



*Success of  
Exchange Programs at  
Ahmad bin Majid (ABM) Private  
School, Oman 2010 - 2016*



# *ABM is active in 3 exchanges*

- **ABM-SABEL Cultural exchange**
  - ABM-Sabel Students-Exchange programme 2010 – 2016
  - Total of 244 families from both schools 2010 – 2016
- **Language learning with German Oman Association**
  - Two students from Germany 2013 and 2016
  - Four families
- **ABM-Montessori Internship program**
  - 2013 in Muscat : 4 families participated
  - 2017 in Munich: expected 8 families to participate



# Beginning of the friendship

- 2009 the Chairman of Ahmad bin Majid School, Mr. Najim Al-Timami agreed to a proposal from Mr. Georg Popp the German Omani Association Secretary and Mr. Juma Al-Maskari , Founding member of German Oman Association to start a Student Exchange with Sabel School of Munich
- ABM leadership visited Sabel where they met with Sabel leadership and agreed on the basics of the exchange programme.

# ABM-Sabel Students Exchange 2010-2016

- **Who benefits?**

- the youth
- Families
- ABM and Sabel Schools
- Germany and Oman



- **Focus areas**

- cultural understanding
- Collaboration (Youths, Families, Schools)
- Tolerance
- Understanding
- Co-existence
- Leadership
- Global Perspectives

# First Visit 2010

- In March 2010, ABM invited 14 students and 4 educators to Muscat to stay with families from the School for 14 days.
- This was a huge achievement and memorable to families of both schools. It sparked interest in students and families from both schools to host and visit



# 2010 in pictures



# *2012: Motivating the exchange group*

The Chairman, Mr. Najim Al-Timami addressing the 2012 exchange group at ABM library. Together with him were:

- The German ambassador to Oman 2012 H.E Angelika Storz-Chakarji
- The ABM CEO, Mrs. Fathiya Al-Busaidi





# *Project learning*

Collaboration to identify problem, analyse solutions, anticipate challenges, evaluate solutions and Communicate their findings



Exchange students doing their Project work with ICT.  
Collaboration, Creativity & Fun





# *Teambuilding*

Balancing seriousness with fun

Group at Nadi al-Tayran, Muscat



# First Complete Exchange: 2011 and 2012

- **2011 March in Muscat**

- ABM hosts 4 students and 3 educators from Sabel for 12 days
- Group at Kalboh, in Muscat





# *First Complete Exchange: 2011-12*

- **2011 June in Munich (Full exchange)**
  - Sabel hosts 18 students & 2 educators from ABM for 14 days
  - ABM showcases Omani culture in Munich



# *2012 Launch of Exchange website , Muscat*

- **2012: Coinciding with the visit to ABM by Sabel, Oct/Nov 2012, on 4<sup>th</sup> Nov at ABM and Sabel Schools launched the website for the students' exchange programme [www.studentexchange-oman.com](http://www.studentexchange-oman.com)**

Present were

- The German ambassador 2012 H.E. Hans-Christian von Reibnitz
- H.H Ambassador Nizar Fahar Al Said
- Mr. Pfeilzer, Chairma Sabel Schools, Munich
- Mr. Najim Al-Timami, Chairman Ahamd bin Majid School
- Mr. Georg Popp, Secretary General German Oman Association
- Mr. Juma Al-Maskari, Founding member, German Oman Association
- Exchange Students 2012
- Exchange families 2012
- Exchange Organising teams ABM & Sabel



# *2012 Launch of Exchange website*



*From left:*

*Mr. Pfeilzer*

*Mr. Bruno Kaiser*

*Mr. G. Popp*

*German embassy staff*

*H.H. Ambassador Nizar Al Saïd*

*Mr. Najim Al Timami*

*2012 Exchange  
Students using their  
accounts to access the  
exchange website*





# Omani Cultural Exhibitions in Munich



ABM organised three public exhibitions on Omani culture in Munich between 2012 and 2014





# 2014 Munich Exchange



Tour of the Munich Hellabrunn Zoo

Hiking the Spitzingsee mountain



## *Growing in confidence 2013 - 2015*

- In 2013 ABM and German Omani Association jointly organize the Muscat exchange with German Omani Association managing logistics and ABM organizing the day to day programme
- In 2015 ABM took a big step in the exchange program when it managed the logistics and the day program: cultural, touristic places, transportation, insurances, sports, excursions etc.



## *How the exchange works*

### Families are the backbone of the exchange

- The visiting student's family entrusts the wellbeing of their son to the hosting family creating a lifelong friendship
- ABM and Sabel families with the support from ABM & Sabel schools work towards celebrating similarities, appreciating diversities in culture, traditions, school norms, issues in educational contexts, global perspectives and global citizenship

# Families in the exchange - Munich





# Families in Muscat

# *Our strong points*

- Trust in each other to
  - manages the program professionally and ethically
  - Hosting school manages all finances
  - Conscious of visiting families culture and sensitivities
- The schools and exchange leadership teams ensure
  - Students know each other's culture and traditions
  - Respect for school values and norms
  - Respect for both families
  - Collaboration by Educators
- Students required to display
  - Tolerance, Understanding, Co-existence
  - Collaboration, Leadership, Critical thinking
  - Communication skills and Reflection



# *224 Families from 2010 - 2016*

	Year	Host	Students		Total	Educators		Days	Dates
			ABM	Sabel		ABM	Sabel		
1	2010	Muscat	12	12	24	4	3	12	21 <sup>st</sup> Mar – 1 <sup>st</sup> Apr
2	2011	Munich	18	18	36	2	4	12	21 <sup>st</sup> Jun - 7 <sup>th</sup> Jul
3	2012	Muscat	14	14	28	4	3	15	3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov – 16 <sup>th</sup> Nov
4	2013	Munich	18	18	36	2	4	15	17 <sup>th</sup> Jun – 1 <sup>st</sup> Jul
5	2013	Muscat	11	11	22	4	3	13	27 <sup>th</sup> Oct – 8 <sup>th</sup> Nov
6	2014	Munich	11	11	22	2	4	16	19 <sup>th</sup> Sep – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct
7	2015	Muscat	14	14	28	4	3	11	25 <sup>th</sup> Oct – 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov
8	2016	Munich	11	11	22	2	4	14	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sep – 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct

# *Sabel in Muscat*

- **Project learning**
  - Global issues
  - Creative Arts, Presentations and Exhibitions
  - Social work
  - Environmental projects
- **Educational trips and excursions**
  - Cultural, Historical and Touristic sites
  - Falaj, Forts and Castles
  - Boat building Sites, Environmental projects sites
  - Souqs
  - Industrial Zones
  - Desert Camp
- **Team-building**
  - Desert Camps
  - Water sports & Ball games
  - Project work





# *ABM in Munich*

- **Project learning**
  - Global issues
  - Creative Arts, Presentations and Exhibitions
  - Social work
  - Environmental activities: Tour of recycling plant
- **,Educational trips and excursions**
  - Cultural, Historical and Touristic sites
  - Allianz Arena, Museum, Zoo,
  - Tour of Munich, Garmische, Chimsee
  - Spitzsingsee, Neurschistein
  - Salzburg, Austria
- **Team-building**
  - Mountain hiking
  - Ball games
  - Project work

# *ABM - Montessori of Munich Internship Programme 2013 & 2017*

## **Nature of ABM-Montessori Internship Programme**

- Targets: Students between 16-18
- Internship Period : 3 - 4 weeks
- Host school finds internship workplaces
- Internship Areas : Agriculture, Administration, Social work, Arts

## **2013 First Internship in Muscat**

- Germany 2 female students for internship in school administration
- 2 ABM female students hosted the 2 interns from Montessori, Munich
- **Interns experience authentic Omani lifestyle with ABM families**
- **2017 ABM will send 2-4 interns to Montessori, Munich in July 2017**



# *ABM - German Omani Association Partnership*

- **Partnership aims to encourage:**
  - ❖ Learning the Arabic language
  - ❖ Understanding the Omani culture
  - ❖ Tolerance, Understanding and Coexistence (TUC)
- **How it works**
  - ❖ Visiting student experiences authentic Arabic/German life with host family for 4 weeks or more
- **To date, ABM has accepted 2 German students**
  - ❖ 2009 ABM Chairman accepts guardianship for Thomas from German family. This exchange sowed the seeds for the broader exchange
  - ❖ 2013 March: Hanz, a student attended ABM school and stayed with Omani family
  - ❖ 2016 March: a student from Staatliche Realschule Bad Tolz attended ABM school and stayed with ABM Omani family

# Jaiffer and Maxmillian

Muscat - 25<sup>th</sup> Oct – 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015

Munich - 20<sup>th</sup> July – 15<sup>th</sup> Aug 2016

- A one-to-one student exchange at the understanding of GOA and ABM school. More personalised and closer family interaction.
- Jaiffer Al-Omairi hosted Maxmillian Holzinger for about 4 weeks from 25<sup>th</sup> Oct – 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015
- Activities included closer understanding of traditional Omani family life , Learning Arabic at home and at school, interacting with extended family, visiting the villages and touristic sites
- The Holzinger hosted the Al-Omairi family at their home in Munich for about 4 weeks from 20<sup>th</sup> July – 15<sup>th</sup> Aug 2016.
- Activities included closer understanding of traditional German family life , Learning German at home, interacting with extended family, visiting the villages and touristic sites.



# *Family friendship after the exchange*

- While most families continue to communicate after the exchange, some families decide to visit or invite one another to their countries:
  1. Family of the ABM Chairman has been in contact with Thomas' family since the first exchange in 2009
  2. June 2014 , family of Wadha Al-Hooti visited family of Cadric Bitenc in Munich for few days
  3. 2015 , Family of Alexis visited family of Muscat for about a week
  4. 2016 , Family of Omar Shabibi hosted the family of Valentin Strabo in Muscat for 10 days
  5. July 2016, family of Jaiffar Al-Omairi visited family of Maxmillian in Munich for 4 weeks

# *People supporting the Exchange*

## **German – Omani Association**

- Bruno Kaiser, President of German Omani Association
- Georg Popp, The Secretary General, German Omani Association
- Mr. Juma Al-Maskari, Founding Member, German Omani Association
- **German Embassy, Muscat**
  - The German ambassador to Oman and her staff 2012-2014
  - The German ambassador to Oman and his staff 2014 to present
- Ministry of Cultural and Heritage, Oman
- Ministry of Tourism, Oman
- Families of exchange students of Ahmad bin Majid Private School, Oman
- Families of exchange students of Sabel Modern School, German
- Management and Staff of Ahmad bin Majid Private School, Muscat
- Management and Staff of Sabel Modern School, Munich



*Danke*  
*Shukran*  
*Thank you*