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Sporting challenge for people with disabilities

Times News Service
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Muscat: The seventh Dive Challenge is offering swimming, snorkelling and scuba diving experience to people with disabilities under the guidance of international experts. The Dive Challenge Tour, which is now underway at the Marina Bandar Al Rowdha, will conclude tomorrow.



"The first Dive Challenge in 2009 was planned as a one-time special event. Due to its overwhelming popularity, the Dive Challenge has continued to grow and attract a large number of participants. There is a need to formalise an organisation to support the ongoing activities for the people with disabilities. The Oman Disabled Diving Association is, therefore, on the anvil," organisers informed.

The international team consists of professional dive instructors specialising in working with people with physical challenges. - Supplied picture

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When the Dive Challenge was started in Muscat, the team travelled all over Oman to reach out to people with disabilities outside the capital, including Sur, Nizwa, Salalah and Sohar. There are plans to visit other areas too, including Musandam.

The international team consists of professional dive instructors specialising in working with people with disabilities, diving doctors who are experts in hyperbaric medicine, and local team management. The core team was constituted in 2009 with a view to hosting and offering the event for people with disabilities twice a year during their holidays .


On why they spend their holidays travelling to Oman to teach people with disabilities, the team members said that they love to see the excitement and joy in the eyes of students. A common stereotype of people with disabilities is that they can't participate in many sports. The team has been able to turn this opinion around and show these students what they can accomplish.

There are many advantages of participating in these aquatic activities, including physical, mental and social benefits. Diving is a wonderful opportunity for families to enjoy some outdoor time together.


"We are thankful to our sponsors Oman Telecommunication Company, Renaissance Services, Omran, Golden International Est LLC and Euro Divers Oman for their support," the organisers said. The next dive challenge is tentatively planned in Salalah in December this year.

For more information, please contact Tariq Al Khabori, iddaOMAN@gmail.com.

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