand, featuring the airline's extra-long, lie-flat Business Class seat and Omani racing driver Ahmad al Harthy's Oman Air-branded Porsche Carrera, the national carrier of the Sultanate of Oman is set to make a powerful impression at the world's leading travel trade show.

Speaking at WTM, Peter Hill, CEO of Oman Air, said: "We are delighted to be participating once again at WTM and

Chinese official leaves

MUSCAT — Jia Qingling, Permanent Member of the Politburo Standing Committee of the Communist Party of China and Chairman of the Peoples Political Consultative Conference, left here yesterday winding up his official visit to the Sultanate during which he had the hon-

our of an audience with His Majesty Sultan Qaboos. The official also met with senior state officials and conducted talks with Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed al Issa'ee, Chairman of Majlis Ash Shura. — ONA



Sultanate of Oman
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