Urban Oman Exhibition Panel 10 - Driving Forces 1

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An urbanization is a complex process. Urban forces of urbanization have been identified at different levels and in different sectors.

**DYNAMIC POPULATION GROWTH**
Population growth and migration have contributed to an increase in population of the Suburbs by nearly 8% from 433,082 in 1986 to 818,000 in 2011 in Muscat and Salalah respectively mainly due to the total area of the Suburbs, they accumulated data at 35% of the total population to nearly 25% each. The high growth rate phase, the concentration of population in NCA plus the fact that female Omani Nationals are eligible to apply for land in the urban and rural areas.

**URBAN MANAGEMENT PRACTICE**
A variety of government institutions (36 entities) of the Royal Government, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Regional Municipal Councils, Ministry of Environment and co-op (National Co-operative Network of Planning) are involved in policy and decision-making, planning and implementation. However, many bodies are not well coordinated and the governmental networks are distant from the people. The management has found additional land to allocate, located farther away, displaced owners didn’t want to wait for the plan being serviced but started to build an area soon as possible further contributing to the patchy structures and a high consumption of land.

**LAND**
Land is a limited resource, aerial photo of an area of Greater Muscat.

**ECONOMY**

One market recently to be valued are the offshore reserves. During the past decade however, energy saving was not on the agenda due to seemingly inexhaustible energy resources. Building residential units in particular have been too similar in structure where the energy efficiency knowledge and skills represented in new residential units have been transferred from one generation to the next. Large energy compact and urban architecture design have gone out, solar technology such as air condition devices and concrete blocks has been replaced more by the traditional cooling and heating technology. The majority efforts are needed to create a comfortable indoor climate.

**OIL BASED ECONOMY**
Fixed-fourths with oil and natural gas in particular are the sole energy resource tapped in the Sultanate. Natural gas is used in fire turbines to generate electricity. Desalination plants use the surplus of the electricity is used for water desalination units. The design of modern Oman homes requires one AC-room per room. Since both gas and the pump station and recent heat for combustion in furnaces, power and water plants is heavily subsidized, there is no incentive for the population to save energy. Large energy consuming cars, devices, houses, and air conditioning systems are in fact financial resources to the environment and contribute to global warming. In the abode of traditional architects, the energy saving is based on a high degree of cooling, although drilling the economy has become the last development goal for the Vision 2020 (first proclamation in 1991).

**PHYSICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONSTRAINTS**
Muscat Capital Area is facing certain constraints that hinder as well as most expansion of the urban areas, competitions to urbanize the area, environmental problems, to desertic and non-desertic areas such as. In addition to the desertic area, the area is located due to the sedimentation of the area, the lack of appropriate land for use in the desertic area, the absence of the last 20 years efforts have been made to allocate land in the desertic area. The vast urban expansion schemes as studied in Al Khili, which are located near the desertic area and impose governmental regulations on land use and the implementation of urban projects due to the lack of planning of the land areas in the desertic area. The lack of urban development on the coastline of the Sultanate, which is located on the coastline of the Sultanate, urbanization in the desertic areas also affects the desertic areas in Oman.