



U.S.-Oman Trade Bulletin

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In This Issue:

- [OABC Hosted an American-style Barbeque to Welcome Old and New members. October 2](#)
- [Oman Business Road Show to the United States. October 23- 31 2013](#)
- [Al Mazyonah Solar Project Signing Ceremony. November 14](#)
- [Global Entrepreneurship Week. November 20](#)
- [Thanksgiving Annual General Meeting \(AGM\) of the Oman American Business Council \(OABC\). November 25](#)
- [Visit of U.S Senator Bob Corker. December 4](#)
- [Department of State's Regional ESTH Officer Elizabeth Hattingh Visit to Oman. December 9](#)
- [U.S. Private Equity Delegation. December 11](#)
- [OABC Holiday Reception. December 11](#)
- [Omani Aluminum Rolling Company LLC \(OARC\) Inauguration. December 15](#)
- [Oxy SME Contractor Support Program Launch. December 16](#)
- [Reunion Dinner for Road Show Delegates. December 17](#)
- [Signing of United States – Oman Open Skies Agreement. December 19](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)



OABC board members Bill Crew, Emmee Haun, and Sarah Jackson chat with OABC member Shiela Jamal, CEO of Al Madina Group U.S.



Embassy Economic & Commercial Officer Emily Shaffer caught up with Hilal al-Ghaithi, senior engineer at Oman's Authority for Electricity Regulation, Paul Sheridan, senior partner at Dentons Oman, and other OABC members.



Omani entrepreneur Mustafa al-Barami chatted with United Airlines Country Manager Aprameya Mukherjee and AIG's Country Manager Neelmani Bhardwaj. United and AIG are both members of the OABC

OABC Hosts American-style Barbeque to Welcome Old and New Members

On October 2nd the [Oman American Business Council](#) (OABC) hosted an American-style barbeque to welcome returning members back from the summer holidays, announce the new season's calendar of events, and recruit new members from the ranks of Omani alumni of U.S. universities and business exchange programs. Guest of honor U.S. Ambassador Greta C. Holtz welcomed businesspeople, and OABC President Ali Daud highlighted the importance of Omani youth as a future business leaders and partners in boosting bilateral trade and investment under the FTA

[Top](#)



The Omani Delegation to the U.S. Business Road Show in Chicago on October 28.



Minister of Commerce & Industry H.E. Ali al-Sunaidy and Omani Ambassador to the U.S. H.E. Hunaina al-Mughairy at the Statue of Liberty on October 31.



Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Andrew Card welcomed delegates to Houston on the first day of the road show on October 29.

Oman Business Road Show to the United States

From October 23-31 Ambassador Holtz and Economic & Commercial Officer Emily Shaffer accompanied a delegation of more than forty Omani senior officials and executives to the United States to promote bilateral trade and investment opportunities. For more information, please visit www.omanroadshow.com.

[Top](#)



U.S Ambassador Greta C. Holtz, H.E Mohamed Al Mahrooqi, and a number of attendees.



Senior directors from Astonfield and Multitech.



Signing of the first agreement to generate electricity from renewable energy in the Sultanate.

Al Mazyonah Solar Project Signing Ceremony

On November 14, U.S Ambassador Greta C. Holtz and the Chairman of the Public Authority for Electricity and Water H.E. Mohamed Al Mahrooqi attended the signing ceremony of Al Mazyonah Solar project, to be executed by American company Astonfield on behalf of the Rural Areas Electricity Company. This off-grid solar project is Oman’s first renewable energy initiative and will supply 303 kW to the residents of the area.

[Top](#)



SME and Entrepreneurship network reception



U.S Ambassador Greta C. Holtz, Mr. Ali Daud OABC Chairman, OABC CSR Committee head Bill Crew, and Mr. Warren Struehl.



Mr. Warren Struehl, serial entrepreneur, and founder of Polaroid Fotolabs, during his speech.

Global Entrepreneurship Week

On November 20, U.S Ambassador Greta C. Holtz and [Oman American Business Council](#) (OABC) hosted a Global Entrepreneurship Week and OABC SME Mentoring Initiative featuring guest speaker Warren Struehl, serial entrepreneur, and founder of Polaroid Fotolabs.

[Top](#)



OABC Chairman Ali Daud, presenting the OABC annual report, revealed a 40% increase in membership since 2012.



OABC members at the Annual General Meeting before enjoying Thanksgiving dinner.



New OABC board members Fouad Eid, Marla Valdez, Garry Friend, Hala Srouji, and Jonathan Cooper joined reelected board members Sarah Jackson and Bill Crew, along with ex-officio board member Emily Shaffer, Executive Secretary Galina Prokhina, Chairman Emeritus Ali Daud, and honorary Member-at-Large Emmee Haun.

Thanksgiving Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Oman American Business Council (OABC)

On November 25, the Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy Paul R. Malik offered congratulatory remarks at the first official Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Oman American Business Council (OABC). Malik touched on some key successes over the past year, namely the recent Omani Business Road Show to the United States, and the launch of OABC's SME Mentoring Initiative during Global Entrepreneurship Week.

[Top](#)



Senator Bob Corker with senior executives of local and international oil and gas companies



Senator Corker asked representatives of Shell/Petroleum Development Oman, [Occidental Oman](#), and BP for their perspectives on the implications of U.S. energy independence in the region.



Executives from [GlassPoint Solar](#) explained to Senator Corker how their company is revolutionizing enhanced oil recovery by substituting the scarce natural gas needed to power oil extraction with the sustainable energy of the sun.

United States Senator Bob Corker Visits Muscat

On December 4, Senator Bob Corker visited Oman and met with senior executives of local and international oil and gas companies at the residence of U.S Ambassador Greta C. Holtz. Corker discussed regional developments in the petroleum sector.

[Top](#)



Economic and Commercial Officer Emily Shaffer with Elizabeth Hattingh, Eion Dando, and Dr. Lubna al-Kharusi, Director of the Marine and Fisheries Center, part of the Directorate of Fisheries Research within Oman’s Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Wealth.



Emily Shaffer with Elizabeth Hattingh, Eion Dando, and Ahlam Al Azkawi, head of the Central Analytical and Applied Research Unit (CAARU) within the Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) College of Sciences.



CAARU supervisor showing the Embassy visitors test samples for current CAARU clients, including academics, medical facilities, and private sector businesses.

Department of State’s Regional ESTH Officer Elizabeth Hattingh Visits Oman

On December 9, 2013 the Department of State’s Regional Environment /Science/Technology/ Health (ESTH) Officer Elizabeth Hattingh visited Oman to learn more about Oman’s ESTH priorities and discuss potential areas for cooperation.

[Top](#)



U.S. private equity investment delegation with Omani investors.



U.S Private Equity Delegation of top-performing fund managers from: American Capital, Bay City Capital, Colony Capital, Greystar, Hines Interests, K1 Capital, MC Asset Management, Origin Capital, PCCP, Tishman Speyer, Tullis Healthcare Funds, and Visium Asset Management

U.S. Private Equity Delegation

On December 11, high-performing American fund managers from the U.S Commerce Department-certified Private Equity & Real Estate Trade Mission to the Middle East met with Omani investors one-on-one for targeted discussions on attractive opportunities in U.S. real estate, private equity, and venture capital.

[Top](#)



Ambassador Greta C. Holtz welcomes the U.S Private Equity delegation along with OABC and Omani investors, to her residence.



Guests enjoy networking, festive refreshments and holiday décor, and live seasonal music at the evening reception.



The Muscat Chamber Chorale performed seasonal live music.

OABC Holiday Reception

On December 11, U.S. Ambassador Greta C. Holtz, along with the Oman American Business Council (OABC), hosted a holiday reception for OABC members, Omani investors, and other prominent businesspeople to celebrate the visit of a U.S. private equity investment delegation to Oman.

[Top](#)



Ambassador Greta C. Holtz chats with FATA chairman Mr. Ignazio Moncada. FATA is an Italian company providing Engineering, Procurement, and Construction services for the new OARC facility.



OARC CEO Lloyd "Buddy" Stemple, an American, and Minister of Oil and Gas Mohammad al-Rumhi participated in a traditional Omani dance during the official inauguration ceremony of the facility.



U.S Embassy Commercial Officer Emily Shaffer and other distinguished guests tour the plant. The OARC plant boasts 100% Omanization at the plant operations level.

Oman Aluminum Rolling Company LLC (OARC) Inauguration

On December 15, the Omani Aluminum Rolling Company LLC (OARC) hosted U.S. Ambassador Greta C. Holtz and Minister of Oil and Gas Mohammad al-Rumhi, among other distinguished guests, at the inauguration ceremony of its state of the art, world class light gauge sheet rolling facility in the Sohar industrial area. The \$385M facility will provide 300 direct job opportunities for the residents of Sohar.

[Top](#)



U.S. Ambassador Greta C. Holtz and the Embassy commercial officer caught up with President and General Manager of Oxy Oman Isam al Zadjali and Irshad al-Lawati, the president of Oman's oil and gas industry association, OPAL, prior to the ceremony.



Isam al Zadjali, President and General Manager of Oxy Oman, introduces the SME support program which will provide expert coaching, training subsidies, international certifications and access to HR, finance, marketing, legal etc services.



Compass Oil Services signs an agreement for the development program with Oxy Oman under the auspices of H.E Nasser al Jashmi, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Oil and Gas. Compass hopes to eventually establish Oman's first directional drilling motor maintenance plant

Oxy SME Contractor Support Program Launch

On December 16, Occidental Oman (Oxy) celebrated the launch of a development program for Omani Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in support of the Sultanate's In-Country Value (ICV) Initiative. Compass Oil Services, a drilling services company; Vision Advanced Petroleum Solutions, a petroleum engineering consultancy; and World of Handicrafts, a handmade corporate gift producer, were selected for their alignment with Oxy Oman's objectives, their commitment to enhancing ICV, and their high potential for growth and Omani job creation

[Top](#)



Returned road show delegates enjoyed reconnecting at the Ambassador's residence in Muscat on December 17.



Delegates enjoyed Ambassador Holtz' warm hospitality at the road show reunion dinner.



Deputy Chief of Mission Paul R. Malik chatted with Rajiv Dhaur of Omzest, Mustafa Sultan of WJ Towell Group, and Ali al-Kathiri of Port Services Corporation.

Reunion Dinner for Road Show Delegates

On December 17, Ambassador Holtz hosted the delegates of the October 23-31 Oman Business Road Show to the United States at her residence in Muscat for a reunion dinner. The delegates enjoyed reflecting on highlights of the trip, sharing success stories, and providing input into planning for a follow-up reverse trade mission for American investors to Oman in April 2014.

[Top](#)



U.S. Ambassador Greta C. Holtz greets Salim al-Oufi Chief, then-Chief Executive Officer for the Public Authority for Civil Aviation, and the team responsible for negotiating the agreement, including U.S. Embassy Economic and Commercial Officer Emily Shaffer.



Ambassador Holtz and Salim al-Oufi, CEO of PACA, signing the Open Skies agreement.



Ambassador Holtz and Al-Oufi receiving questions from the press after signing the Open Skies agreement

Signing of United States – Oman Open Skies Agreement

On December 19, Ambassador Holtz and Salim al-Oufi, Chief Executive Officer of the Omani Public Authority for Civil Aviation (PACA), signed an Open Skies agreement in the presence of key U.S. and Omani airline companies and airport representatives. The Open Skies agreement provides a basis for strengthening and expanding strong trade and tourism links with Oman, benefitting U.S. and Omani businesses and travelers by expanding opportunities for air services, minimizing government regulation, and encouraging vigorous price competition by airlines, while preserving our commitments to aviation safety and security. Work on the agreement began in 2001 and its signing comes at a key moment as U.S.-Oman trade has increased 60% since the FTA went into force in 2009 and passengers between the U.S. and Oman reached 49,000 last year.

[Top](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

<p><i>Oman Oil Upcoming Projects Webinar</i> <i>Location: Virtual / US Embassy</i> <i>Date: Wednesday, March 19, 1900</i> http://www.state.gov/e/eb/directline/events/index.htm</p>	<p><i>Takamul Upcoming Projects Webinar</i> <i>Location: Virtual / US Embassy</i> <i>Date: Wednesday, April 9, 1900</i> http://oman.usembassy.gov/business-events.html</p>	<p><i>Oman Waste Management Summit</i> <i>Products: Environmental</i> <i>Location: Muscat, Grand Hyatt Hotel</i> <i>Date: March 11-12, 2014</i> www.nispana.com/wastemanagementoman</p>
<p><i>The BIG SHOW Oman</i> <i>Products: Building Materials, Construction Equipment</i> <i>Location: Muscat (Oman International Expo Center)</i> <i>Date: March 17-20, 2014</i> http://www.thebigshow-oman.com</p>	<p><i>WasteExpo 2014</i> <i>Products: Environmental Technologies</i> <i>Location: Atlanta, GA</i> <i>Date: April 1-3, 2014</i> www.wasteexpo.com</p>	<p><i>Executive Trade Mission to Oman</i> <i>Products: Logistics, Transport, Manufacturing, Health, Tourism</i> <i>Location: Muscat, Sohar</i> <i>Date: April 8-10, 2014</i> asalam@nusacc.org</p>

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[Top](#)