

Creating a green umbrella

The third edition of Oman Green Awards honoured outstanding environmental vision, endeavours and achievements of corporates and individuals

Oman Green Awards (OGA) 2012 has once again proved that creating a green economy is the need of the hour as environmental issues and economic development increasingly intersect and complement each other.

Nineteen finalists, including two joint winners, won awards in nine different categories of OGA at a function held at Al Bustan Palace Ritz Carlton Hotel, under the auspices of His Excellency Mohammed Said Al Toobi, Minister of Environment and Climate Affairs.

In a specially created perfect green ambience at the Majan Ballroom, a discerning audience of more than 200 guests, comprising of top representatives of Oman's corporate houses, schools and other non-governmental institutions, applauded in acknowledgement of the fact that OGA is a ideal green platform to stir up people's interest and awaken positive activism for environmental goals and greater action in the long term, both at a community and decision-making levels.

Coinciding with the World Environment Day on June 5, OGA has been conceptualised by Oman Economic Review and United Media Services (UMS) and is being held in association with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs, Muscat Municipality and the Ministry of Health.

In her welcome address, Alpana Roy, Executive Vice President, UMS said that Oman Green Awards, over the past three years, has recognised exemplary efforts made by companies and individuals in promoting environment preservation and sustainable development in the Sultanate. "OGA has raised awareness about going green and the necessity of saving the natural beauty of this pristine country," she added.

The event has received massive support from corporate houses and individuals who have made green mission a priority. Oman Oil Marketing Company, Octal and Muriya Tourism have joined as Green Oman partners to keep the green torch burning bright in the country. The media partners of the event are Times of Oman and Al Shabiba while the support partners are Sadolin, Green Cover, Infoline and Oman Printers and Stationers.

As part of the function, young Omani scientist Mustafa Barami gave a presentation of his path-breaking invention which can recycle a kilo of palm leaves into 80 sheets of A4-sized paper. His invention showcases how innovation and environment conservation can go hand-in-hand, by making use of the cellulose found in the palm leaves which would otherwise be burned as waste by date-palm farmers.