The record turnout was a testament to the Society's growing prominence as the voice of the hydrocarbon industry and a recognition of its definitive role in driving best practice, standards and professionalism in the oil and gas sector. Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Oil & Gas, was the Guest of Honour on the occasion. Also present were the CEOs, Managing Directors and Country Heads of a number of upstream companies and contracting firms.

The highlight of the evening was the election of a new Board of Directors comprising Dr Amer Al Rawas, Group CEO – Tasneea Oil & Gas (as Chairman); Dr. Aflah Al Hadhrami, VP – Oxy (as Vice Chairman); Husam Al Jahdhami, Engineering Director – PDO (as Treasurer); Ashraf Al Mamari, VP Corporate Affairs – OCCEP; Hamoud Al Tobi, CEO – Al Shawamikh Oil Services SAOC; Khalid Al Kindi, Deputy General Manager – BP; and Mohsin Al Hadhrami, CEO – Schlumberger. Earlier, in opening remarks, OPAL CEO Musallam al Mandhri outlined the significant strides achieved by the Society during the past year, in line with its reinvigorated and broadened mandate to as the industry's principal platform. In particular, OPAL continued to work closely with the Ministry of Oil & Gas, Ministry of Manpower and the ICV Committees to build a robust skills development infrastructure focusing primarily on technical competencies.

A notable highpoint of the past year was the Society's success in compiling and publishing the keenly awaited standards for Road Safety, Camp Accommodation and Heat Stress Management. The three sets of standards were formally unveiled at the AGM. Another laudable achievement is the rollout of National Occupational Standards (NOS) for welding professionals. This pilot project is a precursor to establishing similar NOS norms for other trades in conjunction with the industry, training institutes and government trained professionals. NOS norms for HSE Officers and Lifting Equipment skillsets are currently under finalization, he said.

Another highlight was the launch of the Mobile Library, a major CSR initiative organized by OPAL on behalf of its 400-plus members. The Mobile Library has been gifted to Dar Al Atta, the well-known Omani charity.

Abdullah Al Harthy - Communications Executive Manager

“...An annual General Meeting (AGM) of Oman Society for Petroleum Services (OPAL) which was held at the Crowne Plaza Muscat last week. The event attracted a capacity audience of more than 300 company representatives and executives.
On 2nd of March 2017, in Muscat, Oman, Smit Lamnalco (SL) through its Omani joint venture Bahwan Lamnalco SOAC (BLC) with the Omani partner Suhail Bahwan Group (Bahwan), has signed a new 7 years (5y+2y) contract with OMIFCO (Oman India Fertiliser Company) for the provision of towage and pilotage services at the OMIFCO export terminal in Sur. SL and BLC have agreed to build two new 75 tons bollard pull (Ramparts 3200) ASD tugs of for this important contract, which was signed by OMIFCO’s CEO, S. G. Gedigeri, and Sheikh Ahmed Bahwan of the Suhail Bahwan Group, on behalf of BLC, at ceremony in the Grand Hyatt Hotel, in Muscat. This landmark contract creates an effective platform for BLC growth in Oman, with modern, world-class newly built assets.

At the ceremony, BLC and OMIFCO exchanged tokens of appreciations and awards for the achievements of 12 years (2005-2017) without any Lost Time Incidents (LTIs), during which time in excess of 500 vessels have been safely berthed and unberthed from the OMIFCO jetty by Bahwan Lamnalco tugs, a testament to the close professional cooperation between OMIFCO and Bahwan Lamnalco.

An outstanding SHEQ performance for BLC, operating within Smit Lamnalco Integrated Management System – SLIMS.

Khulood Al Mashaykhi has a Bachelor degree in English Language and Literature from Sultan Qaboos University. Her working experience include Communications trainee at MOOG – In Country Value Development Program, Corporate Communications Trainee at Daleel Petroleum, and HR Administrator Trainee at Sultan Qaboos University. In her new role, Khulood will be providing administrative support to the HR and L&D team.

Oman Oil Marketing Company (omanoil) has been granted permission to manage, operate and maintain filling stations and service centers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This qualification marks the beginning of the company’s physical expansion beyond the Sultanate, based on which it has begun preparations for a feasibility study to determine its strategy moving forward.

Making the announcement at the Muscat Securities Market, omanoil CEO Eng. Omar bin Ahmed Qatan, said, “Since our inception, our goal has always been to expand and reach out to customers in Oman and through-out the region with products and services geared towards their needs. This announcement heralds an even more determined step in achieving those aims as we move toward physically spreading beyond the borders of Oman for the first time. As the region’s biggest retail and strategic market, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia presents us with an exceptional opportunity to provide a new market with the award-winning experience people in Oman adore.”

MB Holding officially announces the appointment of Mr. Salim Al Harthy as MB Petroleum Services (MBPS) CEO. Prior to assuming the responsibilities of his new designation Mr. Salim was the CEO of Gulf Drilling a subsidiary of MBPS. Today MB Petroleum group employs over 2600 people and operates in over 8 countries across the Middle East and Europe. MBPS’s main subsidiaries include MB Petroleum Services LLC (Oman), Gulf Drilling LLC (Oman), MBPS KSA, MBPS Bahrain, MB WellServices GMBH (Germany and Austria) and MB Drilling Overseas Ltd (Hungary).
OOCEP NAMED FASTEST-GROWING OIL AND GAS COMPANY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

OOCEP earned this recognition after witnessing its net production significantly increased since 2015 to 57,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day. In the last three years, OOCEP has grown its production and profitability significantly through the successful start of production from the Block 60 and Musanadam Gas Plant operated assets, as well as a number of other new joint ventures in Oman. As a result, by the end of 2016, the entitlement production of the company had grown from 33,000 to 57,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day, and is expected to double again by 2020 as the Khazzan project ramps up.

Commenting on OOCEP’s performance, Ayad al Balushi, a global leader in commercial intelligence for the energy, metals, and mining industries, said, “At OOCEP, we aim to make investments that capitalise on Oman’s experience in the oil & gas industry. Moreover, we comment on OOCEP’s performance, Ayad al Balushi, a global leader in commercial intelligence for the energy, metals, and mining industries.

PETROGAS E&P ORGANIZED A 3-DAYS TECHNICAL FORUM

The Technical Capability Team of Petrogas E&P organized a 3-days Technical Forum that offered the opportunity to gather the entire Technical Teams of the Petrogas, local and international, subsidiaries & affiliates. It was the first technical forum to bring all Petrogas subsidiaries under one roof to strengthen ties and share knowledge. The event covered various topics on Exploration, Subsurface, Well Engineering, Operations and Surface Engineering. The objectives of the forum were to encourage in-house knowledge sharing, multidisciplinary gathering, achieve wider networking among the group and recognize experts & gurus on certain areas. The ‘One Petrogas’ event made it possible for technical leaders to showcase their field applications and provided a platform for unleashing group-wide talents and niche skills. It was a much needed event to develop a greater sense of community within Petrogas, bringing the international asset teams into the fold, and nurture a critical mass for different kinds of fruitful multiparty exchanges of ideas.

TOCO SHINES AT THE 3RD OXY OMAN GM’S HSE FORUM

OXY Oman organized their 3rd General Managers Annual HSE Forum in Crowne Plaza Muscat on 21 Feb 2017. The forum was attended by the senior management of OXY Oman and their contractors. GM of OXY Qatar was a special guest who shared the best practices and learning from Qatar operations. TOCO was one of the two companies invited to share their best practices in front of a distinguished audience. John Fagan, TOCO HSE Manager, delivered an impressive presentation on TOCO’s world class systems and procedures on HSE management. Sreejith Kesavan, TOCO Operations Manager shared the details of our far reaching Sustainability™ initiatives and the successful outcomes in 2016. The presentation was well received and provided with us a good platform to demonstrate how well we differentiate ourselves from the competition. The icing on the cake was the award ceremony. We bagged five awards altogether and probably the highest number won by any contractors who attended the forum.

TOCO won awards for three safety innovations: 1. Workshop cable management system; 2. Flange Lifter - A mechanical lifting device for metal flanges; eliminates manual handling; 3. Heavy equipment audible wireless alarm. Road Safety is one of the major focus areas in Oman and rest of the GCC and this achievement of TOCO is considered to be significant.

EAL HELD ASSESSOR TRAINING PROGRAM FOR MOMP-VTC’S STAFF

Assessor training program was held at OPAL Academy (Ghalia) premises from the 19th to 23rd February 2017 for MOMP-VTC’s staff, delivered by EAL. It was a very useful and interactive training program with a lot of emphasis laid on the clarity of the course content using different learning approaches. Candidate assessor had the opportunity to go through the information manual which support the delivery of EAL performance training module. This program is divided into two parts, knowledge and performance. Based on the request from Oman Academic Accreditation Authority (OAAAA), Muatasim Al Amri attend the assessor training program and he will be certified as a qualified assessor by EAL, after completing the Performance Training document.
MEMBER NEWS

GLASSPOINT GEARS-UP
FOR EXPANSION WITH KEY OMANI PROJECT DEVELOPMENT TEAM APPOINTMENTS

Driven by expansion plans in Oman and the region, GlassPoint Solar, the leading supplier of solar to the oil and gas industry, has welcomed four new senior Omani professionals to its Project Development, International team. The appointments reflect the company’s rapid growth since the award of Miraah and the ongoing execution of the landmark project, which is currently ahead of schedule and under budget. Joining GlassPoint as Deputy Director of Project Development is project development expert Yaarub Al Yaarubi. A graduate of the renowned Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government with a Masters in Public Administration, Al Yaarubi also holds Masters degrees in Finance and Engineering. Prior to Harvard, he worked in Business Development at Oman Oil Company where he led the development of new manufacturing facilities totalling up to USD 1 billion in value. He brings expertise in driving projects from the origination stage all the way to operations. Appointed Senior Manager of Project Development, Badar Al Sariri brings more than a decade of experience working for the Ministry of Oil and Gas to his new post at GlassPoint. A graduate of the Sultan Qaboos University, he grew his career within the Ministry to become Director of Petroleum Concession, and later, Acting Director General for the Petroleum Industry. Most recently, Badar was the General Manager of Gasway, a fully Omanized oil and gas services company. Further strengthening the team, Eyas Al Zadjali joins as Project Development Manager, bringing with him six years of commercial experience in the oil and gas sector. Additionally, Siddiqa Al Lavati, who was hired as Project Development Analyst, has deep technical expertise with a Masters degree from the prestigious Imperial College and experience with GE Water as an engineer.

OMANOIL IS FIRST LOCAL COMPANY TO BE AWARDED FOUR NEW ISO CERTIFICATIONS

Oman Oil Marketing Company (OMANOIL) is the first local company to be awarded four new ISO standards in recognition of its world-class quality, information technology, health, safety and environmental management systems. The accolades are a result of the company’s compliance and operational upgrades in-line with the newly revamped ISO certification standards. Mohammed Al Mujaini, Senior Manager of Health, Safety, Security and Environment and Quality Assurance said, “Our journey to achieve this benchmark began in 2013, when we started conducting a detailed analysis of our operations to find ways to improve upon the ISO and global qualifications we already had. The systematic approach we adopted led in the implementation of highly progressive measures, including the latest health policies, a thorough risk assessment for all employees, and the development of a dedicated internal auditing team. Those changes, as well as the hard work of our employees and consultants, has allowed us to become the first Omani company to earn this milestone and will help us continue exceeding the expectations of customers nationwide.”

WOMEN GRADUATE FROM PDO TRAINING PROGRAMME

Twenty women have successfully completed a PDO-funded vocational training scheme to design and make bags for adults and children. They will now be able to earn a living by selling products including rucksacks, backpacks and shoulder bags, as well as pass on their knowledge to others in their communities. PDO teamed up with the Omani Women’s Association (OWA) in Wilayat Al Hamra to run the one-month course and also bought equipment for a workshop where the ladies can make their merchandise. The women can now make a variety of bags for school and leisure activities, such as hiking, shopping and going to the gym. The training scheme was run as part of PDO’s Banat Oman social enterprise, which has so far provided vocational training for hundreds of women from low-income backgrounds in skills such as tailoring, embroidery, dairy product manufacture and crafting jewellery.

SAMARA TRAINING SERVICES CENTRE OPENED THEIR NEW VENUE IN AZAIBA

Samara Training Services Centre opened their new venue in Azaiba in March. “We are both proud and delighted to have opened our own premises in the central location of Azaiba. This is good news for our clients. It will enable us to continue to deliver internationally recognised training courses to support Oman’s National Development Agenda.” said Business Director Samara Salah on the occasion of the opening. Managing Director Riyadh Al Muscati said “In terms of communication we have a new phone number 24137557 and will continue to support the old Ruwi number as well. The new venue is accessible and has good parking.”