

OMAN PETROLEUM & ENERGY SHOW 2025 C-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE REPORT

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On May 12th 2025, the Oman Petroleum and Energy Show (OPES) convened a crucial roundtable discussion, bringing together prominent experts, industry leaders, and key policymakers to engage in meaningful dialogue regarding the future of energy transition within the Sultanate. Set against the backdrop of shifting global energy dynamics and evolving sustainability practices, this event highlighted Oman's forward-thinking approach and readiness to address the complexities of today's evolving energy landscape.

Participants

This executive-level gathering assembled a distinguished group of decision-makers from Oman's governmental bodies and energy sector. Notable attendees included H.E. Mohsin Al Hadhrami, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals; Dr. Saleh Al Anboori, also representing the Ministry; Steven Lauver from Occidental of Oman (Oxy); Walid Hadi from Oman Shell; Yousuf Al Ojaili representing bp; Dr. Hemann Spoerker from Bapco; Abdullah Al Shanfari on behalf of Daleel Petroleum; Ben Charbit from Slb; Ahmed Al Azkawi from OQEP; Yubaraj Sen Gupta and Alkesh Joshi representing Ernst & Young (EY); Hamed Al Naamany from Oman LNG; Sami Baqi Al Lawati, Technical Director of Petroleum Development Oman (PDO); Roberto Lorato from Medcoenergi; Moataz Al Riyami representing CC Energy Development; Mohsin Sulaiman Al Jabri of the Oman Net Zero Centre; Ahmed Naiem from Haliburton; and Humaid Al Bulushi representing the Oman Energy Association (OPAL). Yubaraj Sen Gupta from EY masterfully moderated the discussion, ensuring productive and insightful exchanges throughout.

Aims of the Roundtable

The primary objective centered on fostering strategic conversations regarding energy transition, while exploring opportunities for enhanced collaboration among industry stakeholders, policy architects, and financial institutions. Participants deliberated on effective strategies to integrate sustainable energy practices within Oman's existing economic framework, emphasizing the delicate balance between maintaining energy security and advancing environmental stewardship.

The roundtable focused on three fundamental topics: energy transition strategies, sustainable economic development, and the integration of cutting-edge technologies such as AI and Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS).

1. Energy Transition

Discussions regarding energy transition emphasized Oman's proactive approach toward expanding renewable energy sources, particularly solar and wind power. Speakers referenced successful initiatives like Merah 1 and Merah 2, while highlighting ongoing investments in grid infrastructure upgrades and storage solutions essential for accommodating increased renewable integration. The roundtable underscored natural gas's essential role as a transition fuel, emphasizing its potential to replace higher carbon-intensity fuels worldwide, thereby supporting global decarbonization objectives.

Representatives from PDO, bp, and Oman Shell shared valuable insights regarding their ongoing initiatives, detailing significant progress in reducing emissions through renewable energy integration, AI-enhanced predictive maintenance systems, and ambitious flaring reduction programs. BP outlined concrete targets of achieving 56% emission reductions by 2030, while PDO reported substantial advancement toward renewable energy goals and flaring minimization efforts.

2. Sustainable Economic Growth

The roundtable reinforced the fundamental principle that energy transition must drive sustainable economic development, contributing not merely to revenue generation but also to employment creation and technological innovation. Speakers illustrated the economic advantages derived from incorporating renewable projects and implementing efficiency improvements, demonstrating how these initiatives substantially contribute to Oman's broader socio-economic development objectives.

3. Innovative Technologies: AI and CCUS

Considerable emphasis was placed on the transformative capabilities of innovative technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage systems. Oxy presented pioneering projects in direct air capture technology while emphasizing these innovations' critical importance in achieving net-zero targets. Discussions explored AI's expanding applications, particularly regarding predictive maintenance capabilities, operational efficiency enhancements, and strengthening energy security measures, as elaborated by representatives from Oman Shell and Baker Hughes.

4. Financial and Regulatory Frameworks

Financial mechanisms supporting sustainable initiatives received thorough examination. EY representatives highlighted the vital role of sustainable finance instruments, including green bonds, impact investment vehicles, and preferential tariff structures, alongside robust regulatory frameworks designed to incentivize sustainable practices. Suggestions encompassed implementing accelerated tax depreciation allowances, research and development credits, and enhanced transparency requirements for financial reporting to facilitate increased investment in sustainable projects.

5. Talent Development and Industry Perception

A significant portion of the dialogue addressed the industry's public image and its implications for attracting emerging talent. The roundtable highlighted the necessity of actively reshaping public perceptions, positioning the Oil & Gas sector as an essential, innovative, and responsible industry. Initiatives such as the National Young Professionals

(NYP) program and the Omani Cultural Laboratories (OCL) were highlighted as effective strategies for enhancing the industry's appeal and developing future leaders equipped to navigate energy transition challenges.

6. Commitments and Future Directions

The event concluded with a robust collective commitment from all participants to pursue collaborative strategies aligned with Oman's sustainability ambitions. Broad consensus emerged regarding the necessity of deeply integrating sustainability principles into economic planning and operational strategies, emphasizing ongoing dialogue and continuous innovation. Participants agreed on the importance of developing comprehensive talent pipelines, enhancing technological capabilities, and implementing transparent financial and regulatory support mechanisms to underpin Oman's transition toward a sustainable energy future.

Conclusion

The OPES 2025 roundtable identified specific pathways for Oman's energy transition through focused discussions on technological innovation, financial frameworks, regulatory requirements, and workforce development. Government representatives, industry leaders, and financial institutions agreed on concrete steps to reduce emissions while maintaining economic growth. Participants committed to collaborative implementation of sustainable practices across Oman's energy sector, establishing clear metrics for measuring progress toward national sustainability goals.

The roundtable produced actionable outcomes in four key areas: renewable energy deployment targets with specific timelines, emissions reduction strategies for existing operations, funding mechanisms for sustainable projects, and comprehensive talent development programs. Participants agreed to implement technological upgrades across the energy sector, create dedicated financial instruments for green investments, update regulatory frameworks to support sustainability, and establish specialized training initiatives to build local expertise. These measures position Oman as a practical model for resource-dependent economies seeking to balance traditional energy production with renewable expansion while maintaining economic stability.

While renewable expansion remains a critical pillar, the roundtable emphasized that Oman's Oil and Gas sector must continue to rely on its traditional strengths ensuring energy security and economic stability. Rather than abandoning conventional methods, the narrative is shifting toward optimizing legacy systems through improved production efficiency, cleaner technologies, and enhanced operational standards. Effective communication of these initiatives will showcase Oman as an inspiring example for resource-dependent economies, demonstrating how nations can embrace sustainability while maintaining the strength and value of their foundational industries.