

Poised at the gateway to the Arabian Gulf, the Sultanate of Oman is an excellent and strategic location for U.S. businesses

As part of Oman's strategic vision to diversify its economy while taking advantage of its ancient trade routes linking Arabia to Africa, Asia and Europe, one of the largest and most ambitious construction sites in the MENA-region is currently being developed. Under the auspices of the Special Economic Zone Authority Duqm (SEZAD), more than \$1.7 billion have been invested in developing an international business hub in one of Oman's least populated areas. As part of that effort, the approximately 140 square kilometers-wide port is expected to play a major role in the country's vibrant economy as it provides dockyard facilities, ship maintenance

services and has the potential to become a major regional transport hub. While the port is also close to a number of Omani oil & gas fields, the government is currently holding talks with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates on constructing a pipeline that would transfer energy resources to Duqm and from there to world markets. Currently, the port is operating on a limited scale, but once it is completed it could attract shipping lines and solidify trade between Oman, its Gulf Cooperation Council neighbors, India, Pakistan, East Africa, the Far East and Europe.

The 1,777 square kilometers economic free zone is also expected to be ringed with a petrochemical factory, a refinery, an airport, beachfront hotels, and housing for more than 100,000 people. The zone is also expected to include a number of individual subzones, including tourism, training and education, logistics, light and heavy industrial fishing, and cement and building materials. SEZAD will also have an international airport with cargo capabilities, as well as a train station, through which most of the goods coming through the port would be transported to neighboring countries.



DUQM PORT



Special Thanks to all of our sponsors who made the Royal Grand Opening of Roads of Arabia possible.

AMEI WELCOMES SAUDI PRINCE TO OPEN ROADS OF ARABIA EXHIBITION

Last June (2013), the American Middle East Institute and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania co-sponsored the grand opening of the Roads of Arabia exhibition.

The exhibition, featuring archaeology and history of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, first opened at the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, in 2012, the first time these artifacts stretching back thousands of years had ever been seen in North America. The Carnegie Museum had the opportunity to host the first leg of the U.S. tour and called upon AMEI President Simin Curtis to involve Royal Saudi patrons in the grand opening so that the Roads of Arabia could generate publicity and attendance. Prior to its U.S. arrival, Roads of Arabia had been hosted in major capitals of Europe, most recently at the Louvre museum in Paris.

Continued on back



From Left to Right – Dr. Ali Al-Ghabban, Royal Curator; Jack Barbour, Chairman of the Board, Carnegie Museum of Natural History; His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin Salman, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Tom Corbett, Governor of Pennsylvania; Ambassador Adel A. Al-Jubeir, Ambassador from Saudi Arabia to the United States; Hon. Rich Fitzgerald, Chief Executive of Allegheny County; Simin Curtis, President & CEO, American Middle East Institute

Although the exhibition was set to travel across the United States, the Carnegie Museum was not on the initial itinerary. With less than two months to plan a grand opening that would convene His Royal Highness Prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdulaziz (son of the Crown Prince); the Saudi Ambassador to the United States, Adel Al-Jubeir; and Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett, Curtis traveled to the nation's capital to discuss the proposed event with Dr. Naila Alsowayel, Minister of the Royal Saudi Embassy. Observed Curtis, "We wanted to create a beautiful event that would showcase Saudi Arabia's rich cultural heritage," adding that "Dr. Alsowayel kindly offered to deliver our invitation to Prince Sultan bin Salman, Chairman of the Saudi Arabian Commission for Tourism and Antiquities, to attend the grand opening in Pittsburgh."

Welcoming the exhibition to Pennsylvania, Governor Corbett said: "The remarkable Roads of Arabia exhibition, tracing the history of a region that has been a cradle of civilization, a land of art, science, literature and trade, captivated the City of Pittsburgh upon its opening. The rich tapestry that chronicles the emergence of civilization, and the founding of the three, great Abrahamic religions, is an insight into a region that has helped to shape the world and our futures."

Commenting on Pittsburgh hospitality at its best, Prince Sultan bin Salman called the grand opening and subsequent gala dinner "a first class event." The leaders of Westinghouse and Saudi Aramco were among the over 200 invited business, educational and cultural leaders to attend the exquisite soiree hosted at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

Roads of Arabia, an impressive collection of archaeological discoveries of mysterious stone steles, monumental human statues, haunting gold masks and finely forged bronze figures testify to Arabia's largely unknown and remarkable history before the rise of Islam in the seventh century A.D.

Learn more about the mission and work of the American Middle East Institute, including our international business conference and ongoing opportunities and engagement at AmericanMEI.org.

*American Middle East Institute
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Email: info@americanmei.org
Telephone: +1.412.995.0076*



The American Middle East Institute (AMEI), headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is an independent, non-profit organization, focused on building business, educational and cultural ties between the United States and the Middle East. AMEI is uniquely positioned to promote the United States' leading corporations and institutions in the Middle East because of our extensive knowledge of the Middle East region and culture, our strong corporate and government ties in the region and in the U.S., the high-profile networking events AMEI has become known for, and the prestigious cultural and educational programs we manage and with which businesses can associate themselves.

Simin Yazdgerdi Curtis
President and CEO, American Middle East Institute

Sigurd Neubauer
Editor, The Journal of the American Middle East Institute