

Physically challenged to be taught diving

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MUSCAT — A team from the International Association for Handicapped Divers (IAHD) will arrive here on March 16 to introduce diving to disabled people in Oman.

The Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Sport Affairs are supporting the event.

In earlier times, when Jacques Cousteau, the famous diver and sea explorer, started making scuba diving popular, it was considered as an extreme sport activity. Nowadays, diving is one of the most common recreation activities practised all over the world from young and old.

From March 17-22, extra divers and the IAHD Foundation will organise the Dive Challenge Tour Oman. During these days IAHD, doctors, instructors, disabled divers and physiotherapists will demonstrate that scuba diving is not merely a fun sport, but can even improve the life of disabled people.

Following the motto “Scuba Diving for All” they will introduce the underwater world to the disabled people of Oman.

During this week, an IAHD pro-training course conducted by pro-trainer Dirk Wondrak from IAHD team Germany will be held.

From March 17-19 he will teach scuba diving professionals, (example instructors, course directors, dive masters), how to instruct people with a disability.

The course is very practical and instructors will have the opportunity to dive with people that have a disability, to fully experience the challenges one will encounter once being a certified IAHD professional.

In Europe, scuba diving for disabled is already in some occasions part of a therapy. Not only the physical effect should be considered: At least as important is the fact that diving can contribute to the wellbeing of those who have a physical challenge, either due to a born dysfunction or traumatic experience.

Diving gives new trust, often a boost of self-confidence, positive energy (physically and mentally) and the possibility to share a passion with other people either disabled or not.

“The Dive Challenge Tour Oman is grateful to receive the financial support of the following sponsors: Gold Sponsors: Nawras, Tawoos, Oneic; Silver and Bronze Sponsor: LNG Qalhat, Oman Orix Leasing Company, Oman Pumps Mfg. & Engineering Services Company.

Other supporters include OOISS, Mustafa Sultan Enterprises, Ajmal International Est.,” the organisers informed.

Introductory dives will take place in the pool at Oman Dive Centre on March 19 and 20.

Disabled people and their family members, friends, divers, instructors, doctors and physiotherapists are invited for the event.

More details can be had from Thorsten at 24024240.

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