



SULTANATE OF OMAN
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

UNESCO

Associated Schools in Oman



A newsletter by Oman National Commission
for Education , Culture & Science

Issue No : 2 - 2013

www.moe.gov.om

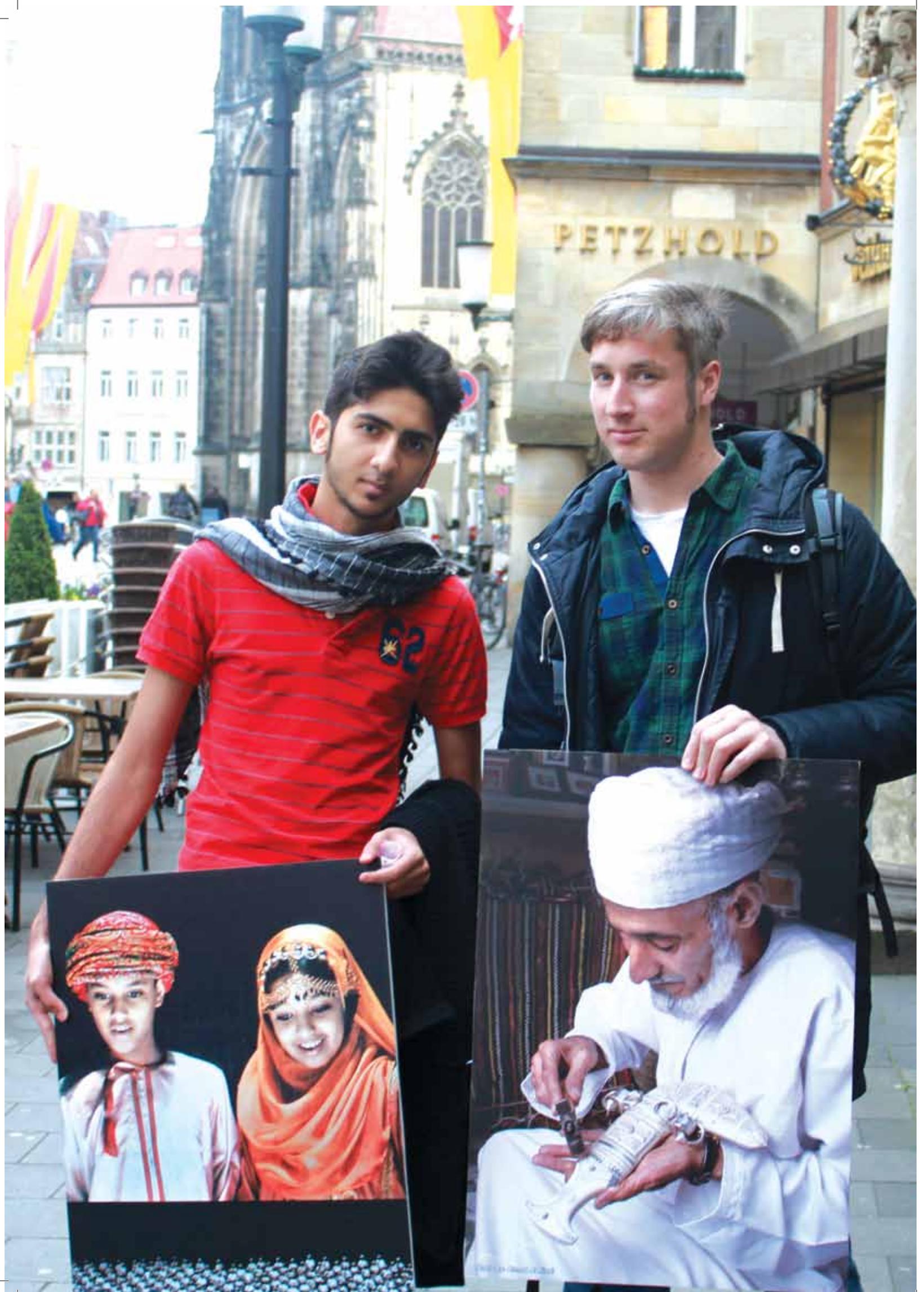
www.onc.gov.om



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO
Associated
Schools



H.E. Dr. Madiha Ahmed Al Shaibaniya

Minister of Education
Chairperson of Oman National Commission for
Education, Culture and Science

The second issue of this annual newsletter appropriately coincides with the 60th anniversary of the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network. Since Oman joined in 1998, ASPnet has always enjoyed the attention and support of the Ministry of Education, for it serves as a window to the world in the field of education.

The prominent global matters such as sustainable development and cross cultural learning are of great importance in the upbringing of a generation who is creative and is able to generate a dialogue with different cultures...a generation who believes that «We live in one world and learn for one world». The Ministry of Education endeavors through its curricula to instill these skills and values among students so that they apply them in local, regional and global projects and initiatives.

In this context, the ASPnet Twinning Project was created as an example of the cooperation between Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science (ONC) and the National Commissions in other countries. It is one of the projects that are created to support cultural diversity and the Euro-Arab Dialogue Initiative. There are also other series of pioneering projects carried out by the Omani UNESCO Associated schools among themselves and/or jointly with their counterparts in other countries that aim mainly to support the United Nations

Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, strengthen the ties between schools and raise awareness about the cultures, heritage customs and traditions of other people, as well as improve social and cultural skills through constant communication between students and teachers. On the other hand, this project also aims to recognize the celebrations and programs organized by the schools to encourage them to exchange experiences among themselves.

Among the most important regional and global twinning projects implemented by the Omani Associated schools were done with Denmark, Germany and Lebanon. The projects focused on the maintenance of world heritage, language and solar energy and tangible and intangible heritage respectively, not to mention the other national twinning projects between schools.

As a final note, I am pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate the UNESCO Associated Schools, all the administrative and teaching staff and the students on the 60th anniversary of ASPnet, a network that “Thinks globally and acts locally”. We hope that our schools excel in preparing their students to live in a society characterized by a universal personality and that they continue to promote education for international understanding.

Wish you all the best



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Member of
UNESCO
Associated Schools



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Member of
UNESCO
Associated Schools

1st Students Forum



The 1st Students Forum: Future in Young Hands

The 1st Students Forum is an innovative educational initiative launched by the Ministry of Education (MOE) in cooperation with the Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science (ONC) and a number of organizations that support youth. It was held from 11 to 13 November 2012 and was entitled "Future in Young Hands" with the aim of creating a generation capable of achieving economic and social development within the community. It was attended by 200 students of grades 10 and 11 from all over Oman and included a number of seminars and training workshops on different topics.

Objectives:

- Create channels of communication and dialogue
- Promote capacities and innovative talents
- Create a proper environment to help youth express their thoughts and constructive ideas positively and freely
- Promote the culture of entrepreneurship and leadership
- Spread knowledge about technology ethics
- Promote the cultures of volunteering and civil service

Main Themes:

1. “Entrepreneurship and Business Culture”
2. “Graffiti Art”
3. “Technology Ethics and Cognitive & Information Awareness”
4. “Positive Personality, Creativity and Initiative”

Entertainment and Cultural Nights:

The Forum included three evening events to entertain the students. The first event was a sports night where the students met a number of pioneering Omani sports figures like Ali Al Habsi, the goal keeper of Oman National Team and of the English Wigan Athletic team, Hamed al Wahaibi, the international rally driver and Mohsen al Busaidi, the sail team champion. The athletes spoke about their experiences and success stories and focused on self-esteem, citizenship, volunteering, and civil services.





United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Member of
UNESCO
Associated Schools



The second night was a laidback culture and Arts night created by the students themselves where they showcased their various talents. Finally on the third day of the workshop, the students, supervisors and sponsors were given certificates of participation.

Moreover, as part of the educational and entertaining programs, Three professional sailors from Oman Sail presented a lecture about their experiences with sailing and some documentary films about how they represented Oman in international competitions and won global awards. To add more excitement, Oman Sail gave the students the opportunity to try the sailing sessions that are offered in the sailing school in Welayat Al Musanah.



New Joiners to UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network

Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science in collaboration with the Ministry of Education have decided during the academic year 2011/2012 to include a new set of Oman schools to the list of UNESCO associated schools according to their in class and extra-curricular activities, as well as creativity and innovation whether by students, teachers or departments.

These schools will work with their fellow associated schools locally and internationally. By including them, the UNESCO Associated School are now 26 schools around Oman.

The list of new joiners:

No	Educational Region	Name	Type
1	Muscat	Shatti Al Qurm School	Females
2		Al Hadhara School	Females
3		The Sultan's School	Males / Females
4	Musandam	Sakina bint Hussain School	Females
5	Al Buraimi	Azzan bin Qais School	Males
6	Dhofar	Salalah School	Males
7	Al Batina – South	Al Azza School	Males / Females
8	Al Batina – North	Sohar School	Males
9	A'Sharqiya – South	Al Marwa School	Females
10	A'Sharqiya – North	Sinaw School	Females
11	A'Dakhilya	Bilarab bin Sultan School	Males
12	A'Dahira	Saif bin Sultan School	Males

Moreover, and in the frame of supporting the role of UNESCO Associated Schools, ONC has conducted an introductory workshop for the coordinators of the newly joined schools from 4 to 5 December 2011. The coordinators were introduced to the annual plan, were provided with related brochures and booklets and they were also provided with affiliation certificates. The workshop included papers delivered by the Regional Coordinator of UNESCO Office - Amman entitled as follows:

- 1st paper: an Overview about the UNESCO Associated Schools Project regionally and internationally.
- 2nd paper: 1st theme: Mutual Learning between Cultures and World Heritage.
2nd theme: The Environment & Sustainable Development.



Twining Projects





United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Member of
UNESCO
Associated Schools

Local Twinning:

Dofar Schools

“Promotion of Human Values”

The twinning project between UNESCO Associated Schools in Dhofar is a successful local experience among the twinning projects conducted by ONC within its plan of the year 2010/2011. The Project’s aim was to unify the efforts of these schools in order to contribute in achieving the objectives of the Ministry of Education on one hand and the global network of UNESCO associated schools on the other hand.

Accordingly, two UNESCO Associated Schools: A’Saada School (Females) and Salalah School (Males) launched the “Promotion of Human Values” campaign which aimed to nurture human values like mutual respect, constructive dialogue and citizenship. The campaign also aimed to spread the culture of cooperation, tolerance and love among the members of the community and include people with special needs in the society and treat them equally.

Among the activities associated with this campaign were a series of lectures and seminars shared between the two schools as well as a number of different competitions that promote and instill the values of the campaign. The competitions were related to photography, painting, Graphic Design and English essay writing. The campaign also had a website to enhance its visibility.





United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Member of UNESCO Associated Schools

Regional Twinning:

Twinning with Lebanon

“Youth for peace and sustainable development”

Lebanon National Commission for Education, Culture and Science has initiated a twinning project with a number of Arab and European countries. The participating schools were from Oman, Jordan, Lebanon, Germany, Denmark and France.

Every couple of schools have shared a project related to various themes like heritage, traditions, climate change, water, cultural diversity and human rights. The project went on for three month during which many information, pictures and ideas were exchanged and mini projects were conducted inside each school and introduced to the other schools later.. At the end of the period determined for the project, all of the participants attended the forum on Youth for Peace and Sustainable Development which was conducted in Lebanon from 18 to 22 April 2012.

The Sultan Private School was one of the Omani schools that participated in this Forum. The students gave presentations about their school and their project with a Lebanese school. Sultan School also participated in the side-line cultural exhibition with models of traditional crafts and Omani customs. Lectures, workshops and field trips to a number of Lebanese sights listed in the World Heritage List were conducted as well.

The National coordinators of UNESCO Associated schools were also involved through giving presentations on the network's activities and future cooperation projects. They also exchanged ideas on how to celebrate the 2013 60th anniversary of establishing the network.



Twinning with Denmark: “Reviving World Heritage”

Oman was part of the twinning project between the Arab countries (Oman, Bahrain, Iraq, Egypt, Sudan, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria) and Denmark. The project aimed to spread awareness on the importance of Conserving the Historical sights enlisted in the World Heritage List, create cultural dialogue among the participating countries, learn different cultures, and support Education for Sustainable Development.

Phases:

- Choosing schools close to the World Heritage Sites.
- Online communication with other schools
- Conducting Heritage related activities like traditional games and folklore dances.
- Communicating and exchanging clips related to the activities done.

By March 2011, a conference to showcase the countries experiences was held in Copenhagen, Denmark. Students from Fatma bint Qais School, a UNESCO Associated School from A'Dahira Region attended the Conference.

The participants visited a number of historical sites and listened to a story by a member of the Royal family about the history of Denmark's royalty and forts. They also met with some academic figures and visited the National Commission of Denmark for UNESCO.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Member of
UNESCO
Associated Schools



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Member of UNESCO Associated Schools

International Twinning:

Twinning with Germany:

“Youth and Media Diversity”

A delegation of 14 students and teachers from 3 schools: 1-Jabir bin Zeid School and 2-Dohat Al Adab School from Muscat, and 3-Al Saada School from Dhofar have participated in a visit to Germany as part of the twinning project between Oman and Germany for language education (Arabic & German) and science (solar power). This visit was actually an invitation from Schillergymnasium School, Germany to participate in International Youth Media Lab on Diversity. The other participating countries included Germany, Poland and Namibia.

There were a number of workshops that focused on technology, media and cultural diversity:

- A workshop on making video clips to learn languages.
- A workshop on photography
- A workshop on writing essays
- Workshop on interview

During the visit, the groups were taken to the cities of Münster and Berlin and were introduced to some of the landmarks of these two cities. They were also taken to a number of German archaeological sites listed on the World Heritage List and a number of historical sites in Germany, such as the Wall of Berlin and the German parliament. To exchange experiences between students and teachers, the groups visited two German UNESCO Associated Schools where they had open dialogue with each other and introduced their own culture and learned about the German culture. The Teachers had opportunity to look at the German curriculum and attend a number of classes as well.





United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Member of
UNESCO
Associated Schools

Al Azi and Al Tagrude made it to the World Heritage List

Oman's efforts and hard work paid off when two of the Omani folklores were enlisted in the World Heritage List for Intangible Cultural Heritage. This is marked as an achievement within Oman's efforts to maintain its rich heritage.

Al Azi: is an authentic Omani art that is practiced in all regions of the Sultanate and the word Azi means the poem that is recited by a man about his tribe's history and achievements or that calls for help from his tribe.



Al Tagrude: is a type of singing that is performed collectively while riding a camel or a horse to motivate both the rides and the riders. It has many other names under the same theme such as "Shalla"





Schools News

1

International Year of Chemistry

Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science launched the International Year of Chemistry 2011 along with the awards ceremony for the students' scientific projects in the knowledge development contest which was attended by more than 200 students and a number of supervisors from different governorates of the Sultanate.

All Oman schools were encouraged to join the global project experience entitled "Water: a chemical solution." which aimed to identify the composites of water, which is one of the most vital sources on Earth.

In this context, Amal School (Females), Imam Jabir bin Zaid School (Males) and Fatima bint Qais School (Females) have done a related experiment. Students went on field trips to collect samples from various water resources near the school environment and then tested these samples to learn to measure the pH in the water and determine the salinity in it.

Other UNESCO Associated Schools conducted various events to mark the International Year as well including lectures, scientific papers and awareness-raising campaigns about the role of chemistry in life.



2 Muscat Youth Summit “Investing in Tomorrow”

The 4th Muscat Youth Summit was held between 8 and 12 December 2012 with 48 participating student from UNESCO Associated Schools and 150 participants from in and out of Oman.

The Forum aimed to create dialogue between youth from different cultural backgrounds to discuss international issues, spread awareness on different environmental, economic and cultural issues of international nature and express their opinions and innovative solutions in an enabling environment.

Main Themes:

- Entrepreneurship
- Urban Art & Culture
- Digital World
- Road Traffic Safety
- Media
- My Community



The fourth day was themed “My Community” in order to inform the participants about the importance of serving their communities through volunteering and offering services. In this context, the participants helped to rehabilitate Al Musanah Park and also participated in a road safety campaign by making it the theme of the graffiti art workshop they attended.



Paper Recycling Project 3

Al Amal School has collaborated with the water desalination plant in Barka and Aman for Secure Paper Destruction to safely dispose waste paper and recycle it rather than burn or bury it which will cause pollution. Due to the success of this experiment, Amal School has invited students from nearby schools to join in and inform the surrounding community about the importance of contributing to this project in order to preserve the environment.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Member of
UNESCO
Associated Schools

4 Earth Hour

The Earth Hour began in Sydney, Australia in 2007 upon the request of millions to take effective actions towards saving and preserving Planet Earth and encourage rationalization of energy consumption as a life style whether as individuals or as institutions. The Omani UNESCO Associated Schools celebrated this event through a series of activities and events as follows:

- Sohar School: the School Students participated by turning off lights and lighting candles. The school also invited a speaker to talk about energy conservation, the importance of Earth Hour in spreading awareness about the dangers of over consumption.
- Al Azza School: the school organized a workshop for students and parents about the rational use of energy. The school also disseminated brochures and newsletter among the students, other schools and the local community and asked the community on 31 March 2012 to switch off all unnecessary electronics for an hour from 8:30 to 9:30 pm and 200 household participated. Students came to school at night and lit candles expressing their interest in Earth Hour.
- Belarab bin Sultan School: The environment group of the school has called upon staff and students to participate in the Earth Hour by turning off all unnecessary electronics for an hour to contribute in preserving the environment.
- Hafsa bint Sereen School: The school participated through a number of programs in the morning assembly, designing a poster about energy preservation, awareness brochures and online posts to all educational faculty members in Al Buraimi region. The students also participated in both the Art competition and the Energy competition organized by the Oman Environment Society.
- Ibn Al Nafees School: The students joined 25 wall papers to create a large portrait that represents the Earth Hour and presented it in the school yard.



Together our actions add up **60+**
EARTH HOUR

Thank you all for playing your part and joining Earth Hour 2012! For those of you that were there - thank you for joining us at the Rez of Opera House. Your help and support was very much appreciated.

On 31st March on 2012 our joint efforts saved
53,340 KW
IN ONE HOUR
Beyond Earth Hour^{o.a.s}

The School energy saving and art competition winners will be announced soon
Please send us your thoughts and earth hour photos on yshaher@oas.oa.s



Clean Oman Campaign:

5

Ibn Al Nafees School participated in this national campaign on Thursday 29-3-2012 by creating the awareness team that's job is to encourage their community to participate. To achieve that, they distributed informative posters in and out of the school and went around Wadi Al Kabeer area to inform people about the campaign and its purposes.



6



Our Crafts Our Pride

Al Hadara School organized an exhibition to honor the Omani crafts. The exhibition consisted of fronds made products corner, silver crafts corner, pottery corner, woodwork corner, Omani cuisine Corner, folk games corner, and the Omani kumma (head wear) corner. The school students played some popular folk games that reflect the school's interest towards preserving the heritage.



7 Earth Day

The Earth Day is an event that is held on the 22nd of April of every year. It celebrates the modern environmental movement that began in 1970. It is celebrated worldwide to increase awareness and appreciation towards the Earth's natural environment. The Omani UNESCO Associated Schools celebrated this event through a series of activities and events. The participating schools were Dohat Al Adab School (Females), Jaber bin Zaid School (Males) and Shamsa Al Khalili School (Females). The celebration program included an open day and a number of presentations which all aimed to promote interaction between the schools in terms of celebrating the international days, years, and decades and also to spread awareness about mother earth.



International Days

8 International Day of People with Disabilities

This day was declared by the United Nations to encourage the States to enact the necessary measures to improve the situation of the disabled and providing them with equal opportunities. Hafsa bint Sreen School celebrated this event on 3rd of December 2012 by visiting Al Wafa Social Center in Buraimi Governorate and they conducted contests and plays and distributed gifts to the children there.



9 UNESCO Day

Sakina bint Hussain School celebrated the UNESCO Day (4th of November) by preparing a special program for the morning assembly. The program was in the form of a dialogue that focused on facts about the UNESCO and its role in the world. The program was followed by distributing informative cards that contained information about the organization to both students and teachers.



World Water Day is celebrated on the 22nd of March of every year. On this occasion, Oman National Commission has conducted a students' forum in Al Qurm Park in Muscat on the 4th of April 2012 where 50 students from UNESCO Associated Schools have joined the world in celebrating this event.

The students were informed about the local and international fresh water issues, the importance of water for life and the importance of maintaining it. They were asked to



suggest solutions regarding wasting water.

The Forum focused on the following topics:

- Water & Food Security
- Salinity of Groundwater & Scarcity of Fresh Water
- Water for Biodiversity
- Rainfalls Rate and its Role in Social Stability and

Economic Progress.

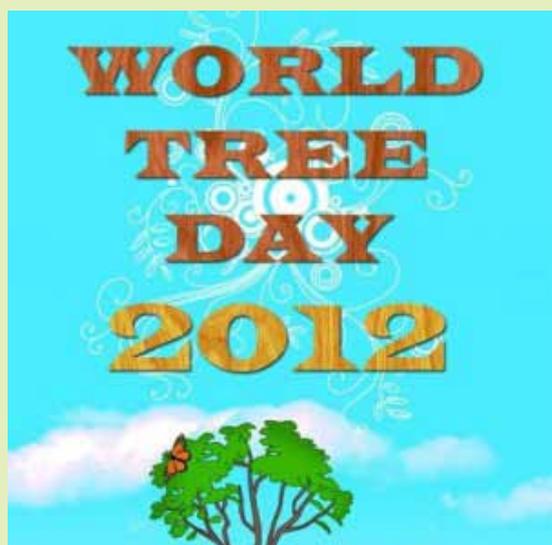
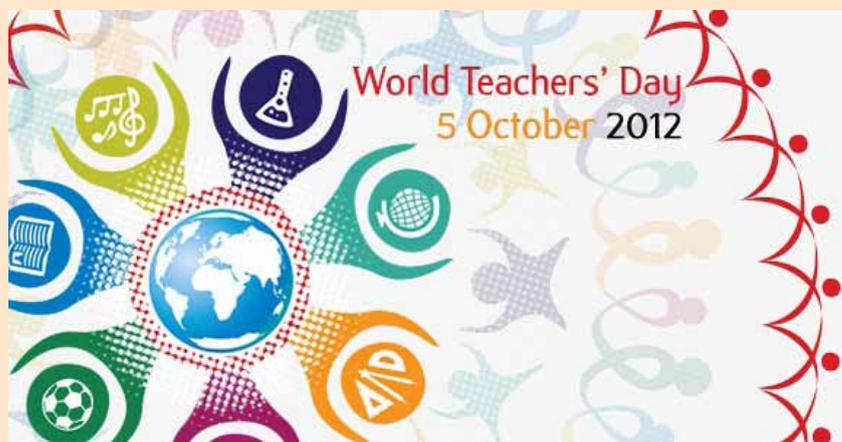
Individual efforts by schools were done in celebration as well:

- **Jabir bin Zaid School:** awareness campaigns through presentations on rationalization of water consumption.
- **Al Amal School:** a lecture on main water resources in Oman, ways of conservation and rationalization of water consumption + dissemination of booklets and posters.
- **Al Ain School:** competitions related to water and electricity conservation.



Teachers Day 11

A number of UNESCO Associated Schools celebrated the Teacher's Day under the theme of this year which is "Let's Support the Teachers." Believing in the significant role of teachers and recognizing their efforts in spreading knowledge and contributing to the development of society, Azza School and Hafsa bint Sereen school celebrated this occasion by singing songs, performing short plays and conducting other morning assembly programs that focused on the importance of the role of teachers. At the end, the teachers were given certificates of appreciation.

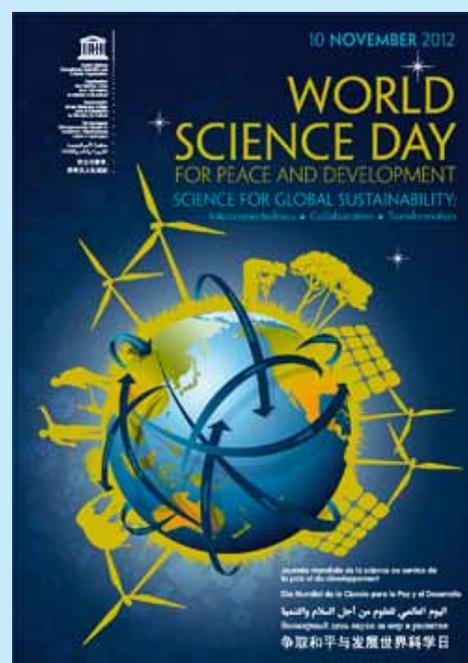


World Tree Day 12

Al Marwa School has celebrated the Tree Day through participating in an afforestation initiative started by Oman India Fertiliser Company (OMIFCO) in the aim to spread awareness about the importance of plants for a healthy and balanced environment, attract students to the activity of planting and to increase the green spaces. Students were also given brochures and taken to visits to plant nurseries and the Department of Agriculture.

The Science club in Sakina bint Hussain School celebrated the World Science Day (11th of November) by preparing a special program for the morning assembly and did many fun scientific experiments with the students in the science laboratory during breaks. The teachers also conducted two seminars about the importance of science in life and included quizzes about science to stimulate the students minds.

The World Science Day 13



Amna Salem Al-Balushi

National Coordinator

UNESCO Associated Schools Project (ASP)

Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science

Hello again,

This is the 2nd issue of the annual newsletter of UNESCO Associated Schools. We aim at all schools and supporting organizations in and out of Oman.

The academic year 2011-2012 has witnessed the implementation of a number of initiatives and joint ventures between ASPNet schools at the local, regional and global levels. The purpose of these initiatives and ventures is to support the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, United Nations Decade for Water for Life and the Arab-European dialogue initiative between the National Commissions for UNESCO.

This newsletter introduces you to some of these projects. One of the main projects included is the twinning Project which was conducted between Oman ASPnet schools and the German, Danish and Lebanese schools. The twinning was also done locally and was one of the most successful initiatives on the local level, for it contributed in fostering the efforts and activities that helped familiarize the society with ASPNet's activities in Oman.

Another important initiative that you will notice is the 1st Students Forum: "Future in Young Hands", where 200 students from ASPnet schools and other public schools gathered and learned the skills of dialogue and communication and have been introduced to entrepreneurship, technology ethics and knowledge awareness. You will also read about Al Azi and A'Taghrood, the two Omani folklores that were enlisted as intangible heritage in the World Heritage List.

In the end, I would like to thank all the students, teachers, local coordinators and schools principles of UNESCO Associated Schools for their efforts in making Oman visible through their activities, initiatives and projects, and I would also like to thank all the institutions that support these projects. I look forward for our cooperation in 2013.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Member of
UNESCO
Associated Schools

«المستقبل بين أيد شبابية»



The 1st Students Forum

ملتقى الطلاب الأول



“Future in Young Hands”