



شركة الكهرباء المناطق الريفية
Rural Areas Electricity Company S.A.O.C.

The Official Magazine of Rural Areas Electricity Company S.A.O.C.

WELCOME TO OUR INAUGURAL ISSUE



Editorial Staff

Samira Al Mughairi
General Supervision

Amal Al-Wahaibi
Editing

Ameera Al-Aufi
Design & Layout

Media Section
Production

Solar Power
is a Clean
Alternative
Energy



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Rural Areas Electricity Company s.a.o.c



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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Be Creative ...



Some people think that the creative person was inherently born so. This is absolutely an incorrect perception. In brief, I would like to say that every person could create and innovate but except for the one who refuses to act so. I will cite a story in the context of our subject about a businessman who was standing in a long queue at an airport. At that time, the man noticed that the covers of the travel tickets are blank white. He thought about printing advertisements of these covers and distributing the same for free to the airlines; which accepted his offer. The businessman cooperated with a manager of a print house. This project was implemented and as a result, he made profits of multi million dollars. The idea was creative and simple, yet it was new and nobody thought previously about it. This man had customers of the big companies in the USA.

The qualities of creators include that they have strong determination, search about alternative solutions

and are not satisfied with one solution or single approach. Moreover, the usual never exist in their lives. Such persons are distinguished by taking initiatives and they never think about failure because of their absolute belief that it is always possible to achieve their objectives.

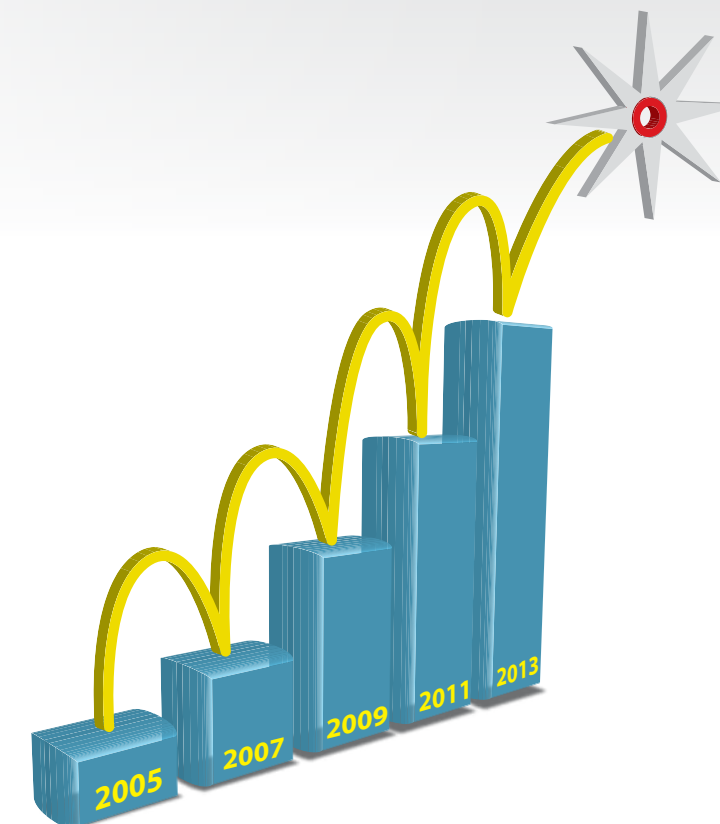
As creativity has qualities and mainstay; yet it has sometimes a lot of obstacles including the obstacles imposed by the person himself and the obstacles that may be imposed by the others. We all have to understand such obstacles and avoid them as much as possible because they destroy our creativity so badly and kill it completely. These obstacles include the lack of self-confidence; the reluctance to learn and increase one's knowledge; feeling ashamed of superiors; accepting a bad reality; sticking to old fashioned plans, laws & procedures and depending on others.

Be a creative person and do not pay attention to the negative & discouraging comments given by any person. Try to develop your creativity skill and know that it is a skill that can be acquired by you. Creativity is very important for a life of any person, so as to end the routine and feelings of boredom. Creativity also contributes into developing the skills and knowledge of any person. It enriches his life with nice experiences and situations. Therefore think about your personal life and try to be creative even for a little bit in every field of your life.

As you are well aware, the (RAECO) Rural Areas Electricity Company SAOC is one of the most significant companies that pay a keen attention to applying the ideas of creative employees. The company has highlighted many creative ideas in all its activities like the asset management, operation and the uses of renewable energy sources. One of the most significant achievements made by the Omani citizens, in general, and the employees at RAECO, in particular, is their access to the field of solar energy and its usages in power production. This paves the way seriously for the country's access to a new era of power production that could not be entered but for the advanced creative thoughts of RAECO's employees. The company's creative employees managed to crystallize the idea of the economic benefits that could be achieved through the use of clean energy.

My best regards,

Eng. Hamed bin Salim Al Magdheri
CEO



RAECO... Yet Another Year of Excellence

We, at Rural Areas Electricity Company SAOC (RAECO) are fully aware of the importance of coping with all the changes and developments witnessed by the Sultanate recently, particularly in the field of electricity, and we are, therefore, continuously endeavoring to cope with such developments and to be able to meet any challenges they may impose. Power supply, for instance, has increased in the residential areas in the Sultanate by 96% during the period 2005-2012, leading consequently to the increase in the governmental electricity subsidies from OMR 116.4 million in 2006 to OMR 274.5 million in 2012, i.e. an increase of 135.82 %. Accordingly, RAECO has stepped up its efforts aimed at achieving the optimum communication with the power consumers, whereas the Communication & Media Department has been expanded to include the Media, Communication Centre as well as Customer Services, a step which came in order to intensify the campaigns aimed at raising the consumers awareness concerning the importance of reducing the consumption and following the safety guidelines in dealing with the electricity, which would help curbing the ongoing increase in the governmental subsidies value, reduce the power consumption and preserve the gas sources, and also minimize the investments needed to meet the increasing demand for electricity through using the different media, along with special focus on the social networking sites which have become a significant means of communication today.

The Communication and Media Department is involved in customer relations around the clock, responding to customers' general queries as well as in cases of emergency. It is thus considered as the main interface through which the Company communicates with its customers to provide electricity supply to the rural areas at the Governorates of Musandam, Al Wusta and Dhofar. It is worth mentioning that the Company is recording year after year a remarkable improvement in terms of staff performance and efficiency in line with the great importance accorded by the Chief Executive Officer and the Management to the staff development ideas and how to apply them to achieve the company's advancement and prosperity, and to contribute to the development of the national economy.



Samira Salim Al Mughairi
Communication & Media Manager.

NEWS



At A Cost Of More Than RO 37 Million

Rural Areas Electricity Company signed an agreement for EPC Contract project construction of the high voltage network in Musandam Governorate with Saudi Company

Rural Areas Electricity Company has signed agreement to create a project engineering, procurement and construction of high voltage network that consist of 132 kV double circuit overhead line with associated grid stations (132/33/11 kV) in Musandam Governorate with Saudi National Contracting company. Engineer / Nabil Ghassani Chairman of the Board of the company was signed with Mr. / Abdullah Al Ibrahim, Chief Executive Officer, Saudi national Contracting.

Through this project, RAEC will enhance the electrical energy in Musandam to meet the growing needs of energy through the establishment of a network for electricity transmission voltage 132 kV to Wllayates of Boukh, Khasab and Dibba and the concomitant establishment of three Grid stations in Tibbat at Boukh, Mahas at Khasab and KhabShamsy in Dibba and emphasis on the strategic importance of this project is to support the growth of the electricity sector and the development of infrastructure and services in Musandam. It should be noted that the transmission network 132 kV is designed to be able to transmit electric power up to 240 MW.

The new transmission network will be fed from a new 100 MW Central Gas Fired Power Plant (Musandam Independent Power Plant) being built at Tibat by an IPP developer. The proposed MIPP project will utilize the existing natural gas reserves available in the West Bukha gas field to generate electricity.



The scope of work in the Musandam transmission project includes Construction of one new 132/33kV GIS Grid Station with 2 Nos 63 MVA 132/33kV Transformers at Tibat, Construction of one new 132/11kV GIS Grid Station with 2 Nos 50 MVA Transformers at Dibba, Construction of one new 132/33/11kV GIS Grid Station with 2 Nos 125MVA Transformers at Khasab including interfacing of 33 kV circuits with Existing 33 kV transmission line circuits at different locations, Construction of one new double circuit 132 kV Galvanised Steel Tower overhead transmission line from the proposed Central Gas Fired Power Station near Tibat to the proposed 132/33/11kV GIS Grid Station at Khasab for about 18 km, Construction of one new double circuit 132 kV Galvanised Steel Tower overhead transmission line from the proposed 132/33/11kV GIS Grid Station at Khasab to the proposed 132/11kV GIS Grid Station at Dibba for about 62 km and Inter-Connection of Six Circuits of 33 kV Transmission lines from New Proposed Khasab Grid Station to Existing Khasab Substation and Existing 33 kV Transmission lines and the interlink between Diba grid station and the existing power station switchgear.

RAEC seeks to provide electrical energy characterized by continuity, quality and safety while preserving the environment and to achieve these goals the company will create load dispatch center to monitor and control the electric grid according to international standards in Khasab, so that the monitoring, control and operating in transmission and distribution network will be automatically.

After the tender have been analyzed technically and financially, has been assigned the project to the Saudi national Contracting Company with the cooperation with the Tender Board for their technical ability, financial ability and submitted to lowest bidder value (37,699,991-/) RO. The project started on 15.05.2013 and will be completed within two years.

Rural Areas Electricity Company Believing in the need for coordination with the departments and government agencies, the company has take the authorizations and the necessary approvals for the project from many units such as the Ministry of Housing, Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources, Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs and Ministry of Defense and other third parties.

The company seeks to accomplish this important project on time and within the allocated budget and that the company has assembled formation of a team to manage the project with local and foreign experiences reporting the CEO of the company directly.



Rural Lights RAECO Strategy Launches 2013 – 2017

(RAECO) Rural Areas Electricity Company SAOC held its strategic day on 1/7/2013 with the objective of conveying messages about the five strategies of the company and the electricity sector for the next five years "2013 – 2017" in the presence of Engineer Omar Bin Khalfan Al-Wahibi, CEO of Electricity Holding Co.; Engineer Hamad Bin Salem Al-Maghdari, CEO of RAECO; in addition to all department managers and employees of the company. This step came out of RAECO's desire to raise the awareness among its employees about such strategies.

At the beginning, Engineer Omar Bin Khalfan Al-Wahibi, CEO of Electricity Holding Co., delivered a speech in which he emphasized on the importance of the five strategies of the electricity sector that would hopefully achieve a business development at the sector. Engineer Hamad Bin Salem Al-Maghdari, CEO of RAECO, also gave a speech about the importance of the role played by the employees of the company in understanding and executing such strategies. He emphasized on the importance of working

as an integrated teamwork to achieve the objectives of the company and the electricity sector.

The strategic day included various performances that focused on explaining and sending messages to the employees about every strategy separately including the asset management strategies, subscribers' services, human resources, health, safety & environment; in addition to the communication strategy.

The day was intervened by performances, clips and movies with the objective of sending positive and motivating messages to the employees about the importance of these strategies and the necessity of seeking to implement the same. The ceremony also included some competitions and entertainment events.



Electronic Tender # (31/2013) For Supplying Diesel Fuel To The Electricity Production & Desalination Plant At Sharqiyah South Governorate

It is the first electronic tender launched by the Tender Board through the Electronic Tendering System with a total amount of eight million, eight hundred seventy seven thousand and fifty Omani Riyals. In this system, tender documents are purchased, bids are submitted and envelopes are opened electronically. This project - that lasts for a period of 3 years starting from 17 July 2013 till 16 July 2016 AD - has been awarded to Al-Maha Petroleum Products Marketing Co. LLC.

The project aims to accelerate the process of awarding tenders and save time. Furthermore, this project is of a great importance for the sustainability of electricity production in the Wilayat of Massirah.

RAECO Arabic Website



IT Department launched the Arabic version of the official RAECO website in the month of July 2013. The Arabic website is the replica of English website which will facilitate people to browse the information as per user preferred language.



The First Commercial Project Of Its Kind Linked To The Electrical Network

An agreement to construct a solar energy plant at Al-Mazyona is signed. The capacity of the plant is 303 kilowatt and it will be operational in the middle of 2014.

(RAECO) Rural Areas Electricity Company SAOC signed an agreement for an electricity generation project using the solar energy at the Wilayat of Al-Mazyona in the middle of November 2013. This step came as part of the actions taken by the company to implement the recommendations of the renewable energy study prepared by the Authority for Electricity Regulation (AER) and issued in May 2008 AD. The recommendations provided to the company included the implementation of small pilot projects for electrical power production using the renewable energy technology; particularly the solar and wind energies.

RAECO has located the best sites that could be utilized in implementing the renewable energy projects. (AER) Authority for Electricity Regulation requested the company to receive bids from the investors and interested companies after visiting and evaluating the sites technically, given the nature of the existing electrical system and the demand on electricity at these sites.

Among the located sites, a site in the Wilayat of Al-Mazyona in Dhofar governorate beside the existing power station owned by RAECO has been chosen. It is significant here that the Sultanate of Oman as a country that is distinguished by a high solar radiation that could produce about one kilowatt / hour per square meter. It is expected that this project would be a start for next similar projects in the future.

About the Project:

This is considered as the best project to produce electricity using the solar energy technology in the Sultanate of Oman. The project would help in producing electricity and feeding the current electrical network. It would also support the existing power station that operates using diesel. It is expected that the project would be able to cover most of the electricity demand during winter in the Wilayat of Al-Mazyona at least during the first years of the project; taking into consideration the possibility of expanding the project.

Location of the Project: The Wilayat of Al-Mazyona – Dhofar Governorate
Capacity of the Project: 303 Kilowatt
Type of the Contract: Energy Purchase Agreement with the (B.O.O) System.
Duration of the Contract: 20 Years.
Used Technology: PV Thin Films & Poly Crystalline System
Expected Annual Production of the Project: About 558 Megawatt/ hour
Costs of operation and Maintenance: Include the operating costs, operation and maintenance works; in addition to the supporting administrative works for the project.
Space of the allocated plot of land: 8000 square meters.
Executing Company: An alliance of the American Ostenfeld Co. with the local firm "Multi-Tech".
Expected Commercial Operation Date: June 2014

Objectives & Benefits of Solar Energy Projects

Through this kind of projects; RAECO seeks to achieve some objectives including:

- To decrease the harmful emissions to environment produced by the use of traditional fuel (diesel). It is known that the renewable energy projects are eco-green projects.
- To test the performance and efficiency of the solar and wind energies technology under the local climate conditions in the Sultanate; particularly testing the effect of the heat, dust and humidity factors on such technology.
- To decrease the operating costs of power production by using the alternative energy and comparing the operation costs with the use of fossil fuels.
- To benefit from the results of these projects in implementing other projects in the future and to provide the competent governmental entities with the performance reports to enable such entities taking the necessary decisions when they wish to implement big projects that are to be linked with the main network.
- To benefit from such projects in training the national human cadres.

Asset Management Initiative's (CBRM) Project

Asset management department has initiated and started to implement a Condition Based Risk Management (CBRM) project for companies most critical network assets, the (CBRM) considered to be very effective program which enables the organizations to predict the condition of its assets in future, it measures the performance and help to avoid the risk of assets failure. The (CBRM) system helps to take the right decision in terms of assets total restoration or replacement.

Rural Area Electricity has signed a contract with EA Technology Company, and they are considered as pioneers in such fields.

They have stipulated timetable to visit different locations as suggested by asset and network engineers. This project will be implemented into three stages:

First Stage: CBRM Pilot Project

To conduct a pilot project applying EA Technology's Condition Based Risk Management (CBRM) methodology to Transformer Assets across eight RAECO Primary Substations as shown in table below.

SL.No	Sub Station I/D	Transformer Details
1	Duqm Port Sub Station	2 X 20 MVA
2	Duqm Airport Sub Station	2 X 10 MVA
3	Duqm Beach Sub Station	2 X 20 MVA
4	Duqm South Sub Station	2 X 20 MVA
5	Duqm Town 1 Sub Station	2 X 20 MVA
6	Duqm Town 2 Sub Station	2 X 20 MVA
7	Duqm Power Station	4 x 31.5 MVA
8	Khasab Power Station	3X 20 MVA

Second stage: Asset Strategy Training (Al Duqm)

To conduct a five-day training and formal assessment program for RAECO's asset and network engineers in Al Duqm, on the fundamental components of an asset strategy, focusing on four main asset classes (namely, transformers, switchgear, cables and overhead lines).

Third phase: Asset Strategy & CBRM Training (Muscat)

To conduct a five-day training and formal assessment program for RAECO's asset and network engineers in Muscat, on the fundamental components of an asset strategy, focusing on four main asset classes (namely, transformers, switchgear, cables and overhead lines). A further two-day workshop will be held to provide training on CBRM methodology and how this is best applied to support and justify regulatory investment submissions. Table below shows the techniques of EA Company planned to evaluate the asset capability.

Equipment	Data Collection	Visual Inspection	Partial Discharge	Oil Analysis	Infrared Thermography
Power Transformers	√	√	√	√	√

This CBRM program implementation will strengthen decision making policies in par with international standard. AE Technology will offer an integrated software program, from this we benefit from the continuous integration of such program implementation in the coming years.

Mohammed Al-Busaidi
Asset Management Department



Protection Duties

Protection is one of the very important part of electrical system to safeguard the costly equipments from severe damage during fault by isolating the faulty area fastly and at the same time minimizing the supply interruption by selective isolation.

Protection section in RAEC is working to ensure healthy protection system of power station and substation equipments such as Generators, transformers, other electrical equipments, feeders etc. and also the motors of water plants. Also the RAECO protection is on continuously advancing the protection systems to the latest technology and modernizing.

Protection is supportively working with Project to prepare all new tenders and review, test and commission all projects and working with Network and Operation departments to maintain existing protection system and improvement works.

- Taking part of tender preparation to complete the protection requirements of any power station and substation. Also supporting the project team in all technical respects in designing and preparing the SLD and scope of any tender.
- Reviewing and scrutinizing the entire consultant's design drawings/calculations etc. and also the various vendor's drawings and documents for approval process. Attend the meeting that demands the protection related clarification in projects and solve issues.
- Continuously developing and maintaining the protection system of power station and substations. Regulate the protection schemes and ensure the standard protection philosophy in various projects
- Involve in final Testing and commissioning activity of all new projects.
- Follow up annual relay test and maintenance activities with O&M contractors which are covered by O&M contract. Coordinate with operation Department.

- Doing annual relay test for all the substations which are not covered by any of the O&M.
- Performing new installations' testing and commissioning by our self where ever required for the operation, network and projects.
- Regular maintenance of all the Auto reclosers in complete RAECO systems. Advising network / operation department where they need to replace / introduce new Auto reclosers / protection relays to ensure system healthy.
- Review each incident / tripping report from Network / Operation to analyse for the cause of tripping to advise/take corrective action as required to avoid such problem in future.
- Attending the site to check all the protection issues and to develop the protection requirement and the new projects and for the existing systems.
- Arriving and verifying co-ordinated protection settings of all existing power stations and substations and ensuring the co-ordination in up-gradation projects also.
- Created the protection data base for all the Power station and substation settings and continuously updating & maintain it which is the core reference for the RAECO protection.
- Training up new Engineers in the field of substation and power station protection systems by involving them in various protection activities such as protection related design, review, site testing, tripping analysis, relay setting calculation, co-ordination study, site investigation etc., Educate the Omani Engineers to operate the various testing instruments as a part of maintenance testing.
- Cooperatively work with other departments and provide technical support and solve the protection related problems that are arising in Network, Operation and Project departments.

RAECO: Virtualization Project

Project Background:

With the increasing number of applications and servers, plus the associated requirements for them, IT Department decided to go with the virtualization technology for the servers.

What is server virtualization?

Server virtualization is a technology for partitioning one physical server into multiple virtual servers. Each of these virtual servers can run its own operating system and applications, and perform as if it is an individual server. This makes it possible, for example, to complete development using various operating systems on one physical server or to consolidate servers used by multiple business divisions. How Server Virtualization Works?

Server computers -- machines that host files and applications on [computer networks](#) -- have to be powerful. Some have central processing units (CPUs) with multiple processors that give these servers the ability to run complex tasks with ease. Computer network administrators usually dedicate each [server](#) to a specific application or task. Many of these tasks don't play well with others.. each needs its own dedicated machine. One application per server also makes it easier to track down problems as they arise. It's a simple way to streamline a computer network from a technical standpoint. There are a couple of problems with this approach, though. One is that it doesn't take advantage of modern server computers' processing power. Most servers use only a small fraction of their overall processing capabilities. Another problem is that as a computer network gets larger and more complex, the servers begin to take up a lot of physical space. A **data center** might become overcrowded with **racks** of servers consuming a lot of power and generating heat.

Server virtualization attempts to address both of these issues in one fell swoop. By using specially designed software, an administrator can convert one physical server into multiple virtual machines. Each virtual server acts like a unique physical device, capable of running its own **operating system** (OS). In theory, you could create enough virtual servers to use all of a machine's processing power, though in practice that's not always the best idea.

Virtualization isn't a new concept. Computer scientists have been creating virtual machines on supercomputers for decades. But it's only been a few years since virtualization has become feasible for servers. In the world of information technology (IT), server virtualization is a hot topic. It's still a young technology and several companies offer different approaches.

Why Use Server Virtualization?

There are many reasons companies and organizations are investing in server virtualization. Some of the reasons are financially motivated, while others address technical concerns: Server virtualization conserves space through **consolidation**.

It's common practice to dedicate each server to a single application. If several applications only use a small amount of processing power, the network administrator can consolidate several machines into one [server](#) running multiple virtual environments. For companies that have hundreds or thousands of servers, the need for physical space can decrease significantly.

Server virtualization provides a way for companies to practice **redundancy** without purchasing additional hardware. Redundancy refers to running the same application on multiple servers. It's a safety measure -- if a server fails for any reason, another server running the same application can take its place. This minimizes any interruption in service. It wouldn't make sense to build two virtual servers performing the same application on the same physical server. If the physical server were to crash, both virtual servers would also fail. In most cases, network administrators will create redundant virtual servers on different physical machines.

Virtual servers offer programmers isolated, independent systems in which they can test new applications or [operating systems](#). Rather than buying a dedicated physical machine, the network administrator can create a virtual server on an existing machine. Because each virtual server is independent in relation to all the other servers, programmers can run software without worrying about affecting other applications. Server hardware will eventually become obsolete, and switching from one system to another can be difficult. In order to continue offering the services provided by these outdated systems -- sometimes called **legacy systems** -- a network administrator could create a virtual version of the hardware on modern servers. From an application perspective, nothing has changed. The programs perform as if they were still running on the old hardware. This can give the company time to transition to new processes without worrying about hardware failures, particularly if the company that produced the legacy hardware no longer exists and can't fix broken equipment.

An emerging trend in server virtualization is called **migration**. Migration refers to moving a server environment from one place to another. With the right hardware and software, it's possible to move a virtual server from one physical machine in a network to another. Originally, this was possible only if both physical machines ran on the same hardware, operating system and processor. It's possible now to migrate virtual servers from one physical machine to another even if both machines have different processors, but only if the processors come from the same manufacturer.

Abdul Wahid Mir
IT Department

Reinforcement Works



The main reasons for converting OHLs to UGCs as following:

- Potentially - reduced maintenance and the operating cost.
- Improved system reliability.
- Improved public safety.
- Improved property values.

Moreover, there are other tenders for changing the porcelain insulators to silicon rubber insulators especially in coastal areas, interlink feeders, upgrading overload transformers, construction of new feeders and other works that improve the electrical system.

At this period, tenders (15/2013) and (21/2013) awarded with total amount of 415,000 Rial Omani at Al Wusta governorate to change the porcelain insulators, replace the affected overhead lines and change all the facilities that affected by corrosion.

In fact, reinforcement works concentrating in cost benefits which accrue from reducing day- to-day maintenance and operating costs, improve reliability, enhancing public safety and improving aesthetics and property values.

Operation and maintenance of the electrical system in a secure and reliable manner are the priorities of the Networks Department. From this point, many tenders and purchase orders issued during the last period as reinforcement works. Most of the works concentrated in converting dangerous overhead lines to underground cables. Converting overhead facilities fit with the company goals of providing high-quality electric service to its customers. At this period, tender (17/2013) awarded with amount of 821,877.659 Rial Omani to convert 10 KM of high and low tension overhead lines to underground cables and construction of covered ground mounted substations at Willayates Dhalkut and Rakhyut in Dhofar Governorate.





Mr. Sultan Al-Busaidi

Customer Relation Management System

Customer Relation Management system is considered as the mainstay for the business of big companies. It includes the database of subscribers and all the transactions related to the systems are documented therein. Based on this, the (RAECO) Rural Areas Electricity Company pays a great attention to such program, which has been launched in September 2011 to be one of the systems that distinguish our company. It has



significantly contributed into improving the quality levels of the service provided for the subscribers in all rural areas from the north in Mussandam governorate to the south in Al-Wusta and Dhofar Governorates.

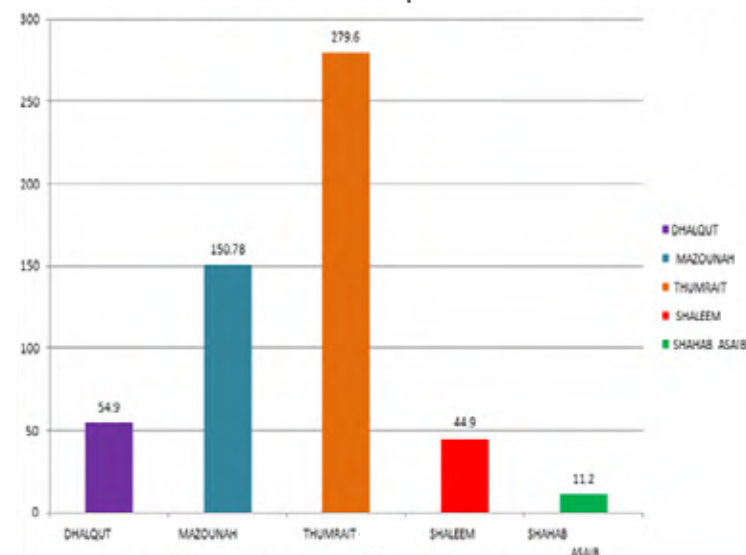
The system has contributed in converting the paper dealings into electronic transactions as a prelude to dispense of the paper dealings completely. The program is also characterized by the possibility of its integration with other different systems and programs like the Geographic Information Systems (GIS), the invoicing systems and the electronic portal. One of the most important features of the program is the possibility of locating the accounts through the navigation systems.

Mr. Sultan Al-Busaidi, Section Head of the Customer Relation Management said: "The program is a source of many important reports related to the activity of the company like the extension of the electrical network, measuring the growth rate in the numbers of subscribers and the amount of supplied power. Studying and analyzing such reports helps in taking strategic decisions that could develop the services of the company."

It is also worth noting that the system could be customized so as to meet the work requirements to as far as possible. The company will focus, during the next period, on raising the efficiency of the system in terms of the customer services applications; in addition to raising the accuracy and speed of performing the services. The system's communication with the subscribers shall also be activated through text messages so as to send the invoices to the subscribers and inform them about the programmed an emergent power cuts. The latest version of the system is also compatible with mobile devices. This facilitates of communication between the technical teams at the work site and the offices of the company in the franchise area and the main office.

Besides, the department of customer relation management organizes many training programs for the employees of the company in various locations of the company's franchise area. "We have held workshops and training courses about the CRM (Customer Relation Management) program. Furthermore, we have trained the employees on the job in Dhofar, Mussandam and Al-Wusta governorates. This training program was applauded by all employees. We will intensify our training programs during the next period." Mr. Al-Busaidi emphasized. Moreover, the company organized a competition for the best user and the best office that applies the system according to specific principles. The competition was organized due to the increasing importance of the customer services system in managing the transactions and data of the subscribers. This step was taken due the company's keen interest in encouraging the employees using the system effectively.

Report shows the total energy conductive kilo watt for the month of November in the province of Dhofar



INTERVIEWS

Homoud Bin Salem Bin Ahmed Al-Busaidi

was born on 1954. He completed his higher studies in 1983 in the United Kingdom. He serves currently as an advisor for RAECO's Board of Directors.



Beginning and Development

Engineer Homoud says: "I have started my professional career as a trainee at the Electricity Directorate in Muscat. Then, I completed my university study in Britain. After my graduation, I was appointed as a second class operating engineer. Then, I was promoted to the position of a section head for the operation and maintenance department and after that to a director of the transmission and control networks. I also occupied the position of a director general of electricity at the Southern Region in Salalah. My aspirations were not limited to this position. Yet, I resumed my higher studies. After that, I worked as an expert at the office of the H.E., the Undersecretary at the Ministry of Housing, Electricity and Water Resources. Then, I was chosen as a member of the committee for restructuring the Ministry. After that, I was appointed as a director general of the Rural Areas Electricity Company SAOC (RAECO). Finally, I worked as an advisor for the company's board of directors." While speaking about the most important positions he occupied, Engineer Homoud says: "I held my most important position when I was appointed as an operation and maintenance engineer. My work tasks included making field visits to the plant sites. Consequently, I gained a good practical experience and I communicated with various teams of different networks. I also dealt with maintenance companies to experiment various areas and gained experiences.

Acquired Benefits

All these long years of experience have outcomes, accomplishments and objectives that are achieved, in addition to other unachieved objectives. For a person like Engineer Homoud, who held many and various positions at different entities, there must be some outcomes and benefits of such impressive experience that are summarized by him in short lines saying: "The most important benefit I acquired is translating the long years of study into the ground through

applying the same in the real life. The real success does not become complete except through application and reaping the fruits of such success. Whenever your success at work is big, this would evidence that your study was a strong foundation for you and your structure becomes solid."

Occupational Competition

There is no work environment that is devoid of fair competition among its employees. But, to what extent could we describe such competition as a fair one and when could we classify the competition otherwise? Engineer Homoud answers such question saying: "The concept of competition does not mean that I should carry my sword and fight using it. It is quite the contrary, as your efforts and experiences are the tools that would determine the intensity of your competition and whether you are a strong competitor. Naturally, the field is open for all competitors to demonstrate their professional skills. Whatever difficult are the circumstances, your resistance in facing them is the real competition. Before you compete with anyone, compete with yourself and prove to inner being before anyone else that you do exist."

Difficulties

Success is not achieved except by after facing a lot of challenges and bitter difficulties. The person who has a strong determination is the only person who could face such challenges and difficulties. Al-Busaidi adds: "The most difficult challenges we faced in this period is the expatriate workers who were stumbling blocks for the Omanis as the establishments did not trust the Omani capabilities at that time. Yet, a lot of the Omani youth quickly proved their skills and capabilities through which we overcame a large proportion of expatriate workers."



Evolution of The Woman in The Omani Market

Kamelah Bint Ali Al-Lawatiah
Director of Billing and Collection Department

Recently, we started to see a strong existence of females in various occupational fields; yet also in leadership positions. This development does not come out of thin air and this is evidenced by the development stages of this issue's guest Mrs. Kamelah Al-Lawatiah who says: 'I have started working in 2002 as an accountant in Al-Ghubrah stores related at the Ministry of Housing, Electricity and Water. In 2005, I moved to the Rural Areas Electricity Company SAOC (RAECO) as a budget officer. Then, I was promoted to become a section head of the Subscribers' Accounts Department till I am appointed as a Director of Billing and Collection Department in 2008.

Work and Family

The working woman always faces a difficulty in balancing between her work at home and her occupational work. There are many women who have not completed their success stories due to this pressure. Yet, Mrs. Al-Lawatiah states: "Usually, there are difficulties and challenges in balancing between the two areas of work. But, such difficulties must be overcome in order to achieve the desired objectives. Through our will, determination and the family assistance, we could succeed. Woman surely needs support to continue her work."

Difficulties

In a reflection about the problems and difficulties faced by our guest, Mrs. Al-Lawatiah says: "The most important problem is how to decrease the arrears; increase the income and raise the quality & efficiency of reports. There is no doubt that the billing and collection department is one of the most important departments in our company. It is a critical department that does not accept errors or probabilities. Due to the fact that there are many and sprawling franchise areas of the company; it was a must to set a good and effective system that limits the occurrence of any problem; whether small or big."

Billing and Collection

Mrs. Al-Lawatiah tells us the most important achievements made by the billing and collection department since its inception in lines as follows: "Providing the management with reports and statistics; decreasing the arrears; increasing the returns and initiating the new billing and collection project of the company that applies the billing system by dispensing of the services rendered by the current billing and collection contracting company. This will increase the quality of work in the department."

The Omani Women's Day

Due to the great role played by the woman in community building and in light of the fact that she is considered as a mainstay and supporting power for the man in developing this generous country; the 17th day of October has been allocated as the Omani Women's Day in a bid to honor and recognize the efforts made by the Omani women. "Certainly; the woman plays a great role in building her community and upbringing the next generations. Since ancient ages, you could find that women were standing beside men to support them in bearing the troubles of life." Mrs. Al-Lawatiah said.

"Dedicating a day for the woman is considered as a recognizing and motivating step. Women make great achievements all the year round. They are inspiring persons and decisive decision makers. The Omani Woman is distinguished by her strong will and determination that could face any challenge. Therefore; this day has been allocated for her. Such step evidences that the Sultanate is fully aware about the importance of the woman's participation to promote the success and progress made by our beloved country; in addition to keeping up with the most successful political rally initiated by His Majesty, Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, may Allah keep and protect Him." She added.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The department is responsible for promoting the health and safety at RAECO community through effective occupational health and environmental management practices. HSE provides services and leadership in the areas of environmental monitoring, the treatment of occupational injuries, fire safety, electrical safety, facility and equipment safety, employee safety and first aid training programs. Our goal is to provide responsive service and critical support to ensure that RAECO is a safe and healthy environment to work in.



Health And Safety Department

Working with electricity:

As you know working with electricity is very dangerous it can involve many major accidents like:

1. Burns
2. Explosions
3. Shocks
4. Fire
5. Death

The electrical safety program has been developed to help individual recognize and avoid electrical hazard. The goal is to reduce and manage the risk of electrical arc flash hazards, shock, equipment damage and fire.

Achievements of the HSE Department:

All departments of the company have ambitions and goals to be achieved to raise the level of the company to the highest levels in the Sultanate and the world. From the achievements of the Department of Health, Safety and Environment:

1. The adoption of the Health and Safety System by the Ministry of Manpower.
2. Replacing the fire extinguisher with new type which is more effective for fighting fire, easy to use and maintenance free.
3. Training courses for engineers in Authorization in Network y system (PTW).
4. First aid refreshment courses for network engineers.
5. Updating of Mechanical and Electrical Safety Rules.
6. Employment of female staff in the department to provide emergency assistance to the women employees.

The department also aims to reach international standards in the field of health and safety and provide all that is best for the company and employees.



EVENTS



RAECO Celebrates The 43Rd Glorious National Day

Rural Areas Electricity Company SAOC (RAECO) organized a ceremony to mark the country's celebrations of the Glorious 43rd National Day, a dear occasion to the souls of every male and female citizen who loves such generous country. This ceremony provided a good chance to highlight some activities and to recognize the efforts of the high-performing employees and departments.

The ceremony was attended by Engineer Hamad Bin Salem Al-Maghdari, CEO of RAECO, in addition to some directors, officers and employees of the company. It included some events that started with a recitation of verses from the Holy Quran followed by the Royal Anthem. After that, the CEO of RAECO delivered a speech that recounted the achievements made during the prosperous reign of His Majesty, Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, May Allah keep and protect Him, since He took over the reins of power in the country to date.

After that; the events of the ceremony started by displaying a documentary movie, produced by the occupational creativity committee, about the creative ideas for 2003. The CEO of RAECO also honored the employees who won the competition of creative ideas. He also honored members of the occupational creativity committee, the departments that provided the largest number of creative ideas and the ideal employees for the months of August, September and October. The events included also honoring the managers who nominated the largest numbers of ideal employees during 2013, the renewable energy team and the participants in the exhibition accompanying the ceremony.

The ceremony was intervened by holding some Omani folkloric performances like the Azi folkloric dance performed by the employees of the company. During the ceremony, poems were recited and some other events were organized.

At the end of the ceremony; Engineer Hamad Bin Salem Al-Maghdari, the CEO of RAECO, inaugurated the accompanying exhibition specialized for displaying the personal and various talents of RAECO's employees. Such talents included fine arts, sewing of the Omani Kuma "Hat", the incense industry, some types of perfumes and some models for the archaeological sites in the Sultanate ... etc.

All participants expressed their satisfaction and admiration of the ceremony.



(RAECO) Celebrates Omani Environment Day

On 8th of January 2014, RAECO has celebrated Oman Environment Day to express the company eagerness to participate and appreciate the efforts exerted to maintain the environment resources and ensure the Omani privacy to deal with the environment. The celebration was sponsored by RAECO CEO, Eng. Hamad Salem Al -Maghderi and attended by the company managers and staff.

The RAECO exerts unremitting and tremendous efforts to maintain the environment by preventing the air emissions produced by the exhausts of power generation engines. The administration gives a considerable interest in this domain by establishing a specialized department to follow up the matters related with environment under the HSE department. The RAECO has signed recently an electric power production agreement using solar energy which is considered as an eco-friendly technology and contributes towards reducing the harmful emissions. The company is also exploring other alternatives such as wind power.

The RAECO periodically measures the rates of the air emissions and noise to make it within the rates and measures allowed by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs. Moreover, HSE department has organized awareness campaigns for the citizens, staff and contractors working in the field of operation and maintenance of the company power stations. In addition, the department takes the necessary control in this regard and issues periodic reports to raise the level of performance and efficiency in the fields of health, safety and environment.

RAECO Celebrates The Omani Women's Day



Rural Areas Electricity Company SAOC (RAECO) celebrated the Omani Women's Day at its headquarters in Khuwair. The female employees working at the company reached 35 persons this year. They were keen to attend such occasion to express their joy at dedicating a day for them; which is considered as an evidence of their value.

Engineer Hamad Bin Salem Al-Maghdari, CEO of RAECO delivered a speech of appreciation and gratitude for women. He said: "Women play important roles in all fields. Undoubtedly, they play great roles in building the community and upbringing the future generations. Even if she is not working in a governmental or private entity, the woman performs a great role at home by raising and upbringing her children to be useful members in the community."

Wherever the role or the place of the woman is, she is an important member in the society. At any time, you would find that woman always exists through her important contributions. She is an inseparable part of the community. We are in need to her the same way we need water.

The Apple of an honorable man

We are put again under the same work pressure and try to achieve most of our work in order not to delay our other work and avert any delay that may be caused for the other concerned persons.

At around 4 PM and after that time, we may feel bored and become tired of sitting on such boring chair. The orange walls surround us from all sides and its distinguished color adds a feeling of relaxation while being at work.

The matters become contradicting, while taking a short nap. Thoughts rolls in my head about the importance of developing my capabilities, learning more and achieving more than what is expected by the responsible person so that he might feel satisfied when I take the realm of some other tasks.

He wakes me up from my nap saying: "Who is this person that is still here?" Wednesday, the thirteenth of February, is the day when every employee takes his weekly rest. All employees were going home to spend the weekend with their families.

He comes to me, full of smile and optimism that submerges everyone who sees him with joy and happiness, saying: "Do you need milk or a coffee full of sugar to restore your activity?" He did not show any signs of annoyance because I suspended his work in this small department despite he is the person responsible about the whole upper floor.

"No, thank you. I am fine. But, there would be no problem if you could give me a cup of water." I replied.

Water is tasty in this case despite the fact that it is tasteless. At that time, he brought one piece of an apple; stored by him as an alternative for a rich lunch meal he might not afford its price or he might not have time to get such a delicious meal, and gave it to me.

He said: "Sir! Please take this peace of my apple." Am I dreaming? I grabbed it from his lean hand and watched his steps while he went far smiling and feeling optimistic about a better future and a higher position.

At that time, my thoughts turned into pondering on the state of this simple worker and the Newton's Apple that changed the world and sciences. I also thought about the logo of Apple Inc. that swept the markets and became a symbol of luxury. Yet, the apple bears what is more precious than knowledge of life positions and what is more worthy than the treasures of the world. It is an apple that is mixed by the taste of humility and good manners. It elevates the spirit, uplifts the heart and promotes the feelings of optimism.

Majid Al-Batran
Workshop & Technical Support Department

The Story of the Wise Sheikh

It is recounted that, in ancient times, there was a sheikh who is known for his wisdom and sobriety to the extent that all people in the city were consulting him about the matters upon which they disagree and do not find amicable solutions.

In an evening, a man came to this sheikh asking for help after he disagreed with his brother in dividing their inheritance. When that man started to tell his problem, express the injustice done to him by his brother and complain saying: "He refused to give me half of the land we inherited from our late father and does not want the land to be divided according to the inheritance division rules in Islam. Is this fair, O our wise Sheikh?!"

The sheikh looked at him and said: "Have you completed your complaint?"
The man replied: "Yes and I wait for your fair judgment"
At that time, the sheikh said: "I must listen to your brother the same way I listened to you; then I shall judge according to the information I get from both of you."

In the next day, the brother approached the sheikh upon the latter's request to listen from him the story of the land he refused to give half of it to his brother and asked him: "Why you have not given your brother half of the land as is prescribed in Islam?"

The brother answered: "O our sheikh! My brother borrowed a large amount of money from me since so long time and he had not returned this amount back to me. When my father died, we inherited such land. I had half of the land and my brother had the other half. To pay his debt, my brother gave me a part of his land. Accordingly, his share became less. I am now referring the matter to you, O our sheikh. If you see that my brother has a right and that I have taken his share in an unjust way and against the will of God, just judge fairly between us and give rights to the one who deserve them."

The sheikh thought about the words of this man and said in the back of his mind: "Ali Bin Abi Talib, May Allah be pleased with him reported: "The Prophet Mohamed, All Prayers and Blessings of Allah be upon him told me: "When two men come to you seeking judgment, do not judge for the first until you have heard the statement of the other. Soon you will know how to judge."

You may have understood the aim of this story. So, if you want to judge; you must listen to the statements of the two parties. Do not incline to any one of them and judge fairly even on your son!

Ameera Al-Aufi
Communication & Media Department

Massirah Island



Massirah Island is located in Al-Sharqiyah Region. The road from Muscat to the Island is smooth and enjoyable. It consists of a street with two lighted lanes; then a street with one dark lane. The island is about (450) kilometers far from Muscat and (150) kilometers far from Sur. The length of the island from north to south is about (65) kilometers and its width ranges between (6-15) kilometers approximately.

The island could also be reached by a ferry. The cost of the journey is (10) OMRs per car. The ferry departs from (Shannah) area to the island. The distance between the two locations is (15) kilometers only; yet the journey takes 1.5 – 2 hours due to the slow speed of the ferry.

Note: The ferry may not navigate if the wind is strong! Consequently; you might be forced to stay for another day in the island. This note should be taken into consideration by the businessmen and the incomers by air. The island is still also retaining the tomb of the Greek King «Adveas». The island has also «3» other hotels under construction; in addition to stores, banks, restaurants and cafes.
Fishing Season: From August till April. The Island is famous for its abundant fishing of different sizes and kinds; specially the (Tuna).

Through my journeys to Masirah Island; the feeling of comfort and relaxation is renewed every time I visit this beautiful island due to the purity and serenity of its weather and the rural modernity that bears the implications of development and progress despite the remoteness of resources. The views of sunrise and sunset still stuck in my mind. When the night comes, the night life starts in the Island.

When you go to central market in the island, you will see people flocking to the market from every direction. Each group sits in one side of the market's corners and every one of such groups tells his daily adventures in searching about his livelihood (fishing). These persons go away from the island for few hours; then they return to it seeking a short rest. At the dawn of the next day, they start their journey once again.

If you go away from the city center at night towards the beautiful and calm beaches, you would find that baby turtles have already started their lives to find itself in one of the most beautiful seas in which they could live. After they grow, such turtles return once again to lay its eggs on the same beach. They go back to the sea leaving the destiny of their eggs to nature after burying such eggs in the white and warm sands that distinguish Massirah Island.

The visitor to the island would find that the sands of the island's beaches are very clean because urbanization has not reached it so far and I hope that the beaches would remain likewise. If you are thinking about entering the sea and discovering its bottoms; i advise you to try the sea of Massirah Island only because of the coral and fishy diversity it enjoys. As soon as you leave the island and get into the ferry, you will find yourself longing to return to the island because you know that you would never breathe such fresh air once again except in scarce places. Whatever I speak about the island, you would never live a sensation same like the one you felt if you had previously visited it.

This is the rural life in which you could find all indications of simplicity and happiness.

Abd Al-Aziz Al-Hadramy
Workshop & Technical Support
Department

