

A BIG SPLASH IN MUSCAT AND SOHAR

In Muscat from 15th to 17th and Sohar from 18th to 20th of October 2011

A special conference will take place this month for disabled divers and helpers, with European experts coming to the country to look into the benefits of diving for the handicapped at Marina Bander Rowdha Muscat and Sohar Sports Complex. The event will end today, 20th October in Sohar and we're told that this will be a defining moment for the Handicapped Society of Oman. The event is being organised by the Oman Disabled Diving Team, and will be joined by Dr. Roswitha Prohaska, President of the Austrian Society for Diving & Hyperbaric Medicine, Dr. Wilhelm Welslau and Dr. Yousuf Al Baluchi from Royal Navy of Oman. The event is supported by Oman Telecommunication Company, Nawras, Qalhat LNG, Bank Sohar and the Ministry of Sports Affairs; "Without them it would not be possible. These have all been vital to the success of the event," Tariq Al Khabori said.

Tariq Al Khabori has worked tirelessly over the past three decades, to ensure that disabled people in the country are given the same opportunities for recreation as other citizens in Oman. Through a series of diving opportunities, with the help of other individuals such as Sayyid Nasr bin Badr bin Hamood Albusaidi and Stefenie Trier of ART Marine, dozens of disabled people in the country have been able to experience the thrills of diving and begun a passionate affair with the sport. There have been many successes for the group since its inception,

and many across the region have used this group as an example of how disabled people can be fully integrated into society.

However, this journey has not been easy, and whilst organising dive challenges in the country Tariq says he was shocked by the lack of facilities open to the handicapped at many hotels in Oman. The group finally found suitable amenities at the Sohar Sports Complex for the event, which is part of the Ministry of Sports Affairs. Despite the continued dedicated efforts of Tariq, he says that it is important for younger members of society to lend their efforts to the cause, to ensure disabled people have continued access to diving and sporting opportunities in the future. "I want people to come forward and be a part of this team, to help with work the association. I want new, young people to take over as I will only be able to continue for the next few years," he says. Tariq adds he is optimistic about the future for the society, saying, "I am happy to have found somebody who is very much interested in taking this forward and his name is Sayyid Nasr bin Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi. The future is with him and I hope he can fulfil the dreams of the Handicapped Society of Oman."



To find out more about the Oman Disabled Diving Team contact them on 95449190 or write them on iddaoman@gmail.com