

OMAN SUSTAINABILITY WEEK 2025 C-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE REPORT

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Oman Sustainability Week 2025 assembled its prestigious C-Panel roundtable on May 13th, bringing together leading executives and specialists to examine the landscape of sustainable development in the Sultanate. This year's conversations highlighted the importance of partnership, energy diversification, circular economy principles, and green financing mechanisms, showcasing Oman's forward-thinking approach to sustainability and economic development. Building on these insights, clear directions were set for the coming year, focusing on accelerating cross-sector collaboration, enhancing investment in renewable technologies, and strengthening regulatory frameworks to support a low-carbon future.

Participants

The high-level executive gathering featured prominent decision-makers and senior officials, including H.E. Mohsin Al Hadhrami, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, Mohsin Sulaiman Al Jabri from Oman Net Zero Center, Dr. Hisham Al Siyabi representing Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), Mohamed Najwani from bp Oman, Ali Al Lawati of OQ Group, Walid Hadi from Oman Shell, Agnello Borim of Sohar Aluminium, Honorable Dr. Amor Al Matani from Oman LNG, Mansoor Ali Al Abdali representing OQGN, Erwan Rouxel from Veolia, Eng. Abdulaziz Al Shidhani from Hydrom, Ahmed Bin Salim Al Abri from Nama Power and Water Procurement Company, Eng. Mazin Al Raisi of the National Energy Center, Bader Al Riyami representing Oman vision 2040 Implementation Follow Up Unit, David Bird from OQ8, Mr Khalid Al Kayed from Bank Nizwa, Dr. Mohab Ali Talib Al-Hinai of be'ah, and Alkesh Joshi from Ernst & Young (EY). The discussions were adeptly moderated by Mary O'Leary from Connect Sustainability Consulting, ensuring focused dialogue and strategic outcomes.

Aims of the Roundtable

The primary goal of this roundtable was to deepen strategic collaboration, identifying actionable sustainability solutions. Participants aimed to leverage diverse perspectives across sectors, integrating environmental, economic, and energy priorities to support Oman's long-term vision of sustainability and economic resilience.

Key Discussions and Highlights

The roundtable was structured around three central objectives. The first was to foster thought leadership by bringing together diverse and influential voices to provide innovative insights on sustainability. The second objective was facilitating the cross-pollination of ideas, allowing different sectors and expertise to blend and enhance collective understanding. The third objective was identifying the next critical steps in advancing Oman's sustainability agenda.

Discussions highlighted the continued success of public-private partnerships particularly emphasizing the private sector's pivotal role since the first Independent Power Project in 1995. Public Authority for Water and Power and Hydrom representatives highlighted successful renewable energy projects and their ongoing initiatives to meet ambitious government targets, notably increasing renewable energy penetration from 4% to a projected 65% by 2030.

Participants representing Veolia and OQ underscored successful projects such as the world's most efficient desalination plant at Barka and pioneering biogas-to-energy initiatives in collaboration with Be'ah. These initiatives exemplify effective public-private collaboration, demonstrating Oman's leadership in sustainable innovation.

Energy transition remained a core focus, with detailed accounts provided by PDO, bp Oman, and Oman Shell. PDO described a comprehensive carbon management roadmap, featuring renewable energy projects, electrification of operations, and innovative approaches like green completions to eliminate routine flaring. Similarly, bp Oman shared significant achievements, such as a reduction of 600,000 tons of CO₂ emissions through their green completion initiatives.

Discussions also explored the strategic importance of energy diversification, especially in hydrogen and solar power. During the panel, OQ outlined their proactive strategies to incorporate sustainability metrics into all subsidiary operations, achieving a notable 16% decarbonization target ahead of their roadmap.

The discussion around green finance recognized financial institutions as crucial enablers for sustainability initiatives. Bank Nizwa provided insights into integrating sustainability criteria into corporate financial strategies, emphasizing the necessity of clear regulatory incentives and effective reporting standards. Green bonds, impact investing, and regulatory incentives like accelerated depreciation and carbon taxation were identified as essential financial tools to foster sustainable projects.

Participants emphasized the circular economy as critical to achieving sustainability goals. Be'ah presented compelling data on the potential market value from implementing circular economy principles in Oman, estimated at around 500 million Omani Rials annually. Strategies discussed included designing products for longevity, efficient resource recovery, and innovative business models prioritizing service and repair.

Sohar Aluminium highlighted ongoing developments in aluminum recycling and energy-efficient technologies, positioning Oman as a global benchmark in sustainable industrial practices. Veolia and Be'ah's pioneering biogas-to-energy initiatives were discussed as exemplary applications of circular economy principles in waste management.

An important topic addressed was intergenerational capacity building. OQ, Sohar Aluminium, and Oman LNG shared robust programs aimed at nurturing young talent within the industry, underscoring the importance of reshaping perceptions of oil and gas as an innovative and future-oriented sector. Initiatives to build local capabilities, reduce dependency on external consultants, and foster sustainable knowledge within Oman were emphasized as vital for long-term success.

Acknowledging Oman's strategic geographic and economic position, international partnerships emerged as a vital topic. The Hydrom initiative presented its extensive international collaborations, particularly in green hydrogen projects involving German and Dutch entities, effectively reducing investment risks and enhancing operational efficiencies through international networks.

Challenges and Opportunities

Despite considerable progress, participants openly addressed ongoing challenges. Aging infrastructure concerns, economic viability issues with sustainable technologies, and talent retention difficulties within traditional industries were discussed. The importance of addressing these challenges through technological advancement, strategic alliances, and strong governance frameworks was collectively recognized as essential.

The session concluded with concordant commitment to continued innovation and strategic collaboration, reinforcing the need for integrated sustainability solutions across all sectors. The discussions underscored the necessity of clear governance structures, standardized reporting mechanisms, and effective financial frameworks to drive Oman's sustainable development goals.

Conclusion

Oman Sustainability Week 2025's C-Panel roundtable successfully synthesized collective insights into actionable strategies, establishing a comprehensive framework for Oman's continuation of sustainability journey. The discussions revealed remarkable progress across sectors, with tangible achievements in renewable energy deployment, carbon emissions reduction, and innovative waste management solutions. Particularly notable were PDO's carbon management roadmap targeting routine flaring elimination, bp Oman's 600,000-ton CO₂ emission reduction, and the Barka desalination plant's efficiency breakthroughs. These accomplishments, coupled with Hydrom's international partnerships and Be'ah's circular economy initiatives valued at 500 million Omani Rials, demonstrate Oman's growing capability to transform sustainability challenges into economic opportunities.

Looking ahead, participants emphasized the critical importance of strengthening governance structures, standardizing sustainability reporting mechanisms, and implementing effective financial frameworks to accelerate Oman's sustainable development goals. The roundtable underscored the Sultanate's commitment to balancing economic growth with environmental stewardship through innovative public-private collaborations. With ambitious targets to increase renewable energy penetration from 4% to 65% by 2030, comprehensive talent development programs across major corporations, and expanding green financing options spearheaded by institutions like Bank Nizwa, Oman is positioning itself as a regional pioneer in sustainable development. The collective leadership displayed at this year's C-Panel reflects Oman's determination to create a prosperous, environmentally responsible future aligned with its Vision 2040 objectives.