

Newsletter July 2014

We wish all our Muslim members and friends a heartfelt "Eid mubarak".

Honorary membership for Prof. Dr. Dr. H.C. Fred Scholz

As a scientist, Prof. Dr. Dr. H.C. Fred Scholz has worked continuously with the Sultanate of Oman for decades. He is considered one of the most knowledgeable experts in the country. However, many people do not know that he was a driving force and played a prominent role in the founding of the German-Omani Association (GOA).

Consequently the Board of the German-Omani Association has decided to bestow on him an honorary membership, which he has gladly accepted. On this occasion the Omani Ambassador to Germany, His Excellence Khalid Sulaiman Abdul Rahman Ba'Omar invited friends and companions of the honorees, as well as the Berlin-based members of the GOA, to a dinner at his residence in Berlin-Dahlem.



Prof. Dr. Heinz Gaube praised the scientific achievements of Fred Scholz, whose scientific interests as geographer were concerned especially with the Asian and Central Asian region. The focus was and has been again and again the Sultanate of Oman. Besides the urge to explore, his motivation was undoubtedly his love for the country and its people.

In a short speech Fred Scholz explained how, in the early eighties, he and Sayyid Tariq bin Taimur Al Said developed and promoted the idea of establishing a German-Omani friendship society.

This constructive role of Fred Scholz in the establishment phase of the GOA was praised by Mr Bruno Kaiser, current president of the German-Omani Association. He presented Prof. Scholz with the membership certificate, along with a bouquet of flowers for Mrs. Scholz. The ambassador underlined the high esteem which Prof. Scholz enjoys in the Sultanate, and presented him with a commemorative coin from the National Bank of Oman.

Student Exchange 2014

From September 20 to October 3, 2014 a group of students from the Ahmad bin Majid Private School in Muscat will again visit Munich for the annual exchange with the SABEL schools of Germany. We are pleased that this exchange program, initiated and supported by the German-Omani Association, has now established itself as an institution.

Oman Encounter, a tour for members of the German Omani Association in November 2015

This tour, originally planned for new members in the spring of 2015 has been changed to November 2015. Now, in addition to focusing on south Oman, we can participate in the proceedings of Oman's 45th National Day. The detailed program will be worked out in the fall and sent to you.

Special Exhibition "Greetings from Oman" at the Museum for Communication in Berlin

The special exhibition "Greetings from Oman" will be presented from March 5 to March 29, 2015 at the Museum for Communication in Berlin. It was initiated by our association and will be conducted in cooperation with Oman's Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Religious Affairs. The official opening of the exhibition will take place on March 5, 2015 at 7 PM in the atrium of the Museum for Communication (Leipziger Str 16, 10117 Berlin), in conjunction with a reception given by the Ministry of Tourism at the International Tourism Exchange (ITB) 2015. Invitations will be sent to you shortly before the event.

The exhibition includes general information about the country and people, and above all, a very interesting presentation on the postal history of the Sultanate. In addition, a new 18-language multimedia terminal will be presented for the first time in Germany at this event. It is currently being designed for the international traveling exhibition "Tolerance-Understanding-Coexistence, the message of Islam in Oman." The organization of the exhibition involves our members F.J. Pütz, J. Düster, Hatim Al Atar, H. Walther, J. Al-Maskari and K. Neubert.

General Assembly 2015

We are pleased to announce the date for the 19th General Assembly of the German-Omani Association as Saturday, March 7, 2015. The meeting will take place in the context of the special exhibition "Greetings from Oman" at the Museum for Communication in Berlin, which is kindly providing us the lecture room.

The ITB is taking place concurrently in Berlin, from March 4th to 8th, and on request, we will arrange entrance tickets for interested members. The ITB is one of the largest travel fairs in the world with approximately 11,000 companies from 189 countries. Since hotel rooms in Berlin are always scarce during the ITB, and increasingly expensive as the date approaches, we encourage you to book your rooms as soon as possible.

The following hotels are conveniently located near the Museum:

Ibis City Hotel Potsdamer Platz, Anhalterstr. 4

<http://www.accorhotels.com/de/hotel-3752-ibis-berlin-city-potsdamer-platz/index.shtml>

Ibis Berlin City budget, Anhalterstr. 6

<http://www.accorhotels.com/de/hotel-5058-ibis-budget-berlin-city-potsdamer-platz/index.shtml>

At the Leipziger Platz there is a Motel One under construction (to be completed by the end of the year).

Exhibition "Underway in the Gulf - From Basra to Muscat"

In cooperation with the German Embassy in Muscat, we are presenting the exhibition "Underway in the Gulf - From Basra to Muscat" at the GU-Tech in Muscat, opening on September 15, 2014. The exhibition consists of reproductions of photos by the German traveler Hermann Burchardt who traveled in the orient from 1903 to 1904.

These photos were first published in 2006, (Schiler Verlag: ISBN 3-89930-070-X) in a book with the same name, sponsored by the German-Omani Association.