

Oman trade team to China leaving today



FOCUS ON TRADE: The Omani trade delegation to China meeting at the OCCI yesterday. — Photo by Rodolfo Alfonso

By A Staff Reporter

MUSCAT — The Oman trade delegation to China met at the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) yesterday on the eve of their departure to Beijing for the first Arab-Chinese Business Conference.

The four-day conference beginning from April 12 is being organised by the Arab League in cooperation with the Foreign Ministry of China and the China Council for Promotion of International Trade and is being hosted in Beijing.

Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Yemen, Bahrain, Tunisia and Palestine are some of the other nations that are sending their representatives to the conference.

The Omani delegation, headed by Salim bin Said Al Ghattami, president of the OCCI, comprises 40 businessmen and officials of private sector companies.

Al Ghattami will address the Arab-Chinese forum and Arab-Chinese businessmen's conference on April 14 and talk about investment opportunities in various economic, commercial and tourism spheres in the Sultanate.

A seminar on investment opportunities in the Sultanate is also being organised in coordination with the Sultanate's embassy in Beijing. There will be bilateral meetings between Omani businessmen and their Chinese counterparts who will discuss aspects of joint cooperation to find agencies to distribute their products in Omani and Chinese markets.

A film, *Oman: Your Destination*, will also be screened during the conference.

Speaking about the conference, Ghattami said the Sino-Omani relations date back to 11 A.D. when an Omani ship sailed for the first time to the Chinese port of Canton during the time of emperor Sun Shin of China.

"Today, thanks to the royal directives of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, the Sino-Omani economic relations have earned a special attention during the current time," he said.

Ghattami recalled the Omani trade delegation's visit to China last year during which a cooperation agreement was signed between the OCCI and the China Council for Promotion of International Trade. This, he said, resulted in the entry of Chinese automobiles into Oman market for the first time.

He noted that the Omani private sector was keen to develop cooperation and partnership between Oman and China to the maximum level possible.

During the four-day conference, ministers and delegates from the various Gulf states would be addressing industry gatherings in order to highlight the progress and investment opportunities in their countries.

Jamal Baumi, secretary-general of Arab Investment Union, will talk about investment, change and challenge on April 12.

On April 14, besides the speech by Ghattami and screening of the film, Sheik Nasr will make a presentation on Oman while Riyadh Macki, counsellor at the Oman Embassy in Beijing, will give the concluding remarks.

The opening discussion comments will be by Yusuf Bailin and Farzam Kamalabadi, trade representatives of the Ociped in Beijing, besides a talk by He Zhukang, former party secretary of Jilin Province, China.

Some of the other delegates who will be part of the Oman mission are: Habib Abdul Nabi Maki, deputy head of the delegation, OCCI; Sheikh Nasr Amer Shuwain Al Hosni, director, Al Hosni Group; Tariq Hamad Al Ma'awali, delegation coordinator, OCCI; Khalid Khalifa Al Azzani, chairman, Al Azzani Group; Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali, founder, chairman and editor-in-chief of *Times of Oman* and proprietor of Al Essa Trading and Contracting; Rashid Nasser Humaid Al Naaimi and Wael Ahmed Abdul-Hamid, Al Farasa Modern Trading & Construction Company; Ansalmo Joao Antonio Goes, director, Al Hosni Group; Bati Mohammed Saif Al Niadi, managing director, Al Niadi Modern Bakery; Ashraf Abdullah Al Rawas, general manager, Al Rawas Automobiles, Ali Mohd Al Siyabi and Ibrahim Mohd Al Siyabi, Ali Al Siyabi Trading & Contracting; Hamad Mohanna Al Shibli, director-general, Arabic Paint Factory; Awad Mohad Al Balushi, proprietor, Awad M. Traders; Yousuf Abdul Rahim Al Farsi, president, Bin Karam Furniture; Sheikh Ishaq H. S. Al Rawahy, managing director, Bin Salim Enterprises; Sheikh Salim Ali Ahmed Amir Jeed, chairman, Gharbia Enterprises, Salim Omar Al Shanfari, director-general, Global Mining; Waleed S. Oriekat, marketing manager, Global Resources Trading; Eng. Musallam Salim Qatan, general manager, Modern Construction; Mohammed bin Abdullah Yousuf Al Shahi, board member, Musandam and Aljazira; Yaser Abdullah Al Rawas, managing director, Muscat Printing Press; Jasim Mohammed Al Dahmani, administrative director, Nakhil Bookshop; Jamal Shamis Al Hooti, CEO, Oman Cement Company; Mohammed F. Al Baloshi, president, Salalah Hills Trading and Investment; Abdulrahman Barham, general manager, Salalah Mills; Salem Saif Nasser Al Khamisani, Salem Saif Nasser Al Khamisani Trading; Adil Saeed Al Shanfari, vice-chairman, Shanfari Group of Companies; Eng Abdullah Taher Al Ibrahim, managing director, Silicon Valley Trading; Hamed Al Harrassy, chairman, Teejan Group of Companies; Amir Taskar Al Owairah, proprietor, Zaharat Al Khareef; Mohammad Ali Al Balushi, Al Shabiba; Mohammad Ali Mahgoob, Al Shabiba.