

AACC coordinates a visiting program for delegates from the Oman Chamber of Commerce & Industry

25-29 July 2023 – Vienna, Austria & Bratislava, Slovak Republic

In close cooperation with the **Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Vienna**, the **Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce** coordinated a visiting program for delegates of the Oman Chamber of Commerce & Industry in Austria and the Slovak Republic from 25 until 29 July 2023.



The high-level delegates were **Dr. Abdullah Masaud Al Harthi**, OCCI Board Member, Chairman-Energy and Mining Committee, and Member of AACC's Board of Directors; and **Dr. Siham Ahmed Al-Harthi**, OCCI Board Member and Chairperson-Tourism Committee. Throughout the program, the delegates had the opportunity to visit several distinguished institutions and to engage in productive meetings with Austrian businessmen and company representatives.

On 25 July 2023, the delegates' first visit took them to the **Spittelau Waste Incineration Plant** with its iconic architecture from the late Austrian architect Friedensreich Hundertwasser. **AACC Secretary-General Eng. Mouddar Khouja**, **Dr. Abdullah Al-Harthi** and **Dr. Siham Al-Harthi** were warmly received and given an informative presentation and guided tour by **Ms. Stefanie Ager**, expert and client service at **Wien Energie**.



As a leading energy provider, an essential aspect of Wien Energie's commitment to sustainability is the use of waste as an energy resource to supply electricity, gas, heating, and cooling to over 2 million people. It generates energy from 900,000 tons of waste by transforming it into a valuable source of power. Furthermore, Wien Energie has committed a substantial 1.25 billion Euros by 2026 to expand and enhance its renewable energy infrastructure. The **Omani delegates** expressed admiration for Wien Energie's ambitious goals of sustainability and innovation, which are set to ensure a resilient and clean energy supply for generations to come.

Later in the afternoon, the **delegation** convened for a second meeting with **Linde Hydrogen Fueltech**, a global gas and engineering company and a leader in technology. The participants were given a tour through the production halls by **Mr. Julian Jäckel**, Head of Production, before being welcomed by **Dr. Susanne Goldammer**, Managing Director; **DI Dr. Ljubomir Savic**,



International Sales & Business Development; and **Mr. Markus Bachmeier**, Director Sales & Products. **Mr. Bachmeier** introduced **Linde** and its technology portfolio to address all fueling needs. The company operates hydrogen refueling stations worldwide with advanced storage, gazification, and cooling technology, and is recognized for its exceptional reliability due its

extensive experience. The delegation was deeply impressed by Linde's commitment to advancing hydrogen technology and their significant contributions to the global energy landscape.

On 26 July 2023, **OCCI Board Members** and **Eng. Khouja** visited **Modul University Vienna Private University**, an international university for business and economics, with a strong research focus on international management, service-related industries, tourism, sustainability, data science, and the design of information systems. The participants were warmly welcomed by **Univ.-Prof. Dr. Karl Wöber**, the Dean & Managing Director of the campus.



Univ.-Prof. Dr. Wöber provided a brief overview of the university's study programs and student services. The delegation also had the opportunity to take a Campus Tour led by **Mr. Michael Straube**, the Head of Event & Facility Management. During the visit, it was mentioned that in September 2023, Modul University Vienna, in collaboration with City Destinations Alliance and the European Travel Commission, will be hosting the **18th TourMIS Users' Workshop & International Seminar**. This event targets regional, national, and international tourism organizations, along with universities and companies from the hospitality and tourism industry. The delegation expressed keen interest in the upcoming workshop and the desire to intensify cooperation with Modul University.



Afterwards, **Eng. Mouddar Khouja** received the **Omani delegation** at the premises of the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce for a meeting with **Mr. Ammar Bahloul**, a businessman and member of AACC. They engaged in in-depth conversations about the potential for industrial collaboration, real estate development and investment opportunities between Austria and Oman. Both sides

expressed their commitment to promoting innovation and sharing best practices to enhance their respective industrial sectors.

On 27 July 2023, **AACC Secretary-General** hosted another meeting for the **Omani delegates** at the premises of AACC, where they met **Mr. Manfred Hettmer**, CEO of Hettmer International Technology Development & Trading and member of AACC. The agenda for their discussion covered diverse topics such as innovation, scientific software engineering, strategic partnerships, space technology, and terrestrial applications. The session proved to be productive and engaging, fostering the potential for valuable collaborations and advancements in various fields.



Following the meeting at AACC, **OCCI Board Members** and **Eng. Khouja** paid a courtesy visit to **HE Ambassador Mr. Yousuf Aljabri**, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Austria at the premises of the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Vienna. They engaged in discussions about the program and potential cooperation between Austria and Oman.

HE Ambassador Aljabri invited then the **delegation** and Austria's designated Ambassador to Oman, **HE Christophe Ceska**, for a welcome dinner. It was also an occasion to discuss further economic relations between the two countries.



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The **Council** introduced their ongoing activities and explored ways to collaborate with the Chamber of Oman, expressing a keen interest in coordinating reciprocal delegations across diverse sectors. The **OCCI Board Members** were intrigued by the Council of Slovak Exporters' network and discussed potential avenues for collaboration between companies from Oman and Slovakia.



The high-level delegates from Oman, Dr. **Abdullah Masaud Al Harthi** and Dr. **Siham Ahmed Al-Harhi**, had the opportunity to explore a range of industries and institutions in Austria and the Slovak Republic. These meetings offered an exceptional platform for companies to exhibit their expertise and participate in meaningful discussions with the delegates, aimed at exploring the benefits of potential collaboration.