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MUSCAT HOSTS OMAN GREEN DAYS CONFERENCE

Muscat Daily Staff Writer , October 06, 2010 Email to a friend | Print

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The Muscat Green Days Conference began with presentations by industry and government officials on Tuesday. Tackling the subject of environmental sustainability in a number of fields from water and infrastructure to energy generation, 16 key experts gathered to speak about their respective fields and the desire to change the concept of construction and design in a manner that will benefit future generations.

"Oman has maintained a human dimension, along with its heritage. This awareness campaign has brought together all the experts in our society, that at some point will deal with the issue of sustainability. What we would like to build is something based on a public-private sector partnership, and work on doing rather than talking," said conference chairman Dieter Fuchs, general manager at Fraunhofer Middle East.

As energy consumption increases with population growth and modern amenities become widely available, the pressing need is to pre-empt potential problems with brainstorming sessions such as the Green Days conferences. As the first ever such event to take place in Oman, a great deal of interest was generated, with a good attendance by VIPs including event patron H E Sayyid Salim al Busaidi, Undersecretary for Administrative Development Affairs at the Ministry of Civil Services, and H E Angelika Storz- Chakarji, German Ambassador to Oman.

GUTech assisted with the organisational aspects of the event. Addressing the guests, Hussain al Salmi, deputy rector for administrative and environmental affairs at the university, urged everyone from individuals to multinational companies to adopt sustainable practices both at home and in the workplace.

"Sustainability is about balancing the needs of our communities with the economy and in harmony with the environment, and concerns everybody. In Oman, we are blessed with a pure and clean environment. I would like to urge everybody to contribute in their own way to the preservation of our planet," he said.

The conference will continue on Wednesday with seminars and lessons on best practices. The next Green Conference will be held in Dubai later this month, before moving to Doha in November to help bring about a more global approach to dealing with environmental issues.

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