

STAGE SET FOR OMAN DEBATE 2011

The highly successful and much anticipated annual business forum brought to you by OER will be held in October

Over the past two years, the annual OER Debate has evolved into an integrated business symposium that encompasses key themes from the business environment of today and tomorrow in the Sultanate of Oman.

The last two editions of OER Debate had witnessed packed audiences totalling over 400 movers and shakers from Oman's corporate world, all innovators in their profession converging to witness the intense indepth discussions on the state of the economy.



Featuring key panelists from various business sectors cutting across the industry, the OER Debate had rivetting

views and incisive questions about how Oman's corporate world should shoulder the responsibility of complementing the government's efforts to take the country forward on its growth path.

To give this annual forum a truly national platform, the third edition of OER Debate has now been re-christened as 'Oman Debate 2011'. This transformation was but inevitable due to the feedback received from audiences of the earlier two editions who had wanted the debate to have a wider and broader ambit.

Fundamentally, Oman Debate 2011,



A packed audience of top corporate captains witnessed the OER Debate 2010



Nima Abu Wardeh, BBC's Middle East Presenter, moderated the OER Debate 2010 which consisted of eminent panelists from a cross section of industry

brought to you by Oman Economic Review (OER) in association with the Capital Market Authority (CMA) will continue to maintain its status as a unique platform where influential individuals will share stories of best practices, effective business case-studies and, most importantly, attributes of true leadership.

The event will cover globalisation and economics, human capital, motivation and diplomacy with a strong focus on the future of Oman through the idea of a new age of leadership in a changing business landscape and economic trends.

For Oman Debate 2011, the hot topic of discussion is how to cope up with the developments of the Arab Spring, which has had its repercussions on the

Sultanate of Oman. The pro-reforms movement has forced a rethink about government priorities and policies. This has taken the leadership of this country back to the drawing board to re-chart its future course of action. However, the measures taken to address various issues have led to various questions/concerns in its trail. OER Debate raises a few of these:

1. Job creation

Is creating 50,000 jobs in one year the solution to the unemployment problem or are there structural issues like changes in the education system, making people employable, training etc that need to be looked at.

2. Raising salaries, sops and benefits: Can the corporate

sector foot the bill?

Is the private sector being made to foot an unsustainable bill or has the corporate sector failed to do its part in the development process?

3. Omanisation: Are these realisable goals or unrealistic expectations?

The government has set Omanisation targets for various sectors but the private sector is struggling to find suitable/employable Omanis to fill those positions.

4. Oman: At the crossroads

Is this a watershed moment in Oman's socio-economic history where everything that was held as sacred needs to be questioned and redefined? **OER**