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Sports

Disabled defy limitations to take part in Dive Challenge

Staff Reporter

MUSCAT As many as 20 handicapped divers are participating in the five-day, seventh Dive Challenge, that began on March 31 and will continue up to April 4.

According to Tareeq Al Khabori, founding member of the International Disabled Divers Association (IDDA) – Oman, this event offers swimming, snorkelling and scuba-diving experience to physically challenged people.

Al Khabori said: "The first dive challenge in 2009 was planned as a one-time special event. But due to the overwhelming response, the Dive Challenge has continued to grow and attract large numbers of interested participants and has now become a regular feature every year."

Al Khabori said that due to the popularity of the event similar events had also been held at Sur, Nizwa, Salalah and Sohar. "There are plans in the near future to visit other areas in the Sultanate, including Musandam."

He said each year an international team of professional dive instructors who have specialised in working with the handicapped come here to Oman to participate in the event. It also includes diving doctors who are experts in hyperbaric medicine and the locally based team management.

"This year five doctors, mostly from Germany and Austria are attending the event".

According to Al Khabori, the core team comes together twice a year during since 2009 during their holidays to host and offer the event.

When some of the visiting doctors were asked why they travel to Oman during their holidays to teach the disabled diving, the general answer is that they truly love to see the excitement and the joy of the disabled students and this refutes the common belief that the handicapped are incapable of participating in sports like swimming and diving.

Al Khabori said there were many advantages of participating in these aquatic activities including physical, mental and social benefits.

He added that it would be most appropriate to thank the sponsors who have faithfully supported this event, including Oman Telecommunication Company, Renaissance Services, Omran, Golden International Est LLC and Euro Divers Oman for their valuable support.

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Oman

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PHOTO GALLERY



Oman Tribune

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