

OAB inducts ten students as interns

The ten finalist students from Oman Arab Bank's (OAB) Innovation Hub event that was held in January 2019, have now been inducted as interns within the OAB Innovation Programme. They were also integrated into the bank's Agile centres of excellence to deliver strategic prototypes under the guidance of internal subject matter experts.

The winning student team Named 'One Last Time', was one of 70 teams, totalling over 320 people, which participated in the bank's inaugural 'The Innovation Hub' event held earlier this year.

Commenting on the Innovation Internship Programme, Rashad al Musafir, CEO of OAB said, "We developed the Innovation Hub Platform and the upcoming Innovation Lab with the aim of fostering innovation and empowering talented individuals and entrepreneurs to become viable contributors to the evolution of our economy. Our 'Innovation Hub' event, which we organised in January this year, proved to be a great success with some truly impressive concepts being developed and showcased over the



24-hour period.

"Despite the fierce competition, our finalists truly impressed us, and we decided to onboard all ten students into the programme. With such talented individuals amongst us, the future for the sector is most certainly bright."

Kicking off the next stages of its Innovation Hub Internship Programme, OAB recently hosted a certified Agile training workshop for the ten talented students; a philosophy that's embedded into OAB's culture and that has been developed and adopted by leading organisations



internationally in order to spur innovation and foster collaboration amongst teams to create superior value to customers.

The students will be working very closely with Mentors, who will be guiding and assisting them in delivering a proof of concept over the next six months.

"Many great ideas never make it to the marketplace because innovators cannot find the right platform or the initial funding needed to show the proof-of-concept. The Innovation Hub Internship Programme will help

our young innovators fast track their innovations from concept through the development and implementation phases. We are also currently setting up a state-of-the-art Innovation Lab that will become a launch pad for fin-techs and students to unlock

their innovative capabilities and deliver demonstrable solutions that would enhance our customers' experience," said Leen al Atassi, head of Innovation at OAB.

"On behalf of the bank I would like to once again welcome the

students as part of the OAB team and look forward to seeing what their concept will be capable of once fully developed and prototyped in the Innovation Lab," added Rashad.

OAB hosted its inaugural 'The Innovation Hub' event earlier this year. Over the course of the 24-hour event, over 70 'Students', 'Professionals', and 'OAB Staff' teams, totalling over 320 participants, developed proof of concepts based on predefined themes.

Coming out on top in the 'Students' category was the team 'One Last Time', while 'Connected Solutions' won the 'Professionals' category and a team comprised of staff from various departments within the bank won the 'OAB Staff' category.

In addition to being inducted into the Innovation Lab through a paid internship, the winning student team also received a cash prize, together with potential opportunities for recruitment. The winning professional team has been entered into a partnership with OAB to develop their idea within the bank.

Ubar Hotels approves 2% cash dividend

Ubar Hotels & Resorts Co approved two per cent cash dividend for its shareholders at the company's annual general meeting (AGM) recently held at Park Inn Hotel Muscat.

The AGM was chaired by the chairman of Ubar Hotels, Usama Mohammed Ali al Barwani.

In a press release, the company said that the overall business scenario for the Oman hospitality industry has improved compared to last year.

This year there has been a considerable improvement in the leisure segment and we hope that this trend will continue and Oman could see more increase in leisure travelers in the coming year.

The government has continuously developed comprehensive development programmes that have helped sustain the tourism

industry even in the current scenario. Early indications so far highlight that there is some improvement in the leisure segment and we hope that Oman could see an increase in leisure travellers in the coming year, it said.

Sandeep Jaitly, chief executive officer of Ubar Hotels said that there has been some improvement in the corporate segment business also, but due to substantial increase in hotel inventory in Muscat region there has been a considerable pressure on the room rates and as a result the overall average room rates have dropped down, which in turn also affects the overall profitability.

Despite many challenges, Ubar Hotels has generated sufficient profit and declared two per cent dividend.

Bayan College holds talent hunt show

Bayan College organised sultanate's first talent hunt show - Oman Super Talent Season 2 where participants from different parts of Oman and different nationalities presented different talents. The talent hunt show had auditions in the preliminary stage then semifinals and the grand finale.

Omar Mohammed al Balushi and Abdul Malik al Balushi have been declared the winner for the Oman Super Talent Season 2 finals respectively in a contest that attracted 144 participants from Oman and other countries.

The 12 year old Cayden Desauza from India was the second winner in the singing category while Jaber Abdullah al Nayemi and Al Amal Ashkairi took the third position respectively.

While awarding certificates and souvenirs to the winners, the chairperson to the Board of



Bayan College Dr Modi Juma al Ghaleini congratulated the winners and pointed out that, since its establishment, Bayan College has not only excelled in academics but also in creating and encouraging a conducive environment for young people to

promote their talent in the performing arts. She also added Oman super talent was the first talent hunt show when we launched it in 2015.

"Bayan College has been recognised and appreciated by academic and scientific research

institutions around the world for the contributions in academics and extra-curricular activities in Oman. A case in point is the recent Premium Institution award the college received from the reputable British International accreditation body ASIC," pointed out, Dr Modi.

The Oman Super Talent Season 2 contest main sponsor was Bayan College and co-sponsors were Toyota, Kathis Roll, Khimji Ramdas, Redbull, Ayemen Kahoor Trading Company, Royal Coffee.

Oman Super Talent Season 2 had a group of credible judges from the performing arts. They included Dr Mohammed Talib al Balushi (actor/director), Issam Yahya Juma al Zadjali (from Center for Artistic Production and Distribution) and Mohammed Mohammed Ali al Mafali (founder and presenter of

radio programmes on Rotanna Channel)

In its second season, the Oman Super Talent is an initiative of Bayan College produced to promote local, regional and international talent in the creative and performing arts. The participant's performed different talents like music, singing, dance, drama, poetry, art, magic and many, many other talents.

Bayan College which is accredited by ASIC as a "Premium Institution" is the first media college offering majors in Journalism, Broadcasting, Public Relations, Advertising and Visual Communication Design. The College also offers English Literature and English Professional Writing under its Faculty of English Literature. It operates under the supervision of the Ministry of Higher Education and is affiliated with Purdue University, US.

Maserati showcases at Milan design week



Following its premiere at the Geneva International Motor Show, Maserati proposes an exclusive programme at the world's most important Design Week in Milan, where it is giving tribute to Italian 'products of excellence' which are available as a customization options on its new car ranges.

The "Maserati Crafting Italian Experiences" tour starts in the elegant Brera design district in the heart of the historic centre of Milan, a famous area dedicated to the arts and home of the Pinacoteca Art Gallery.

In this exclusive setting, visitors can admire the displayed Levante One of One customised by Allegra Antinori and previously exhibited at the Geneva Show.

This special Levante, was configured in a genuine joint creation process by Antinori with the help of the Centro Stile Maserati. In this first customisation project, every detail defined by Antinori is closely linked to a facet of her personality: from the distinctive tri-coat green colour inspired by the Tuscan hills to the interior with its unique "Pieno Fiore"

leather seats. Coloured with aniline and oils, the seats do not have a surface finish but are embellished with classical 3D-effect button-tufted embroidery.

This technique guarantees exceptional colour depth and a velvety smooth texture which, like a fine wine, will improve with age. A real work of art, finished with unique and exclusive materials.

The second stage of the "Maserati Crafting Italian Experiences" project stops at The Flagship Store belonging to De Castelli. This leading metal working firm specialises in the pro-

duction of home furnishing accessories, surfaces and custom projects.

Inside its Flagship Store in the heart of the San Babila district, on Corso Monforte, De Castelli shows what happens when it combines its expertise in metal surfaces with Maserati's eagerness to embrace "metal poetry".

When applied to the internal components of the car (the dashboard and the pedals), its sophisticated metalwork creates a noble aspect all the while adding style and textural allure. The chromatic tone is inspired by the rich colours of the Italian landscape.

The journey continues in another elegant area of Milan, Porta Venezia, with a unique visit to the exclusive Giorgetti Atelier. Giorgetti, the internationally renowned Italian woodworking company, is known for its furniture and unique design pieces.

Here, it is possible to admire the Quattroporte dashboard inserts. Giorgetti illustrates the central role of wood in Maserati components. On three of the 12 Giorgetti wood varieties (Ash, Walnut and Maple), different processes are used: first mechanical and then manual which consists of carving, turning and modelling.

Hitachi awards Genetco for outstanding performance



Genetco and Hitachi have been partners in business for ten years in Oman. During this period Genetco has gained significant market share in all Hitachi Home Appliances. Genetco is proud to announce the receipt of the Appreciation Award from Hitachi Sales Middle East FZE, in recognition of such outstanding efforts in achieving a remarkable growth in refrigerators and vacuum cleaners categories for the Year 2018.

The award was conferred on Genetco by Hidenori Zen, managing director, Hitachi Middle East FZE at the event conducted at Bangkok.

HSME (Hitachi Sales Middle East) is a part of Hitachi group having its headquarters in Chi-

oda, Tokyo, Japan. It is well known that Hitachi is a major player in the consumer durables industries famous for products such as refrigerators, washing machines, vacuum cleaners, air conditioners and a wide range of small domestic appliances, among many other activities.

Genetco is one of the largest and most diversified trade and engineering companies in the sultanate carrying the distribution rights of several international brands. Over the last 48 years, it has gained significant reputation and market share in retail and distribution, HVAC & MEP projects, facilities management and operations of maintenance, elevators, cold

rooms, industrial kitchens and laundry, and photo video and office automation.

Genetco - Hitachi sales operations in Oman has grown at an outstanding rate which has been maintained at a double digit CAGR since Genetco started distributing the Hitachi products in 2010, says Dr Muthanna al Durrah, CEO Genetco.

Genetco has one of the biggest service and spare parts centres in the country supported by the state-of-the-art call centre in the home appliances industry. The growth of Hitachi sales in Oman is attributed to the superior quality and the topnotch after sales service from Genetco.