

state and governor of Muscat, will visit Qatar as per the invitation of Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Khalifa Al Thani, minister of municipality and urban planning in Qatar. Mutasim will be in Qatar for three days.

During the visit, Mutasim will hold talks with the Qatari minister on the areas of bilateral cooperation in a number of fields, particularly on cooperation between the governorate of Muscat and the Qa-

creditation Authority (OAAA), in its report, praised OMC for providing the necessary support and leadership to students which has resulted in the graduation of competent physicians and pharmacists in a short period of time.

Mutasim will be accompanied by a team comprising Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Busaidi, wali of Seeb, Abdulrahman bin Ahmed Madani, head of the minister of state and governor of Muscat's office, Sheikh Talib bin Khalifan Al Qutaiti, director-general of local affairs, and a number of officials at the governorate. - OMA

ing the medical seats once the college is moved to Sohar.

"We do not want to count on the numbers so we have no plans to increase the seats," Mohammed Ali said.

"We want to improve the quality of our teaching process and we are more involved in that rather than having more students in a class," he added.

OMC is affiliated to the West Virginia University School of Medicine

Dr P. Mohammed Ali  
Director of Governing Council,  
Oman Medical College

in the United States, an internationally acclaimed medical school with over 100 years of academic record. Students from OMC are currently sent for clinical training in Sohar

GOING GREEN

## GUtech's 'Muscat Green Days' meet to focus on energy saving lifestyle

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** The German University of Technology in Oman (GUtech) yesterday announced the upcoming Muscat Green Days conference, titled 'Education for a Sustainably Built Environment'. This conference will be held for two days starting October 5 at Grand Hyatt, Muscat.

"During the two-day conference 16 experts from different fields will discuss ways to save energy for the well-being of future generations," said Prof Burkhard Rauhut, rector at GUtech.

The Muscat Green Days conference, which is the first of its kind in Muscat, will be held under the patronage of Sayyed Salim Musallam Al Busaidi, undersecretary for Administrative Development Affairs at the Ministry of Civil Services.

The event is organised by Sesam Consulting, a German-Emirati Consultancy in cooperation with GUtech.

The conference will be chaired by Dr Dieter Fuchs, general manager of Fraunhofer Middle East and President of World Association of Applied Research (WAITRO).

"In a normal community, buildings consume more than 45 per cent of the energy. If the energy for traffic, connected travel between residence and work, is included, the ratio rises up to 75 per cent," said Prof. Rauhut.

The Muscat Green Days conference, like previous Green conferences in the Gulf region, will dole out a strong educational message for environment-friendly and sustainable use of energy, water and resources in buildings as well as conservation of nature and culture.

Moreover, the conference will serve as a networking platform for related industries — both national



**NEW VENTURE:** GUtech's Halban campus model on display. - Shameer Mohammed / TIMES OF OMAN

and international, fostering long-term relations and exchange of knowledge and ideas.

It may be mentioned that GUtech is aware of the importance of sustainable urban planning and architectural design, which are an integral part of GUtech study programmes.

Renewable energies integrated in sustainable architecture, urban planning and waste management will be the topics that will be presented by international experts.

The architect group Hoehler & Partner LLC will provide details about the new GUtech campus in Halban that will have many

environment-friendly features. It will be completed by 2014. "For example, we will include green courtyards that create a microclimate and will reduce the use of air-conditioning. Sustainable building practices go beyond energy and water conservation and incorporate environmentally sensitive site planning, resource efficient building materials and superior indoor environmental quality," said Richard Lisker, architect consultant at Hoehler & Partner LLC.

The Muscat Green Days conference will target decision-makers at the top and mid-level management of the local and international build-

ing and construction industry as well as journalists, architects, urban planners, engineers, students and the general public interested in sustainable green building. Green Building strategies offer technologies and applications that achieve efficient levels of energy and water consumption for the present and future generations.

"Dr Fuchs from Fraunhofer Middle East, who regularly participates in Green Building Events in UAE, will highlight the balance between the public and the private sector participation. It's this special mixture with different points of view, perspectives and expectations which gives these 'Green Days' the special spirit of real 'public private partnership'," said Rauhut.

Among the local and international speakers will be Ahmed Al Jahdhami, general manager Policy & Strategy, Public Authority for Electricity & Water; Dr Saif bin Rashid Al Shaqsi, director-general Ministry of Regional Municipalities & Water Resources; Simon Buttery of Carillion Alawi; Mario Senviratne, LEED faculty member & LEED mentor, US Green Building Council and MD Green Technologies; Hamad Al Gharibi, head of the planning section at the Ministry of Housing in Oman; Mohammed Al Salmi, general manager of Hoehler & Partner LLC.

The Muscat Green Days conference is complemented by a workshop programme that will include a training course 'US Green Building Council Course in Leadership, Energy and Environmental Design'.

The participation fee will be RO27 per person for the conference and RO191 for the workshop. Group fees are available upon request. For more information and conference registration one can log on to www.sesam-uae.com/muscat.



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