



## ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY



**GOING GREEN:** Participants at the LEED workshop in progress.

## 14 buildings to go 'green' soon

*Times News Service*

**MUSCAT:** Green buildings can reduce the consumption of electricity and water by 40 per cent, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 33 per cent and solid waste by 70 per cent, said Mario Seneviratne, managing director of Green Technologies, at a workshop organised at the concluding day of the two-day Muscat Green Days conference on 'Education for a Sustainably Built Environment'.

In the Sultanate, 14 buildings are in the process of becoming Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified green buildings, said Seneviratne, who is also a faculty member of LEED and the mentor of the US Green Building Council.

Speaking at the workshop, Seneviratne said: "Green buildings generate more money and cut the operational costs by around 30 per cent," said Seneviratne.

Globally more than 54,600 buildings (commercial and residential) are pursuing LEED certification and over 13,000 buildings are already certified.

In the Sultanate, Oman Botanic Garden, Jebel Al Akhdar hotel, Khasab hotel, Muscat International

al Airport, and Salalah Airport will be certified 'green' by LEED among the other nine buildings.

LEED is an internationally recognised green building certification system, providing third-party verification that a building or community was designed and built using strategies intended to improve performance in metrics such as energy savings, water efficiency, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality, and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts.

Developed by the US Green Building Council (USGBC), LEED is intended to provide building owners and operators a concise framework for identifying and implementing practical and measurable green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions.

LEED addresses green building design and construction, green building operations and maintenance.

Professor Nikolaus Knebel, head of the department of urban planning and architectural designing at GÜtech, said: "Green buildings need to be considered in the context of the whole environment."