Strategy Development for Research & Innovation

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TRC was established by a royal decree 54/2005 to regulate, encourage & support the research affairs, and to consider TRC the basic reference in this field.

**TRC duties**

1. Organize & Support the research activities with all means
2. Set up a national research strategy and follow up its development
3. Specify priorities in the national research strategy
4. Prepare programs for implementation of the national research priorities
5. Announce the national research strategy and its priorities
6. Support the individual creativity and research plans
7. Support publication of valuable scientific outputs
8. Prepare for research budget requirements to be included in the state’s general budget
9. Any other issues to be delegated by His Majesty related to research
In the 7th five-year plan (2006-2010), the proposed activities of the Research Council were grouped in 6 threads:

- **Formulation of a strategy**
- **Establishment of a research database**
- **Support to research and development activities**
- **Establishment of science and technology parks**
- **Promotion of awareness of research and innovation**
- **Development of related policies and strategies**
The first step was based on setting up the Research Council and initiating programs to remove the R&D hurdles

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop an effective, flexible and transparent organization</td>
<td>Provide an up-to-date inventory of the research and innovation inputs and output</td>
<td>Provide financial, logistical and moral support to researchers and innovators</td>
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<td>Formulate an S&amp;T policy with clear strategies and a detailed roadmap for successful implementation of these strategies</td>
<td>Facilitate the collaboration among local and international researchers</td>
<td>Create support programs to provide assistance to a broad range of actors across many disciplines, fields and sectors</td>
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<td>Establish a major knowledge hub conducive to the creation and expansion of new knowledge-intensive activities</td>
<td>Diffuse information on the research and innovation activities taking place in Oman</td>
<td>Use local and international experts to study a broad range of issues relevant to the research and innovation system of Oman</td>
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The mission and vision have been translated into strategic goals and programs

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<th>Mission</th>
<th>Vision</th>
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<td>Create an innovation ecology that is responsive to local needs and international trends, fosters social harmony, and leads to creativity and excellence!</td>
<td>Regional hub of innovation in the GCC – leader in producing new ideas, products and services</td>
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<td>Deepest research capacity in the region</td>
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<td>Research excellence in selected areas</td>
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<td>Receptive to local social and economic needs – with alacrity!</td>
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<td>Infrastructure for evidence-based policy decisions</td>
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**Goals**

1. **Research Capacity**
   - a. Develop graduate programs in broad areas of science and humanities
   - b. Create specialized grad. programs in oil & gas, soc. sciences and policy
   - c. Build large body of world class faculty, graduate students and engineers
   - d. Encourage research in emerging platforms of knowledge that cut across disciplines/fields of study

2. **Research Excellence**
   - e. Track local & international scientific/social trends, and respond to them by adapting areas of research excellence
   - f. Develop excellence in oil and gas related fields
   - g. Strengthen research in additional diverse areas of national interest/strategy
   - h. Build strength in policy research for informed decision making

3. **Knowledge Transfer**
   - i. Diffuse knowledge between academia, local industries, government, and other publics
   - j. Align research with local social, economic and developmental issues
   - k. Embed Oman in the global web of research to collaborate on top ideas
   - l. Foster innovation across society, specially among entrepreneurs & SMEs

4. **Enabling Environment**
   - m. Position Oman as a place of choice in the GCC for leading international scholars, scientists and corporations to conduct research
   - n. Improve research environment for Omani-based researchers
   - o. Create an environment to attract Omani expatriate researchers and scholars
Enable

Align

Build

Research Strategy

Remove Research Hurdles
Align Research with National Needs
Build research for the future

Growth

Each sector developed future scenarios, analyzed current situation and defined national priorities to bridge the gap between ambition and current reality.

Specific topics for research have been identified to be in line with the national development strategy.
The proposed activities for the 8th five-year plan (2011-2016) are grouped in 6 threads, aimed at building a mature system in line with national needs.

**E-services and IT infrastructure**

A range of e-services should be offered to researchers and innovators, as well as the wider community so that the production and use of knowledge are maximized for the welfare on an innovative Oman.

**Research programs**

The selection, funding and follow-up of research projects shall be effected through a portfolio of programs that mix capacity building and excellence objectives.

**Innovation programs**

The translation of research projects into practical, innovative solutions requires both funding and training that the Research Council shall sponsor.

**Science and technology Parks**

The agglomeration of knowledge-intensive activities and institutions in a hub shall become a genuine knowledge cluster that could contribute to the economic and social development of Muscat and, more broadly, Oman as a whole.

**Promotion of awareness of research and innovation**

The promotion and development of a research and innovation culture shall be fostered through a series of programs aimed at facilitating the flow of ideas across the academia, the public and private sectors, both locally and internationally.

**Development of related policies and strategies**

A continuous effort should be made to increase the relevance and use of evidence-based studies so that the Research Council and other national institutional make the best-available decisions.
E-services and IT infrastructure

OMREN -
The physical connectivity infrastructure

e-collaboration and learning -
The tools to work together

e-library -
The access to the world of knowledge
Strategically aligned Excellence Capacity building

Implemented Research programs

Open research grants
  - Investigator-driven ideas

Directed strategic grants
  - Targeted answer to issues

Research chairs
  - Strategic capacity building

Research institutes
  - Excellence for the future

Undergraduate Students Research Grants

Sustainable Development Research Program
Implemented Innovation programs

Knowledge transfer

Tools for creativity
Creative environment

Industrial Innovation Assistant Program - Bridging the gaps

Education Innovation Assistant Program - Foundations of innovation

Academic Innovation Assistant Program - National knowledge flow

Establishing the National Innovation Center - Enabling Environment
Innovation Park Muscat (IPM)
Science and Technology City
- The home of Research and Innovation
Publication support
- Communicating results and initiatives

Awareness
- Promoting a research culture

Conference support
- Scholar-driven events
Policy studies
- Creating the knowledge for our decisions

Periodic reassessments
- Reviewing choices and progresses

Development of National Innovation Strategy
- Reviewing choices and progresses

Conducting STIP Review
- Input for National Innovation Strategy

Reviewing the National Research Strategy
- Input for National Innovation Strategy
We are still trying to build a National Innovation System ...
Thank You ...