



## **Press Release**

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### **Energy Road Map Should be Prepared**

MUSCAT, Oman, 15th February 2011, Times of Oman — Oman should prepare an energy road map for the future, experts said at the end of the two-day International Conference on Harnessing Technology (ICHT), yesterday.

An initiative of Caledonian College of Engineering (CCE), the conference stressed on encouraging future research in developing technologies, assisting in identifying future energy needs and developing current innovations. Experts who participated and presented papers at the conference discussed the “way forward”. “Many factors in developing and identifying renewable energy resources should be considered,” said Dr. David S. Rene of International Solar Energy Society, US.

Stressing it is wonderful to see the winds of change in the thought process in Oman, Werner Koldehoff, MoB, German Solar Industry Association, said the time to focus on the right technology has come. He also suggested that new government buildings should use energy saving and energy efficient techniques and become examples for society. He stressed that it is time to “download the sun”.

Saying that wind energy has not been explored in the Sultanate, Dr. David Carr, associate director at Alternative Energy Institute, West Texas A&M University, US, said: “Oman has a huge potential for wind projects and medium scale application can be implemented”.

Prof D. Detlef Bahnemann, head, photocatalysis and nano technology at Leibniz University Germany, said: “Omani students can help in research and development in the area of storage of renewable energy resources”. He also urged the authorities concerned to create the “right curriculum so that we can educate young people”.

Commending the organizers for hosting a successful conference Prof Ali Sayigh, chairman of WREC and director-general, Wren UK, said: "Looking at the current scenario of global warming, shrinking of water bodies and rise in population, it is imperative to save fossil fuel and have a wise policy for consuming energy through innovative ways and strategies". "Oman must look at energy solutions for cooling, desalination, besides government must give subsidies for those who use work towards this end," he said. He also said young Omanis "must coordinate and network" constantly on the issue. Prof B. K. Rao, president at Comadem International UK, said: "Women can play a major role in educating society on the importance of saving energy".

Omran Al Kuwari, CEO at Green Gulf Inc., Qatar, said: "It is important to consider technology, economic and policy while developing road maps. It is important to collaborate within the region. Solar energy development in the Middle East can find solutions for water and electricity demand".

Said Al Hinai suggested that a non-governmental organization on renewable energy must be formed so that the deliberations can persist. He said the success of the conference is clear evidence of the awareness among industry and academia in Oman, within the region and throughout the world.

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#### **About GreenGulf**

GreenGulf is a Qatar-based business focused on renewable energy and clean technologies. Launched in 2008, it provides advisory services on the development of solar and other renewable energy projects in the Middle East and North Africa region. The Solar Test Facility project was announced on March 18, 2009, under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Missned, Chairperson of the Qatar Foundation.

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