



Oman

WATERBRIEFING

OMAN

OMAN'S ECONOMIC OUTLOOK 2018

The implementation of strategic plans by the government of Oman, the country which also has a free economy, has continued to progress impressively at breakneck speed since gaining independence practically half a century ago. These plans include investments made not only in the non-oil sector but also involve goals to enhance its economic diversification.

Adopting new technologies will require significant investments in infrastructure, and will need more input in private finance. This can be achieved through public-private partnerships. Public-private partnerships (PPPs) have the added advantage of making use of the innovation and proficiency of the private sector. They are also moving in the direction of changing the responsibility of the state from the chief provider of employment to a government that also facilitates private sector activity.

Oman Power & Water Procurement Company (OPWP) is determined to enforce the use of renewable energy within the nation and is proposing to generate approximately 12%-13% of its total electricity from renewable sources, most projects would use solar energy followed in other projects by wind power. OPWP intends to issue tenders for IPPs in this field during the next seven years on an annual basis.

Oman's first IPP project based on waste-to-energy initiative could be up to approximately 50MW capacity and become operational by 2023. OPWP will be in alliance with Oman Environmental Services Holding Company (BEA'H).

BUSINESS IN OMAN

The main objective of the government of the Sultanate of Oman is to generate a national economy founded on private commerce and to develop a robust and proficient competitive private sector by implementing the government's incentives from the Vision 2020.

The basic goal of Vision 2020 is to lead the country's economy in the direction of being both sustainable and diversified. Most importantly, it aims to make certain that the per capita income stays at its 1995 level as a minimum while aspiring to double it in real terms by 2020.

Big data and digital solutions are now transfiguring how utilities deal with their operations globally, by offering operators competitive benefits. Oman is dedicated to generating the future with partners and customers by developing new technologies, and also new business models to meet their goals in a sustainable way.



The Government of Oman considers Smart Initiative to be a core focus area in the very near future. Test runs of 'smart meters' are presently under way with Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) and the Oman Salinity Strategy (OSS) suggests that these be increased to more completely assess viability and to implement a variety of methods to screen the proficiency of using 'smart meters'. These same meters can also be used to monitor and evaluate allocative approaches to ration water demand.





UAE WATERBRIEFING

UAE

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK - OCTOBER 2017

The UAE has been following economic diversification policies and has taken bold steps towards achieving the UAE 2021 Vision with its strategy for the development of non-oil sectors. Currently, the UAE is underway to launch its roadmap for UAE after oil. Renewable energy generation is also a focus for the UAE, both for domestic energy needs and in terms of investment abroad. Thus, the increasingly important trends in foreign investment in the Gulf region appear to be activating diversification into productive non-oil sectors.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES/INNOVATIONS OF BUSINESS INTEREST

According to the UAE State of Energy Report 2017 the UAE has taken the lead on renewables projects in the region, driven by ambitious targets to diversify the energy mix, while meeting the rising demand for power and water. The UAE has consistently demonstrated its ability to be a world-leading advocate of clean energy technology, increasing its target for power generation from clean energy to 27% by 2021.

Renewable energy developments thus play a crucial role in the UAE's economic growth and diversification plans. There are a myriad of initiatives, investments and projects that illustrate the UAE's clean energy ambitions and focus on innovation.

One of the major fields of research in new technologies for investment is in desalination. Since desalination is a costly procedure there are opportunities for companies dealing with clean energy sources to desalinate water such as the use of solar power and Concentrated Solar Power [CSP].

Smart Dubai Initiative is also supported by Dewa, part of which is Shams Dubai. Shams 1 opened in March 2013 as the world's largest concentrated solar power (CSP) plant. The Shams Power Company –a subsidiary of Masdar –developed the project mostly on the IPP model for independent power by Adwea. The plant will shift approximately 175,000 tons of CO₂ per annum. Masdar has a 60 percent stake in the plant; French company Total and Spanish firm Abengoa each have a 20 percent stake.

Numerous leading companies that are working in the water sector are investing in research using new technologies that will enhance water production and storage, limit water wastage and that will account for the amount of water consumed.





Kuwait

WATERBRIEFING

KUWAIT

KUWAIT'S ECONOMIC OUTLOOK –NOVEMBER 2018

Kuwait's economy is largely dependent on the export of hydrocarbons, which, for 2018, accounted for nearly half of the GDP at constant prices. According to the World Bank's Open Data portal, the contraction of the economy in 2017 was 2.8% of the GDP, which can largely be attributed to the reduction in oil production mandated by OPEC. The GDP growth in Q3 2018 was 1.8% compared to Q3 2017, taking an upwards turn, mainly due to the increase in oil prices.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT IN KUWAIT – PRESENT

Due to the importance and necessity of having treated wastewater facilities in Kuwait, considerable investments have been made in this sector and will continue to be made in the foreseeable future. The key one is considered to be the Al-Sulaybiya WWTP which, at the time it became operational (2004), was the largest and most advanced of its kind in the world. The plant was implemented as a PPP between the Kuwaiti Government and a consortium consisting of The Kharafi Group and Suez.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES

It is evident that technology will continue to play a key role in securing the water supply for the citizens of Kuwait in years to come, since scientific achievements can be employed to expand the production base at a lower cost, manage the demand side and improve the recycling of wastewater.

Recent advances in renewable energy production are expected to significantly change the desalination landscape in the following decades. Decentralized photovoltaic (PV), wind and Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) power stations have the potential of reducing the country's dependency on fossil fuels and the cost of water production. CSP in particular is a very strong technological candidate for the desalination plants of the future.

Kuwait's Ministry of Electricity and Water initiated the procedure for the new smart meter project which will connect a multitude of buildings across the country. As part of the partnership with leading global technology companies, in 2017, the Ministry of Electricity and Water signed a development, management and operation agreement with Zain, a Middle East telecoms company. Zain will manage and operate the smart meters together with a number of global partners, including E&Y and Ericsson (Swedish vendor Ericsson will act as the system integrator) for the next 5 years. The contract cost is estimated at US\$7.2 million.





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GLOBAL**



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