



الشركة العمانية للغاز الطبيعي المسال س.م.س.
Oman LNG LLC.

A Brief History of Oman LNG's Traditional Boat Race

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FOREWORD BY
HIS EXCELLENCY SHEIKH AHMED BIN MOHAMMED
BIN NASSER AL NADDABI
WALI OF SUR



Boat racing has a historical meaning for the people of Sur. Their passion towards this sport stems from Sur's prominent seafaring past and its openness to the many different cultures of the world. Such openness reflects the cultural and intellectual prosperity of this ancient city.

There is no doubt that Sur is regarded as a ship-building hub, and its seafaring people have continued to brave the oceans to date, travelling to various parts of the world and learning from different cultures. This has created robust social and business relationships between the Sultanate of Oman and people in many corners of the globe, from Indian and Chinese ports to African and European harbours.

In His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said's glorious reign, Sur, the glorious seafaring city, has successfully retained its dominance in this arena. This is evident in the bustling economic activity in Sur and in its providing investment opportunities for local and international companies.

Oman LNG's annual boat racing celebrations are a good indication of the healthy relationship between the company and community, depicting the harmonious and robustness of the interaction between the people of Sur and the sea. In addition, the celebrations stand as a clear example of Oman LNG's efforts at preserving the cultural identity and traditions of the city.

We would like to congratulate Oman LNG on the occasion of their Annual Day celebrations and we take this opportunity to express our thanks and gratitude to the company for its support, commitment and many notable contributions to the development of Sur.



Oman LNG is a recipient of many awards, including the GCC's Award for Best in Compliance with Environmental Specifications

Brief History of Boat Racing

Prior to 2003, boats used for the boat racing competition at Oman LNG's Annual Day celebrations were equipped with engine propellers.

This all changed in 2003 when Oman LNG funded the purchase of three rowing boats for three sports clubs in Sur: Al Oroubah, Al Talee'ah and the Sur Sports Club.

In 2006, two additional boats were brought into service - the Oman LNG boat and another called the Sur Healthy Town Project.

Five new boats were again sponsored by the company in 2009 and replaced the older boats.

Participating Teams (2013)

- Oman LNG
- Al Orouba Sports Club
- Sur Healthy Town Project
- Sur Sports Club
- Al Talee'ah Sports Club
- Environment and Climate Affairs

Foreword by
Harib Al Kitani
Chief Executive Officer of Oman LNG



Oman's place in international history as a country that pursued flourishing trade relations with many other nations is well-known.

Sur, for instance, has been a thriving hub of booming sea trade that witnessed different kinds of vessels loaded with visitors and goods, arrive at its shores as part of the healthy business transactions that took place between the Sultanate and its trading partners.

Today, Oman LNG is humbled by the honour bestowed on it by His Majesty's Decree in 1994 that paved the way for our company to harness the country's natural gas resources for production and export of liquefied natural gas (LNG), thus continuing in this long established sea-trading tradition with other countries of the world, particularly our key customers in Asia and Europe.

As in any commercial endeavour and much like in times past, Oman LNG's trade in cargoes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) has come to express the vibrancy of our nation and its contribution to meeting the global demand for cleaner energy to power industry and give heating to homes, among other uses. LNG also furthers the desire by all responsible people to preserve the earth's delicate environment for future generations to enjoy.

Through our business as a reliable producer and exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG), our company contributes significantly to the Sultanate's gross domestic product (GDP), is a catalyst for economic diversification and an enabler for social investment that supports the growth and prosperity of Oman and its people.

From Qalhat, Sur, home to our three-train plant operations, Oman LNG has spurred the principles of good corporate citizenship. As a trusted neighbour, we execute our activities with transparency and integrity, strengthening our role as an important partner with the community for its development.

Our strides together took a pivotal turn twelve years ago when we set to establish the Sur General Hospital, which now serves over two hundred thousand people in South Sharqiyah Governorate. We recognize such projects as a model case of how companies can contribute to the social development and welfare of their communities.



This year, 2013, in collaboration with Oman Sail, Oman LNG will support the effort to institute a first-class sailing school that could well invigorate Sur's glorious maritime tradition.

The sailing school will coach young Omanis in the science and art of sailing. This will not only prepare them for opportunities to compete in international sailing championships but help them develop life-long skills through participatory exercises that encourage interpersonal communication, teamwork and leadership, all critical in building their confidence and empowering them to take on higher responsibilities in the future.

Indeed, across the length and breadth of Oman, there exists numerous successful examples of how the initiatives embarked on by Oman LNG have improved the life of our people.

Finally, we are immensely grateful to all who have contributed to make Oman LNG Day the success it is today.

Thank you and happy celebrations.



Al-Mashuwah

Al-Mashuwah is a boat that accompanies big cargo dhows. Medium-sized, propelled by at least four paddles but not more than twenty, the Al-Mashuwah is used as a link between the dhow and the shore.

Whenever the ship was at a distance from the shore, Al-Mashuwah was used to transfer seafarers, passengers, goods and Al-Nokhiitha (local jargon for captain) to and from the ship. If the ship sails, Al-Mashuwah is tied behind it, but if the journey is long, it must be brought on deck to avoid its sinking, loss or damage.

Many interesting poems have been composed praising Al-Mashuwah. These poems are known primarily by sailors.

Making of Al-Mashuwah

Building the Al-Mashuwah begins with the extension of the Alheirab, the base of the ship. Its measurement is determined by the ship-builder. After the construction of the Alheirab, the builders begin to install the Al-Sharaur sheets (sheets from the top of the base) and then the Faramat and Al-Shamlan (both are wood for the inner structure). Following these, the installation of the rest of the

sheets is completed to reach the desired height of the boat.

The height of Al-Mashuwah usually does not exceed more than a meter and half; its length ranges from ten to fifteen meters and its width in the middle not more than two meters.

The number of paddles must match the number of sailors but it must not be more than twenty paddles.

Al-Mashuwah has two small decks, the back deck is used by the captain and passengers and the front deck, usually small, cannot accommodate more than one person. The "Al-Bankiaat" chairs are used by the sailors while rowing.

Rowing

When the number of sailors began to decline, it became necessary to install diesel engines in Al-Mashuwah to increase its speed. Sailors soon abandoned the use of rowing.

This happened after 1958. After two years of phasing-out the use of sails in most of the ships and replacing it with diesel-powered engines, most ship owners were forced to install engines in Al-Mashuwah.



The paddling of Al-Mashuwah has rules in terms of unification in rowing and harmonisation in raising the paddle and dipping it in the water, bending forward and backward, according to the rhythm of the music played during rowing and is usually in the form of prayers and stimulating words for seafarers.

The word “race” means to compete with others and requires physical and spiritual preparedness. The word “rowing” or “paddling” signifies the use of a paddle, a tool used to push the boat in the water.

In Oman, rowing boats are generally used for a number of purposes – fishing, transportation of construction materials and timber from ship to the port, as well as the transfer of water from one place to another or to cross from one beach to another. Until the present day, rowing boats still exist despite the use of engines.

Boat Races

When the dhows arrive at large ports and have to stay for long periods, it provides an opportunity for sailors to meet and visit one another in their dhows. During periods of rest, these sailors share stories about the events that occurred during their sojourn and here the desire to challenge prevails. They soon agree on a race with Al-Mashuwah.

First, they agree on the day of the race and its distance and then all the teams go to prepare Al-Mashuwah by painting and beautifying it, even repairing its paddles.

Each team chooses sailors suitable for the rear and front paddling and even go in search for good sailors from other vessels to participate in the event and a “Sakony” who directs the ship during the sailing, “Zanah” and musical instruments (al-Kashr – al-Rahmani – al-Zamar) are selected.

News about the date of the race soon spreads among the sailors of different dhows and the workers at the port as they watch the decorated Mashuwahs raise their flags.

On the day of the race, the competing Mashuwahs move to the starting point, which is usually five kilometres away from the end point. Once given the signal, the Mashuwahs take off like arrows and one notices each ship is almost sinking due to the fervour of paddling by the sailors as they try their utmost to win the competition. The onlookers’ screams of excitement are drowned by the sound of the paddles friction and the musical instruments as the race ends by the advancement of one of the teams across the finishing point. The winning team performs a dance on the ship joined by



sailors of other ships and with a banquet of fresh fish and dates.

It really is an unforgettable event that the older sailors still narrate to us today, they remember its place and the members of each team and who was selected from the other ships because of his peculiar skills.

The idea of organising Al-Mashuwah boat race is an initiative depicting the maritime heritage of Sur. It also reminds the new generation of the lofty ideals of their forefathers who braved the storms of the violent seas and their keenness to enter into a useful competition in an organised way.

Its documentation by historians and the media emphasizes the maritime role of Sur and indeed Oman through history.

Oman LNG's Sailing School

As part of Oman LNG's Day celebrations, HE Dr. Mohammed bin Hamad Al Rumhi, Minister of Oil and Gas, Chairman of Oman LNG, laid the foundation stone for the construction of the Oman LNG Sailing School on the Sur Harbour. The school will open its doors later this year.

The main objectives of the school are to promote and encourage the sport of sailing and other maritime activities in Sur and the surrounding areas. In addition, the school will serve as a platform to nurture sailing national teams which would represent the Sultanate in the regional and international competitions. Besides commemorating the ancient seafaring history of Sur, the school will provide requisite training to its Omani staff who will take the lead to identify, select and train the talents.

Annual Oman LNG Day - Programme

Date	Time	Venue	Event
28 February, 2013 Thursday	9:00 – 9:15	Khor Al-Batiah	Foundation stone of Oman LNG Sailing School in Sur
	9:15 – 9:30		Boat Race group (A)
	9:30 – 9:45		Boat Race group (B)
	9:45 – 10:10		Small Boats in two groups
	10:10 – 10:25		Boat Race (Final)
	10:25 – 11:00		Folklore Dance Show
	11:00 – 11:30		Distribution of Prizes