Integrated LNG Entity Formed

Ghazi 12 Activities

Sailing School in Sur
Our country’s LNG industry has evolved rather quickly. This is easy to understand when viewed from the context that the global LNG industry and the market it serves has also witnessed a rather fast growth. While commercial trade in the modern LNG trade began almost fifty years ago, purposeful, large scale production and export of liquefied natural gas began only in the late nineteen eighties and has developed quite remarkably since.

There are now some twenty countries involved in the export of liquefied natural gas. As evidence of the increasing importance of natural gas and its uses across a broad spectrum of applications, some of the exporting nations are also importers - Oman included.

As the world continues to place rightful emphasis on environment preservation to ensure a vibrant yet balanced ecology that will serve ours and future generations for many years to come, natural gas will play a significant role in meeting the world’s energy needs. We are glad that enormous efforts and finds of this resource in Oman gives us a great picture for the times ahead. Oman’s natural gas will keep playing a big role in and out of our country.

The integration between Oman LNG and Qalhat LNG positions the new entity, operating under Oman LNG, to among other benefits, present the world with one face of LNG supply from the Sultanate, meet the energy needs of buyers of our cargoes more efficiently, and apply the flexibility and agility required to supply the wider market through cargo swaps. The integration will open more opportunities for our staff and also benefit our communities in a more efficient and effective manner.

In the days leading up to Day 1 of the integration, I was inspired by the way colleagues from both organisations collaborated to achieve the many milestones that made September 1 not only a reality, but a celebrated success as confirmed by many of our stakeholders. This kind of dynamic teamwork will certainly be one of the cornerstones for building success in the company and staying ahead in the industry. The culture of teams with common goals will be nurtured in the new set up.

We remain sincerely grateful to our wise and visionary leader, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said for affording us the privilege to contribute to Oman’s success through the production and export of liquefied natural gas and developing our human capital.

As an integrated company, all of us at Oman LNG are humbled by the enormity of trust placed on us as stewards by stakeholders to drive the success of this organisation forward and achieve new levels of significance for Oman and its people. Without doubt, this will require unparalleled commitment and staying focused on our goals, guided by our core values.

In this edition of Al Ghanjah, among other topics of interest, readers will find instructive information about the fusion between Oman LNG and Qalhat LNG.

I use this opportunity to thank His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Al Rumhy, the Chairman of Oman LNG and His Excellency Nasser Al Jashmi, the Chairman of Qalhat LNG and their Boards of Directors with all our excellent partners for their support, as we begin a new era of much greater collaboration and success in a refocused LNG industry.

Let the work begin in earnest.

Harib Al Kitani
Chief Executive Officer

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institutions of its kind were established by Oman Sail in Muscat and Musannah, will provide professional world-class tuition to students and be operated by trained Omani managers and instructors.

High profile sailor Said Al Araimi who hails from Sur, will be in-charge of operating the sailing centre in his hometown.

Said is a senior instructor who has had international success in the Hobie 16 catamaran class and has recently been heavily involved in the development of Oman Sail’s youth programme.

The Oman Sail School in Sur when completed will be the realisation of half of a projected eight Oman Sail sailing schools planned for the Sultanate as part of an initiative that uses the power of sport to contribute to the development of the country.

HE Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Naddabi, praised the progress being made, welcoming the bright prospects that will come to the wilayat from having its own sailing school that could mirror the successes of earlier schools established by Oman Sail and rekindle Sur’s prowess in seafaring.

He said, “Sur’s rich and time-honoured maritime heritage makes it a natural place to have a sailing school. Our city is synonymous with Oman’s seafaring history and this is reflected in the number of high profile sailors from the wilayat that are competing internationally today.”

In a pact that employs creativity and a variety of media to cut down the number of road accidents and fatalities in the country, Oman LNG and Oman Road Safety Association (ORSA), agreed to highlight the debilitating effects of bad habits on the roads using short animated films.
The signing of the pact was also the springboard for the launch of Oman LNG’s road safety mascot.

The short animated films to run for thirty seconds at a time is focused on a set of twins – Shama’a and Mishal – as central characters who find themselves in various scenarios that in the end provide lessons and morals about safety on our roads.

The films will be deployed through a variety of channels including cinemas, television and social media to spread the message far and wide to reach audiences.

The initiative is the latest in a bulk of determined efforts spearheaded by Oman LNG to cut down the number of accidents on roads.

In one such scheme, the company joined hands with Shell, the Royal Oman Police (ROP), Omantel and media organisations to sponsor a set of fifty lectures mostly delivered by Sheikh Khalfan Al Esry to many audiences across the length and breadth of the Sultanate.

The course teaches the ladies some core subjects in tailoring such as sewing, electronic embroidery skills and other basic topics related to the discipline. Al-Bahaa Institute will provide all training equipment and tools to ensure practical experience, and proper knowledge-transfer and acquisition of the skills. Additionally in this particular instance, the candidates will receive monthly stipends during their schooling. The training programme, spanning six months, will cost thirty six thousand rials (36,000 OMR).

The training programme falls under Oman LNG’s Human Resource Development (HRD), a fund that targets nurturing job-skills that are attractive to the labour market.

“This training gives the ladies an opportunity to learn the important skills of sewing and embroidery, which will bring another source of income for them and would attract other women to work and deal with them. This will add more value, not only for themselves but for the community as a whole,” commented His Excellency Sheikh Muhana bin Saif Al Maawali, Wali of Al Amerat, after signing the agreement.

“Oman LNG is committed to developing youth capacity and skills acquisition needed in the job market, which will ultimately enable them to secure a sustainable income. Upon completion of this training programme, the candidates will utilise their newfound talent profitably in sewing and embroidery,” said Nasser Al Kindi.
AID FOR OVER 1000 DISABLED

Over one thousand people living with disabilities across the Sultanate have recently received some respite through using modern medical equipment that makes life more comfortable and easier for the handicapped.

This relief comes under the auspices of an agreement signed between the Oman Association for the Disabled and Oman LNG, where the company, has allocated two hundred twenty thousand, and one hundred-fifty rials (OMR 220,150) to assist the Association in procuring some seven hundred and fifteen (715) wheelchairs of the electronic, comfort and standard variants, three hundred and seventy-five (375) hearing aids, twenty (20) electric beds and mattresses, and fifty (50) commode chairs.

“The agreement signed comes as a result of our understanding relationship with Oman LNG and their valuable assistance over the years which has enabled us to work together to provide equipment that improves the quality of life for persons with disabilities,” said Yahya bin Abdullah Al Amri, Chairman of the Association, speaking after the agreement was signed at Oman LNG’s Head Office. “Our support to the association in funding its procurement of various equipment will ease the life of our brothers and sisters who live with disabilities,” said Harib bin Abdullah Al Kitani, Oman LNG’s Chief Executive Officer after inking the pact.

OMAN LNG ANNOUNCES “YOUNG INVENTORS OF THE YEAR”

Oman LNG announced recently in Muscat the eventual ten winners of its Young Inventors of the Year award.

The announcement came after critical assessment of thirty-three innovations developed by students across the Sultanate’s eleven (11) governorates.

This year, the first for the competition, saw over four dozen pioneering works submitted for the award’s consideration at the governorate level.

From these submissions, a batch of thirty-three (33) comprising three (3) from each governorate, were assessed and endorsed by the directorates of education and passed on to the award’s National Evaluation Committee for further evaluation.

Guided by a set of well-established benchmarks, the National Evaluation Committee considered the innovations further, subjecting each entry to tests and measurements, and eventually whittling the creations down to a final list of ten (10), which cover a range of science-based ideas including environment...
preservation, water management, traffic safety and energy conservation.

Established in 2012, the purpose of the award is to generate greater interest in science among students enabling them cultivate and pursue empirical thinking in addressing socio-economic issues.

Promoted by Oman LNG and effected through an agreement signed with the Ministry of Education (MoE), the competition directly targets students in Grades Eight to Eleven in all schools following the Ministry of Education curriculum in Oman.

OMAN LNG, OPAL SEAL TRAINING-FOR-JOBS PACT

Applying its tried-and-tested paradigm for moving candidates out of the labour market and into long-term employment, Oman LNG has sealed a training-for-jobs pact with OPAL to deliver management training for twenty young Omanis.

The training will be facilitated by Bahwan Cybertek and run for seven months. For six of these months, the candidates will be taught courses on various aspects of sales, customer service, auditing and accounting. And in the final month they will be put through their paces during a hands-on internship. The candidates will receive monthly stipends during their schooling and salaried positions upon starting out in their new jobs. Thus far, the company has enabled the recruitment of over one thousand and four hundred candidates through its training-for-jobs model.

“This latest batch of twenty candidates will also undergo such requisite training and then be provided jobs that could well be the beginning of fulfilling careers for them,” said Harib Al Kitani, Oman LNG’s Chief Executive Officer after signing the agreement on the company’s behalf.

OMAN LNG BACKS OWA IN WADI BANI KHALID

Characteristic of its many initiatives to promote social development in the country, Oman LNG undertook to fund the procurement of office equipment and appliances required by the Omani Women’s Association (OWA) in Wadi Bani Khalid.

The equipment comprises air conditioners, desktop and laptop computers, a projector and display screen, photocopying and fax machines.

Funds will also be provided towards the acquisition of a set of speakers, microphone and some seventy chairs for the Association’s auditorium where events and meetings are held. Other appliances include a refrigerator and a television set.
### Omanisation
Oman LNG has remained at the forefront of attracting and retaining the best talent, with Omani nationals occupying 6 of the seven positions in the company’s Management Team.

### Days without Lost-Time Injury (LTI)
6,909

### Staff sponsored by the company for tertiary education
90

### Staff are undergoing professional qualifications, sponsored by Oman LNG
54

### Amount invested in 2,200 projects and initiatives all across the Sultanate of Oman in the first decade
36

### Pacesetting Reliability of Trains
99.69%

### Information provided are as at September 2013
www.omanlng.com

### Fuelling the future
The Sultanate’s liquefied natural gas industry entered a new era on September 1st assuming a bolder, more unified front with the fusion of the country’s only two liquefied natural gas companies, Oman LNG and Qalhat LNG, into one integrated entity.

Unanimously approved by the shareholders of both formerly distinct corporations, September 1st marked the first day of formal functioning of the new unified structure.

The integration capitalises on a number of existing operational efficiencies and potent synergies such as production and export from common facilities at the three-train plant in Sur, one source of gas supply, same shipping provider and almost similar destinations of liquefied natural gas cargoes. It will also take advantage of the combined knowledge of highly skilled workforce in the country’s LNG industry and offer greater flexibility to deploy a larger portfolio.
of cargoes and vessels in the global liquefied natural gas market.

The fusion could well bump up revenue accruing to the nation from LNG exports by reducing cost of operations and offering better management of swaps and diversions of cargoes while maintaining a reliable supply of LNG cargoes to long-term buyers. Enhanced customer focus and care is also a paramount feature of the integrated entity.

Analysts are forecasting rising demand for liquefied natural gas in the coming years (the global LNG demand is forecast to double 2012 levels by 2020). Further, natural gas is also expected to replace coal as the second most important source of energy by 2040.

The integration brings together the strengths of the two companies, positioning the new entity to leverage on supply opportunities expected to come with projected growth demand in the global LNG industry. While Oman LNG’s business has emphasised the sale of its cargoes through long-term sales and purchase agreements (SPAs), Qalhat LNG is an active and successful player in swaps and diversions of LNG cargoes as well as long-term SPAs.

“The successful integration of Oman LNG and Qalhat LNG which formally begins today marks the commencement of a new era for our nation’s LNG industry,” said His Excellency, Minister of Oil and Gas and Chairman of Oman LNG, Dr. Mohammed bin Hamad Al Rumhy.
“Both companies have a solid track record of achievements in terms of reliable supply of LNG to our valued customers, high revenue generation for the country, contribution to social development and Omanisation of staff. As one solid entity, all stakeholders in the value chain can be assured that even greater value will be generated from the operations in the industry. Oman now has one face for LNG exports to the world and this news has been well received by the global markets,” he added.

Oman's liquefied natural gas industry has grown out of the vision of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said to diversify the country's economy and has attracted high revenue by harnessing natural gas resources for export as liquefied natural gas. The country produced its first shipment of liquefied natural gas in 2000 after the first of an initial two-train plant began operations under Oman LNG, established by His Majesty's Royal Decree in 1994. With a third train under Qalhat LNG, liquefied natural gas has played an even greater role in contributing to the national economy as the two companies have worked intensely with outstanding success to drive their organisations forward.

That vision has largely been realised with liquefied natural gas now as the second largest income earner for the Sultanate, after oil revenues.

Oman LNG's successful operations led to the incorporation of Qalhat LNG which was established in 2003. Qalhat LNG's single train made up the third train of a three-train operation with a total nameplate capacity of 10.4 metric tonnes per annum (mtpa) capacity. Qalhat LNG sent off its own first cargo of liquefied natural gas in December 2005.

“This is an exciting time for our country's LNG industry and I am happy that this is happening after much careful and thorough planning, and consideration from shareholders of both companies. Both Qalhat and Oman LNG stakeholders will derive much more value from the unified, holistic front for liquefied natural gas exports in the new integrated company,” said His Excellency Nasser bin Khamis Al Jashmi – Under Secretary at the Ministry of Oil and Gas and Chairman of Qalhat LNG.

With key buyers in Asia and Europe, both companies have run efficiently and reliably since their respective start-up of operations and last year generated a combined pre-tax revenue of over US$ billion. At the end of July this year, a combined 1,619 cargoes of LNG have been exported from the country.

Beyond its direct contribution to revenue, the country's two LNG companies have been pivotal to social development, executing a myriad of social investment initiatives that has triggered job creation and entrepreneurship, spread quality education and healthcare, encouraged women's development and supported tourism, among others.

The integration promises a continuing strong and robust engagement with the community in Sur, home to the company's plant operations. Sur has enjoyed many development initiatives executed as part of the LNG industry's contribution to a better quality of life for people in the Sultanate.
We Are Integrated

Together For Excellence

Oman LNG L.L.C.

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• **Besides the fact that operations of both companies were already integrated, what were some of the convincing indices that supported the argument for full integration of Oman and Qalhat LNG?**

The general consensus in the business was for greater collaboration to capitalise on market opportunities. The argument for integration is not something that was defined by external advisors; rather, it was a call from the chairmen, the board members, and shareholders who saw a great opportunity to further Omanise key positions in the combined organisation, reduce duplications of duties (time and material), reduce cost, and maximise their returns, specifically with improved diversions capability and cargo swapping over and above the expected cost savings. These benefits (intellectual, macro-economic and micro-economic) were key fundamental drivers behind the decision making process. They also combine to deliver greater value to Oman as a whole either through a social investment programme or through a larger pool of funds, among many other benefits.

Furthermore, having a single, unified brand representing the LNG market of the Sultanate of Oman and abroad is an important initiative for the Government. The LNG market is forecasted to grow substantially over the coming years and increasing the local knowledge base is of utmost importance to take full advantage of this expected growth. This integration will allow greater opportunities for the local staff to develop their knowledge and expertise and for the organisation to become more customer focused with a single unified image representing the Sultanate.
• **How long has Deloitte been involved in the Oman LNG/ Qalhat LNG integration project and what were some of the challenging aspects of the work?**

Deloitte’s involvement started in January 2013. We supported the shareholders and the Management Team in quantifying the potential financial and intellectual synergies for this integration. Further, we supported management by advising on the key success factors of such integration to mitigate potential risks and issues, specifically related to people, the core strength of the business.

The complexity of this integration is linked to the diverse range of shareholders involved from the government to the private sector and from a wide spectrum of cultures. The final proposition had to be acceptable to all parties involved.

We are pleased with how things have gone to date. Thus far we have supported over 80 employees working on the integration, day 1 planning and execution. The level of ownership adopted by these employees certainly exceeded our expectations. They took the opportunity with open minds and delivered on their tasks in a new and very difficult environment.

• **From your research, what did you find to be the greatest upside and downside for Oman and Qalhat LNG companies integrating? Have you put recommendations in place to address the possible downsides?**

Upsides and downsides have been looked at throughout the project. The biggest upside is clearly the intellectual capacity adopted by the new combined organisation. As for downsides, leveraging Deloitte’s expertise and experience from other integrations, we were able to identify key risks early on and implement mitigation measures accordingly. It would be shortsighted to assume we’ve successfully identified all potential risks. Therefore, we also set up a decision making process/ helpdesk function internally to review and overcome possible future downsides/ issues on a timely basis and measured manner.

• **From your experience in integration and mergers, what does the combined entity need to do in the years to maintain its viability?**

The majority of merger failures are due to poorly executed integration programmes. Common integration errors vary from inadequate integration planning, lack of programme leadership, lack of a formal and fast decision making process, lack of executive alignment on merger rationale, to loss of focus on everyday operations. However, the three key pillars to be achieved in order to execute a sustainable integration are clarity of purpose, control, and people management. A thorough integration programme cannot be based on one or two of the pillars, it has to embrace all key pillars simultaneously in order to sustain ownership and create shareholder value.

However, our hardest/ most challenging task still lies ahead. We need to sustain employee’s ownership of the plans beyond the integration completion date. The plans have to be SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound) in order to ensure employees success is rewarded by the shareholders. Failure to sustain this level of control may impede future plans and employees morale/ motivation levels.
Why was it important to divide the integration projects into so many tasks across the different workstreams?

Control is one of the key pillars in an integration programme. With the programme split over multiple workstreams and workstreams split over multiple projects, it is easier to allocate responsibility, monitor progress and report success at the programme level. It will also enable the issues/risks mitigation plans to be assigned to individuals to ensure effective management. Every employee involved in the process had their own defined responsibility, ensuring all aspects of the integration are considered or in other words under control.

The integration Day 1 is fixed with high level of inter-related projects and workstream dependencies. Hence, failure to hit all the targets on time would have had an adverse impact on all their dependencies, resulting in a domino effect. Therefore, it was even more important to ensure all milestones are assigned to an individual and tracked at the activity level. The Day 1 programme entailed about 620 milestones alone. This was a complex process which required significant support from the entire programme team.

Looking at the timeline established for the integration as provided in the Blueprint, there are very few task/milestone after 2 years. Does this suggest you expect all integration-related activities have been completed by then?

Based on the current vision set in collaboration with the Management Team and the shareholders, we do not foresee this integration process to extend beyond year 2, with the exception of full office migration due to external stakeholder’s involvement.
Around the world, liquefied natural gas (LNG) is a choice fuel for its many good qualities – it is odorless, colourless, non-toxic and non-corrosive, and considered the cleanest-burning fossil fuel available.

LNG produces less carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions than other fossil fuels.

The value-chain of producing liquefied natural gas (LNG) involves many processes that cools gas to -162°C thus converting it to liquid at a specially-built plant, often a large complex machinery, commonly referred to in the industry as a train.

LNG plants like any piece of machinery require regular maintenance, described as shutdowns, to enable them run efficiently and maintain production.

It is worth mentioning that LNG plants are designed to have a flare. This is a vertical pipe at the top of which a small amount of gas is continuously burned, forming a flame and some smoke.

Flaring of gas usually occurs during the start-up or shutdown of a LNG plant.

Flaring may also be observed during an unplanned interruption to normal operations at the plant.
The flare will burn out of specification gas/liquid upon startup. Additionally, the flare system is used to remove any gas left in the plant before major maintenance takes place.

Through burning, the gas/liquid is converted to heat, water and principally carbon dioxide, thereby dramatically reducing its impact on the environment. This is the black smoke seen at the flare.

The flare is an environmentally-friendly safety system that does not produce smoke during normal operation.

The flare system at the Oman LNG plant has been designed and constructed to comply with both Omani and internationally recognised health and environmental standards. Furthermore, research has shown that it does not have known adverse effect on the health of the people living near the plant or Oman LNG staff working at the plant.

As a responsible corporate citizen that contributes to the development of the Sultanate, Oman LNG abides by regulations set by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs (MECA) in the operations of its plants and flaring of gas from its plant.

After more than a decade’s operations, Oman LNG has consistently maintained the highest standards in safety and the environment, and following extensive, independent audits by an external accreditation body, the company has retained the ISO 9001:2008 and 14001:2004 series of certification.

It recently added the BS- OHSAS 18001:2007 to this suite of endorsements.

These international certifications show Oman LNG’s adherence to globally recognised management systems in Quality, Health, Safety and the Environment (QHSE) and its commitment to abiding by widely accepted and proven methods of disposing of gas from its plant.

So next time you see a flare at an LNG plant, understand that it likely means a start-up or shutdown is underway or there has been an unplanned interruption to normal operations.

Finally, be assured that the levels of gas emissions from the plant pose no threat to the health and safety of the people working at the plant or living in the surrounding communities.
In an inspiring initiative between Oman LNG and Oman Sail, Sur will host its first-ever sailing school and the fourth such institution in the country. This comes as part of a community-based project to provide world-class tuition and development programmes for local youngsters who want to learn professional sailing and is one of many other schemes funded by Oman LNG in Sur, home to the company’s plant from where it sends many cargoes of liquefied natural gas from the Sultanate to the world.

By Mohammed Al Issa
Sur’s Oman Sail Sailing School will be located in its fisheries harbour and is planned to be officially inaugurated in January. It will be operated by Omani managers and instructors, and tailored specially to the needs and expectations of the Sur community where for centuries many people have built their lives around the location’s coastal waters. The school will also build on the successes of Oman Sail’s first three sailing schools in Muscat and Musannah.

A rigorous selection process by Oman Sail has already led to the choice of 12 men and six women from Sur to be trained and employed as instructors at the school. Instruction will be given in Arabic and the tutors will benefit from a structured skills development programme that engages them through regular training.

The Oman Sail School will also collaborate with the local Omani schools in Sur, offering comprehensive year-long sailing programmes to school groups in all dinghy sailing classes. Individuals will also be able to join the more advanced youth and racing clubs and those with talent identified and nurtured for the National Sailing Team.

Harib Al Kitani, Oman LNG’s chief executive officer says the company is honoured to bring Sur its pioneer professional sailing school that holds the promise of tapping the abundant potential of sea-loving youths in the location that are accustomed to a life revolving around the sea and emphasised that the development of the new sailing school forms part of a nationwide effort to harness the power of sports to contribute to the country’s development.

“This is the fourth of eight projected Oman Sail schools to open in the Sultanate and already 11,000 people in other parts of the country have discovered the huge benefits, fun and enjoyment the sport of sailing offers. It is a wonderfully positive way to engage our local youth in sport. Participation in sport and recreational activities is a ‘habit’ that is best developed when still young. It is essential for good health and this is why we are committed as constant and regular champions
of sport in our host communities,” says David Graham, Oman Sail’s chief executive officer.

His Excellency, Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Naddabi, Wali of Sur, and other local officials during a recent visit to the school welcomed the progress being made in the construction of the new school, noting that he was looking forward to the region having its own sailing school that would mirror the successes of those established by Oman Sail in Muscat in 2009 and 2012, and Mussanah in 2011. He said Sur’s rich and time-honoured maritime heritage made it a natural place to have a sailing school.

“Our city is synonymous with an illustrious seafaring history and this is reflected in the number of high profile sailors from our region competing internationally today. They are creating a modern heritage and are inspiring role models for our youth,” Al Naddabi noted.

“What we see here today is impressive and we are confident that this initiative will have long-term development benefits for young Omans in the Sur region and the Sultanate in general.”

Since its inception in 2008, Oman Sail has used the power of the sport of sailing to directly invest in the future of Oman’s youth from grass roots level through to developing national teams that compete internationally. The ultimate goal is to establish an Omani Sailing team that will qualify for the 2020 Olympic Games.

Sur will also benefit from the recent introduction of Oman Sail’s Youth Programme “Pathway to Excellence” initiative which is available to youngsters who wish to make sailing their main sport or career as it provides guidance for advancing from school and sailing clubs to the elite national racing squads representing Oman at international championships and the Olympics in the future.

This also involves being part of a performance based national qualification system which offers individual sailors, teams and coaches concrete goals and rewards. Oman Sail’s focus on the development of coaching skills that ensure internationally recognised levels of professionalism has also resulted in the qualification of 18 Omani instructors. The benefit of expert coaching, disciplined training and exposure to international contests is evident in the impressive results clocked up in many classes representing Oman at prestigious regional and world championships in Europe, the Middle East and Africa this year.

Among these were the Mussanah Race Week, where a catamaran team won gold, the GCC Championship where the Optimist Team won gold and bronze, the Al Bareh International Regatta in Bahrain where the Young Optimist Stars again won gold and 5th and 7th places in the Laser 4.7 class, the ISAF Youth World Championships in Cyprus and the International Optimist Dinghy Association (IODA) African Championships in South Africa.

A 10-member team represented Oman at the 2013 Arab Sailing Championships in Kuwait in October and national teams will be selected for the Laser World Championships that will be hosted in Oman for the first time over a six week period from November through to early January 2014.

The Women’s Sailing programme continues to grow with an Omani all-female crew participating in such high profile international racing events as EFG Sailing Arabia - The Tour and a range of regattas in France.

At the highest levels of elite national sailing this year also saw Omani sailor Raiya Al Habsi crew on Oman’s flagship MOD70 Oman Air-Musandam to become the first Arab woman to race in UK’s world famous Fastnet Race.

Oman Air Musandam won its class in the Fastnet and also took a podium second place against the best teams in the world in the 2013 Route des Princes, which allowed young Omanis Fahad Al Hasni and Ahmed Al Hassani a fast track into top end international yacht racing.

In the high profile, high performance Extreme 40 Sailing Series, Oman Sail’s campaign team, The Wave, Muscat, remains consistently at the top of the leader board and continues to build international awareness of Oman and raise the country’s profile as a high-end tourist and foreign investment destination.
“Ghazi 12”, Ramadan Nights Filled with Youth Excitement

As part of Oman LNG’s efforts to support and engage youths in the Sultanate following His Majesty’s guidance, the company has held “Ghazi” activities during the Holy Month of Ramadan for the twelfth year in a row.

This year, Ghazi commenced on Sunday, 14 July in Sur Sports Complex in cooperation with the Directorate of Sports Affairs in South Al Sharqiya Governorate, Directorate General of Education in South Al Sharqiya Governorate, Directorate General of Health Services in South Al Sharqiya Governorate, other public establishments and a number of private enterprises and sports clubs. This year’s activities included football, women’s volleyball, beach volleyball, chess, educational contests, and a night of chanting.

It started with a football tournament of 24 teams representing different public and private entities and a number of sports clubs. After a series of interesting competitions, Public Prosecution Team became the champion while Roads Directorate Team secured the second position and Sur Sports Club’s Team came third.

Nima Beach in Sur witnessed a battle of 10 teams to win the title of beach volleyball champion. Roads Directorate Team topped the list, in the sport followed by Sur Sports Clubs and OMIFCOs.

On Sunday, 21 July, yet another excitement began with the participation of 32 chess players. This competition opened doors to explore talent in this brain-stimulating game. At the end of the competition on Friday, 26 July, Salim Al Mamari emerged as champion, with Omar Al Alawi and Mohammed Al Shuaibi in the send and third place respectively.

It is worth mentioning that other competitions took place to brush up on different fields of knowledge ranging from history and sports to technology, in addition to questions about Oman and Oman LNG.

Mondays and Wednesdays were for males and Sundays and Tuesdays for females. On a side note, the competitions were accompanied by folk songs and poems along with lectures and competitions for children.

The night of chanting was held at Al Hana Hall in Sur, with many talented Omanis thrilling the audience with their voices. At the end of the night, gifts were distributed to the audience and the participants.

Ghazi activities are aimed at maintaining the healthy relationship between Oman LNG and the community in Sur by empowering youths to develop their talent and potential. For many people in Sur, Ghazi activities is a recreation, which combines physical, exercise with mental stimulation and teamwork.
Photo Gallery of “Ghazi 12”