What a great year it was!
By Dr. Hisham A. Al-Siyabi
GSO President

It is hard to believe that it has been a year since the Geological Society of Oman came into existence. This is what usually happens when you are really enjoying every minute of it. In the past year, GSO enrolled 154 members, arranged six monthly talks, organised two field trips, participated in one international conference, and put together one local exhibit. In addition, we hosted the AAPG President in her first visit to Oman. For a Society that got established only a year ago, that is outstanding!

All of these accomplishments are the product of the hard work of a number of people who closely worked together to get these activities executed. All of whom are recognized today for the hard work that they have put in to make this first year a great success. I particularly would like to thank all of our sponsors for their generous contributions to the Society. I also want to thank GSO’s previous Executive Committee for their hard work and commitment. I also take this opportunity to welcome our new Executive Committee who is... 

continued...

Membership
By Dr. Juma Al-Belushi
GSO Executive Director

The total number of GSO members as of April 2002 stands at 154. The majority of the members fall into the active category (see graph below). Growth in this category is more than likely especially when GSO targets potential members outside of the greater Muscat Area. Students make up the second largest member population. That is good news as it indicates the effectiveness of the offer GSO’s Executive Committee made early on to enroll student to the Society free of charge for the first year. Junior members makeup 6% of the total membership body.

An area where membership growth is also possible is in the associate member category, where amateur geologists can be enrolled. Attendance at the GSO’s Ramadan public exhibit indicated that a reasonable number of amateur geologists do exist and a number of whom have expressed their desires to join the Society. In order for GSO to enroll these people to its rank, the Society needs to design special activities that will cater to their needs.
more than determined to take on the challenge of keeping GSO’s activities appealing and diverse.

I saved this last paragraph to thank our members who have shown over this past year that the existence of a Geological Society really matters. By attending various GSO activities and voicing your suggestions, you have continuously stirred us towards improving the activities we delivered to you. Thank you for your support, and keep attending and suggesting. We are all looking forward for another exciting year.

That, however, should not be a problem. In the past year, the society has launched a monthly talk programme and organised some fieldtrips. We believe that GSO has the in-house talent to launch a talk programme and fieldtrips that will specifically cater for amateur geologists.

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**Finance**

By Talib Al Ajmi
GSO Treasurer

**Revenue**

GSO’s revenue comes from two sources: membership fees and outside contributions. The cumulative income up to end of April 2002 is 9340 (see graph on next page). Of the total, 18% (1720 O.R.) came from membership fees. The remaining 82% (7620 R.O.) represents contributions from various companies. At the top of the sponsors list is Petroleum Development Oman, represented by the Exploration Directorate, who donated a total of 5000 R.O. Occidental of Oman Inc. comes second with a sponsorship of 1920 R.O. Triton Oman resources donated a total of 500 R.O. Other consultancy firms provided sponsorship for GSO activities: Shuram Oil & Gas sponsored all the logistics for the Al Khoudh geological field trip. Geo-Resources Consultancy, on the other hand, sponsored one of the monthly talks. The second GSO field trip was sponsored by alhashrka-travo.

**Expenditure**

The cumulative expenditure up to end of April 2002 was 4916 O.R. The outstanding balance up to end of April 2002 is 4929 O.R. (see graph on next page).

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**Why Geological Society of Oman?**

By Dr. Samir Hanna
Head, Department of Earth Sciences
Sultan Qaboos University

A geological society is essential in a country such as Oman with its unrivalled geology. The geological heritage of the country includes rocks spanning most of Earth history including Precambrian basement, the best exposed ophiolite in the world and a cross section of carbonate and clastic sediments from the continental shelf to the deep oceans. This diversity is matched by an abundance of fossils from the dawn of life through to Holocene reefs. Species rarely found elsewhere in the world are ubiquitous in many formations. Recent sedimentary environments include sabkhas, desert sand and sand dunes and spectacular alluvial fans. The country has a 1700 km long coastline with magnificent coastal geomorphology that overlooks three seas. This rock record is very accessible for study and the rugged terrain, particularly in the north has resulted in three dimensional exposure. Hidden beneath this geological extravaganza are also the unique underground museums found in caves. These include some of the largest caverns in the world.
In its first year the Society has already made considerable progress under the leadership of its young and energetic committee and chairman. This has been manifested in the monthly talks that have attracted well-known geologists from numerous countries the latest of which was the President of the AAPG. There have also been a number of field trips, exhibitions and a school education programme.

If I may select one single reason close to my heart for the existence of the GSO, it needs to urgently address the issue of the protection and preservation of geological sites. These are known internationally as Sites of Special Geological Interest (SSGI). Many of these are under threat and some have been completely destroyed. The famous unconformity that made it to the front cover of the AAPG volume in 1988 no longer exists. Some four fingers rudist species are completely gone. Many Permian fossil trees have disappeared. Hundreds of kilograms of rare meteorite samples from the deserts of Oman have been smuggled out and are now available for sale on the internet with prices in thousands of dollars per gram. The unique ripple mark locality in Sa’ih Hatah has been largely demolished. There are many more examples of the pillaging of Oman’s geological heritage and sadly sites and specimens that should have been preserved for the benefit of future generations of young Omanis have been lost forever. The GSO must convene a task force to tackle this problem as a matter of urgency. The Society is uniquely placed to undertake this task through a programme of education and if necessary, the drafting of legislation with appropriate government departments.

The Society can thus continue to play a crucial role in education and conservation so that Oman’s unique geological heritage is preserved not only for Omanis but for geologists of all nations.
The New GSO Executive Committee 2002-04

Hisham Al-Siyabi is an Exploration Geologist with Petroleum Development Oman (PDO). He received a BSc in Geology from the University of South Carolina in 1992 and joined PDO the same year. In 1994 and 1998, he received an MSc and a PhD from The Colorado School of Mines, respectively. Hisham rejoined PDO in February 1999 and is currently working as team geologist for one of the evaluation teams in the Exploration Directorate. Hisham is a member of GSO AAPG and SEPM.

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President

Omar Al-Ja'aidi is an Exploration Geologist with Petroleum Development Oman (PDO). He joined the company in July 1994 upon completion of a BSc from Sultan Qaboos University. Omar then attended the University of Aberdeen where he received an MSc in Petroleum Geology in 1995, and a PhD in Earth Sciences from the University of Leeds in 2000. His PhD thesis examined the interaction of turbidity currents with topography and their resultant deposits. Omar currently works for the New Opportunities Team where he explores for new plays. He is a member of the AAPG, DEG, GSO, PESGB, and the Chairperson for Continuing Education for the SPE section Oman.

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Vice President

Khalil Al-Riyami is an Exploration Geologist with Petroleum Development Oman (PDO). He joined the company in July 1994 upon completion of a BSc from Sultan Qaboos University. Khalil then attended the University of Aberdeen where he received an MSc in Petroleum Geology in 1995, and a PhD in Earth Sciences from the Edinburgh University in 2000. His PhD thesis was on the tectonic and sedimentary evolution of NW Syria. Khalil currently works for the New Opportunities Team where he explores for new plays. He is a member of the AAPG, EAGE, GSO, GS and SEPM.

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Executive Director
The New GSO Executive Committee 2002-04

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Committee Member

Jan Schreurs is Head of Geological Services in Petroleum Development Oman. He received an MSc in Geology from the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands, and spent a year as a Research Assistant at the Technical University of Delft. Jan was awarded a PhD in Geology by the Free University of Amsterdam in 1985 and joined Shell Research the same year as Research Geophysicist. In 1989, he moved to Shell Expro in London as an Exploration Geologist with the Hydrocarbon Systems Review Group and subsequently with Regional Basin Evaluation. In 1995, Jan joined Brunei Shell Petroleum as Senior Explorationist Offshore East until 1998 when he became Exploration Team Leader Western Desert with Shell Egypt. Jan was transferred to PDO in September 2001. He is a member of the Geological Society of Oman and Koninklijk Netherlands Geologisch en Mijnbouwkundig Genootschap, and is professionally interested in basin modelling and hydrocarbon systems.

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Editor

Zahir Al-Musallami joined Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) in 1992 as scholar to the UK and graduated from the University of Leeds in 1997 with a BSc in Geological Sciences. He received his M.Phil research degree in 2001 at the same university. His research was on Process and Experimental Fluid Dynamics in Sedimentology, where he studied the dynamics and deposits of a new type of turbidity currents "Lofting Turbidity Currents". In March 2001, Zahir re-joined PDO as an Operations Geologist for the Frontier Exploration Asset Team and he is currently looking after drilling deep oil wells in Exploration. He is a member of the AAPG, GSO, IAS and SPE.

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Membership Officer
The New GSO Executive Committee 2002-04

Talib Al-Ajmi graduated with a BSc in Geosciences from the University of Arizona in 1990 and joined Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) the same year as a Wellsite Geologist. In 1994 he joined the Petroleum Engineering Department and was involved in field work characterizing complex glacial oil reservoirs. He then focused on reservoir characterization and 3-D geological reservoir modeling using the GEOCAP application. Between 1998 and 2001, Talib worked on seismic interpretation using LANDMARK, combining seismic structural mapping with reservoir characterization and 3-D reservoir modeling. In mid-2001 Talib joined the Government Gas Team as Petroleum Geologist and is currently working on characterizing clastics gas reservoirs using PETREL & GEOQUEST.

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Treasurer

Ibrahim Al Zadjali has a BSc in Geology from the University of Toledo, Ohio (1996) and a MSc in Petroleum Geoscience from Aberdeen University (1997). He joined Petroleum Development Oman in 1997 and is currently working as a Geologist in the Frontier Exploration Asset Team on the Huqf prospectivity of the South Oman Salt Basin.

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Secretary

GSO's Objectives

☐ to advance the science of geology, especially as it relates to petroleum, natural gas, other subsurface fluids including water, and mineral resources;

☐ to promote the technology of exploring, finding, and producing these materials and resources in an economically and environmentally sound manner;

☐ to promote awareness relating to geoscience with the aim of providing students and young Omaniis with wider career choices and opportunities;

☐ to foster the spirit of scientific research throughout its membership;

☐ to serve as a venue through which information relating to the geology and the associated technology of petroleum, natural gas, other subsurface fluids including water, and mineral resources are disseminated;

☐ to inspire and maintain a high standard of professional conduct on the part of its members;

☐ to provide the public with means to recognize adequately trained and professionally responsible Omani geologists;

☐ to advance the professional well being of its members.
GSO ACTIVITIES

- Monthly Talk Programme
- Field Trips
- Public Exhibits
- Annual Meeting
Monthly Talks

In effort to act as venue through which information related to geology and associated technology is disseminated, GSO launched a Monthly Talk Programme on the 25th of Septembers 2001. A total of six talks were presented during the past year. Abstracts from these talks are listed below.

25th September 2001
New Tools for Exploration and Production of Carbonates, from geology to virtual reality in the Natih Formation
Peter Homewood, JVRCCS, Sultan Qaboos University
PDO Oil & Gas Exhibition Centre

Abstract
The underlying message of the talk is that while Geoscience technologies are developing exponentially, the understanding of rocks remains arduous. Today's challenges demand sophisticated geological thought, to be on a par with the available technology. However, the necessary concepts are there for the taking, for development and use in both academic and industrial environments of Geoscience.

The examples of new geological tools coming from old ideas, which are taken from the Natih and are illustrated in this talk, are related to High Resolution Sequence Stratigraphy. The basic ideas on HRSS date back to the early 1900's and were widely advertised in the 1950's by the then President of the AAPG. Two examples of old tools, which have been improved by High Resolution Sequence Stratigraphy, are stratigraphic modeling and seismic modeling. Examples of new tools coming from old or new technologies are Stratigraphic inversion and, less directly related to HRSS, Virtual Reality working environments.

23rd October 2001
Tectonic Evolution of Neoproterozoic-Cambrian Huqf Supergroup Basin
John Grotzinger (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
Sultan Qaboos University Lecture Theatre 5

Abstract
New U-Pb ages constrain the rift-related Ghadir Manqul Formation and Mirbat Sandstone to have been deposited between 730 and 700 Ma, about 150 My older than previous estimates. Shelf facies of the overlying Nafun Group were deposited between 600 and 550 Ma based on chemostratigraphic profiles. This 100 My unconformity precludes a simple relationship between Abu Mahara crustal extension and Nafun regional subsidence due to thermal decay. The Nafun Group is temporally continuous into the Ara Group based on U-Pb zircon dating of volcanic ash beds in A0 (basal Ara) and A4 (middle Ara) carbonates. The onset of Ara subsidence occurred at ca. 550-548 Ma and was accompanied by a shift to arid climate, and uplift of basement blocks to form smaller basins that accumulated salt and carbonates. Ara strata younger than A4, including volcanics of the Fara Formation, are earliest Cambrian in age.

Ghadir Manqul-Mirbat subsidence is related to extension at ca. 725 Ma of a composite basement terrane comprising older Archean basement blocks stitched by older Pan-African (ca. 800 Ma) arcs, which was sutured to the younger terranes of the Arabian Shield at ca. 625 Ma. Nafun regional subsidence started at
this time and is considered here to relate to dynamic depression of the lithosphere associated with subduction of oceanic lithosphere beneath the Arabian plate. Subduction is inferred to have occurred from the northeastern margin of Gondwanaland (eastern Oman) where an Andean margin resulted in orographic retroarc desiccation, in addition to uplift of basement blocks where subduction dip was gentle, analogous to the Bolivian segment of the Andes. Volcanic ashes within the Araj Group record this arc activity, and volcanic centres such as the Abu Butahal caldera in north Oman record subduction-related melting of the crust in a retroarc setting.

29th January 2002
The Hydrogeology of Oman
Mohammed Al-Lamki (PDO)
PDO Oil & Gas Exhibition Centre

Abstract
A hydrogeological study of the South Oman Salt basin in particular, and the Oman basin in general, was carried out by Petroleum Development Oman to support basin modelling. The study focused on major aquifer systems: the Tertiary Umm Er Radhuma aquifer and the Paleozoic Haima-Hausli aquifers. Temperature, water quality, radiocarbon age dating and potentiometric data was used to determine the flow, thermal and salinity regimes of the systems. The resulting models were then used to define areas where oil biodegradation due to meteoric water influx can be expected. A review of oil chemistry data confirmed that fields in these areas have the highest API gravity oil demonstrating that hydrogeological modelling can be beneficial in predicting oil quality for prospect evaluation. An additional benefit of this study was the development of a formation water resistivity model for enhancing log analysis techniques.

5th March 2002
Awakening of a Sleeping Giant, Sunrise-Troubadour Gas-Condensate field,
Timor Sea, Northern Australia
Joe Menutt (PDO)
PDO Oil & Gas Exhibition Centre

Abstract
The giant Sunrise-Troubadour gas-condensate field is located in the Timor Sea some 450 kms northeast of Darwin, Northern Australia. Since its discovery in 1974, six wells have been drilled to appraise the structure: the three most recent date to 1997-98. Middle Jurassic (Plover Formation) marginal marine sandstones form the main reservoir. The trap is a broad, approximately 3500 square km, tilted fault block. Information from the recent appraisal campaign has been integrated with seismic data to formulate field development plans. Description of the subsurface relies on a range of discrete 3-D reservoir modeling scenarios which cover the full spectrum of subsurface uncertainties.

Deterministic and probabilistic modeling of sand and shale bodies has been combined with statistical seismic inversion techniques to determine rock properties (thickness, net-to-gross, porosity) in the large, greater than 10 km, interwell areas. An iterative approach was followed whereby depositional geometries from initial 3-D geological models formed the a priori inputs for the inversion runs. The resulting
inversion property models were then used to update the 3-D static geological descriptions before transfer to a dynamic simulator.

This sophisticated approach draws from all available geological and geophysical information, maximizes integration of these disparate data types into a coherent static description of the subsurface, gives confidence to contractible proven gas volumes, and limits the requirement for further expensive appraisal drilling.

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30th March 2002
Evolving Models of Middle Eastern Cretaceous Carbonate Reservoirs
Charles Kerans (AAPG Distinguished Lecturer)
PDO Oil & Gas Exhibition Centre.

Abstract

Lower Cretaceous carbonate reservoirs of the Middle East represent one of the major hydrocarbon-bearing intervals of the world and one of the most data-rich and extensively studied stratigraphic intervals in the Middle East. Recent advances in our understanding of this and other carbonate reservoir systems worldwide demonstrate that standard subsurface seismic, log, and core data alone are insufficient to develop unique robust stratigraphic frameworks for reservoir characterization. Predictive relationships between depositional facies, interwell-scale stratal geometries from outcrop analogs, and high-resolution sequence stratigraphic models are critical to move from the standard field data to a robust three-dimensional (3-D) reservoir model.

The Aptian Shuaiba Formation (or Thamama "A") is the most complex of the Cretaceous carbonate reservoir intervals and provides the best test of our current understanding of carbonate sequence stratigraphy and reservoir characterization. Shuaiba deposition was initiated by an early Aptian second-order transgression above the Kharib (or Thamama "B") platform. The Shuaiba comprises one composite sequence that consists of four high-frequency sequences, dominated in ascending order by retrogradation, aggradation, sigmoid progradation, and finally, oblique progradational forced regression. Each of these depositional settings is associated with distinctly different styles of reservoir heterogeneity, ranging from layer-cake low-energy platform interior wackestones to highly complex ramp-margin rudist buildups and interbuildup grainstone/rudstones, or layer-cake deep-shelf microporous mud-dominated facies. Effective reservoir characterization and interpretation require early and basic understanding of the stratigraphic framework and associated heterogeneity styles to ensure that property distribution is accurately portrayed in the final 3-D reservoir model.

Basic data such as seismic, well logs, and biostratigraphy are sufficient to develop an initial regional stratigraphic model but insufficient for understanding the high-resolution framework needed for reservoir analysis. Seismic studies have only locally been able to detect the complex internal stratigraphic architecture owing to lack of impedance contrasts. The near-uniform log response of most Shuaiba reservoir intervals exacerbates the normal problems of well-to-well correlation, and the sparse biostratigraphic data permit only two to three subdivisions where five to six are needed. New predictive geologic attributes from integrated rock-fabric and sequence stratigraphic analysis of outcrop analog data from similar Cretaceous intrashelf basin systems provide a necessary link between the depositional facies observed in core and the interwell-scale stratal geometries and stacking patterns observed best in outcrop. Integration of these outcrop-based interpretation tools with detailed core studies from numerous Shuaiba fields has allowed development of a predictive sequence model that sheds light on both internal reservoir architecture and regional exploration play trends.
20th April 2002
Thinking "out of the Box" - the role of the geologist in meeting future energy demand
Robbie Gries (AAPG President)
Crowne Plaza Hotel

Abstract
The demand for oil and gas in the next century will greatly increase in the next few decades and reserves are limited. Converting vast amounts of "undiscovered" resources into proven reserves will require geologists "to think out of the box". This means looking at methods no one has tried before, looking for accumulations previously thought unlikely, and looking in places where others have overlooked or thought impossible.

This has never been easy, but it has been the key to giant new reserves being developed. Overturning the "dogma" that is currently favored by explorationists with a new "heresy" has a history of difficulty. From the "anticlinal theory" in the 1880's to sequence stratigraphy in the 1980's, geologists have had to persevere to get a new idea tested. Several recent plays that have convincingly converted former "undiscovered resources" into "proven reserves" are basin-centered gas, coal bed methane, and sub-salt exploration. Some older plays, like the early offshore Indonesian exploration, required not only creative geology, but unusual deal making.

Buying reserves or increasing reserves by merging with another company does not discover new oil and gas. Taking the risk to develop a new idea, to finance an unusual idea, and to drill is what will provide the supply needed in the next century.
Geological Field Trips

GSO Executive Committee felt that the organisation of Society sponsored field trips was an activity that had to be launched during the first year. Consequently, two field trips were organised during the past year. Abstracts from both are listed below.

The Geology of Al-Khod Area
Samir Hanna (Sultan Qaboos University)

The geology of the Al-Khod area SE of Muscat is relatively simple. It is dominated by rocks representing the Oman Ophiolite overlain by the post orogenic sediments known as Al-Khod conglomerates. These in turn are overlain unconformably by shallow marine carbonates and clastics of Palaeocene to Oligocene age. They are known as the Jafnayn, Rusayl and Seeb Formations. Tectonically the area is very interesting. The Tertiary rocks display an unusual series of disharmonic folds trending north-south that are particularly manifested in the Jafnayn Fm as well as in the clastics and carbonates beds of the Rusayl Formation. Extensional, oblique (Transtensional) and strike slip faults are also found particularly along the boundaries between the main rock formations of the area.

The Al-Khod conglomerates contains rare vertebrate fossils including Theropods (dinosaurs) and have thus been assigned a Maastrichtian age. Other vertebrate fossils include crocodiles and turtles. The Tertiary sequence is highly fossiliferous containing larger foraminifera (Nummulites and Alveolina), gastropods, bivalve, echinoids, corals, stromatol
The Rocks Below Our Feet: Geology of the Muscat Area
Jeroen M. Peters (Petroleum Development Oman)

The objective of this field excursion in the Muscat area is to give participants an illustrated overview of the stratigraphy and structural geology of this fascinating part of the Oman Mountain belt. In many ways the geology covered during this excursion builds on the first GSO field trip, held on 17 January 2002, when Dr. Samir Hanna showed us ophiolite rocks and overlying Cretaceous and Tertiary sedimentary sequences on the north flank of Jebel Nakhl, in the Al Khowd area.

The excursion started off with a stop at similar rocks, followed by excellent outcrops of some of the autochthonous rock formations underlying the allochthonous ophiolite rocks and Hawasina thrust sheets. Both older formations, in terms of their age (chronostratigraphy), as well as deeper units, in terms of tectonic position, were investigated.
The AAPG President visit to Oman

As consequence to a prior invitation from the Geological Society of Oman, Robbie Gries, the President of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), visited the Sultanate following the 5th Middle East Conference and Exhibition (GEO 2002). The AAPG President visit took place during the period between the 17th and the 21st of April 2002.

The first part of Robbie’s visit programme included a field trip to Jabel Shams that was led by Professor Peter Homwood, the Director of Shell’s Carbonate Research Centre at the Sultan Qaboos University. The intent of excursion was to expose Robbie to some of Oman’s diverse and spectacular geology. Fieldtrip participants included GSO staff, representatives from Petroleum Development Oman, Occidental Oman, Schlumberger, and the Sultan Qaboos University.

The second part of Robbie’s programme included a number of meetings with company representatives from Occidental Oman, Petroleum Development Oman as well as faculty from the Sultan Qaboos University.

At Oxy’s technical office in Al Kuwair, Robbie met with Bert Rowland and Bader Al Kahlani who provided her with an overview of Oxy’s exploration and production activities in block 9. At SQU, Robbie met with Professor Samir Hanna, Head of the Earth Science Department, who presented Robbie with an overview of the Department, its faculty and students. Robbie was then given a tour through the Department that concluded with her meeting some of the Department’s final year students. The visit to SQU included also a stop at the newly established Shell’s Carbonate Research Centre. At the Centre Robbie met with professor Peter Homwood, the Director of the Centre, who outlined the objectives of setting up this facility at the University. Robbie was then given a tour through the establishment, which included a demo at the Virtual Reality Room.

At Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), Robbie met briefly with Exploration Director Jeroen Peters. Evaluation Manager, Mark Shuster, then gave her an overview of PDO’s Exploration activities in block 6. While in PDO, Robbie also met with Joe Straccia, Technology Manager, as well as Mohammed Al Harthy, the Head of Staff Development and Omanisation in the Exploration Directorate.

As part of her visit to Oman, Robbie gave the final GSO monthly talk for this year that addressed the role of the geologist in future energy demands (see section on monthly talks).
The Geological Society of Oman participated at the 5th Middle East Geosciences Conference and Exhibition held in Bahrain from 15th to 17th of April 2002. GSO presence in this conference represents the Society's first international participation. The Society had a nine square meter booth where geological posters, maps and photographs from Oman were put on display. The booth was manned by GSO members attending the GEO2002 conference and was visited by many international and Middle East Geoscientists. This event provided GSO with the opportunity to establish links with other GeoScience societies in the region in an effort to organise joint activities. Gulf Petrolink, the conference secretariat, provided the exhibit space free of charge and sponsored a GSO advertisement which was published in the Conference and Exhibition programme book.

GSO Public Show at Al Araimi Shopping Complex

On the Occasion of the 31st National Day, the Society organised a simplified geologic exhibition at Al Araimi shopping complex on the 28th and 29th of November. The show was intended to make the public aware of the Society's existence by giving them a flavor of Oman's fascinating and unique geology.

The exhibit consisted of rock, fossil, and mineral displays that came from the collection of the Earth Science Department at the Sultan Qaboos University. Also on display were aerial photographs that were recently donated to the Society by PDO's Exploration Directorate. In addition, an automated slide show of various geologic features was running at all times. The event represented the Society first attempt in trying to gauge people's awareness and curiosity on geology in general and the Society in particular.

A relatively large number of people attended the exhibit, some of whom were true amateur geologist. Most visitors were intrigued by the rock collection that was on display, especially the fossilized dinosaur bones. The event was partly sponsored by Al-Araimi Complex, who provided the venue free of charge.
Recently, GSO sponsored the first issue of the Geo-Group News Letter published by the Earth Sciences students at Sultan Qaboos University. The News Letter featured the visit of His Majesty the Sultan to the Earth Science Department as well as various activities of the Geo-Group.

The HOD's Message

The Department of Earth Sciences prepared a geological exhibition for the occasion of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos' visit to SQU in May 2000.

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<td>August</td>
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Our mission

To act as a platform through which geological information and technology are disseminated to our members and to be the custodian of Oman’s unique and diverse geological heritage.

Our vision

To become one of the premier geological societies in the region by actively sharing Oman’s geological heritage with the rest of the scientific community.