



**THE RESEARCH COUNCIL
SULTANATE OF OMAN**

**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 filed

TRC duties

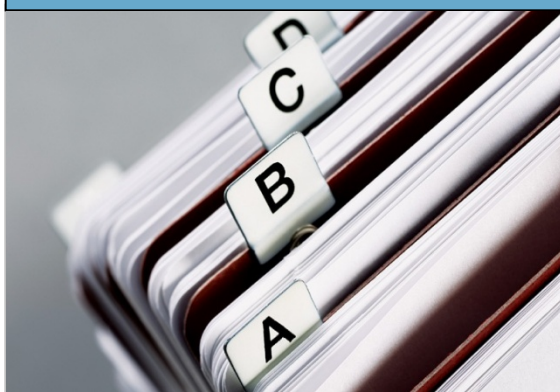
- 1. Organize & Support the research activities with all means**
- 2. Set up a national research strategy and follow up its development**
- 3. Specify priorities in the national research strategy**
- 4. Prepare programs for implementation of the national research priorities**
- 5. Announce the national 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 group in 6 threads

Formulation of a strategy



Establishment of a research database



Support to research and development activities



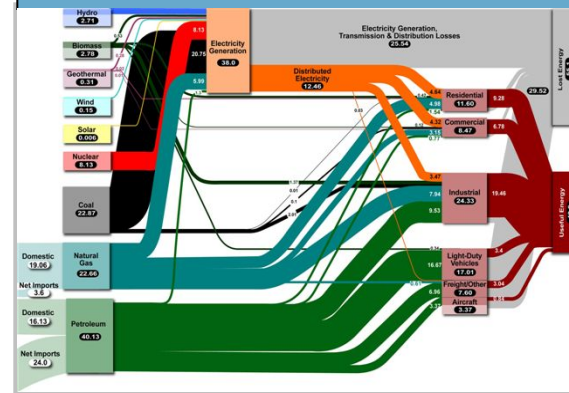
Establishment of a science and technology parks



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

Formulation of a strategy

Develop an effective, flexible and transparent organization

Formulate an S&T policy with clear strategies and a detailed roadmap for successful implementation of these strategies

Establishment of a research database

Provide an up-to-date inventory of the research and innovation inputs and output

Facilitate the collaboration among local and international researchers

Support to research and development activities

Provide financial, logistical and moral support to researchers and innovators

Create support programs to provide assistance to a broad range of actors across many disciplines, fields and sectors

Establishment of a science and technology parks

Establish a major knowledge hub conducive to the creation and expansion of new knowledge-intensive activities

Promotion of awareness of research and innovation

Diffuse information on the research and innovation activities taking place in Oman

Development of policy and study consultancies

Use local and international experts to study a broad range of issues relevant to the research and innovation system of Oman

The mission and vision have been translated into strategic goals and programs

Mission

- Create an innovation ecology that is responsive to local needs and international trends, fosters social harmony, and leads to creativity and excellence!

Vision

- Regional hub of innovation in the GCC – leader in producing new ideas, products and services
- Deepest research capacity in the region
- Research excellence in selected areas
- Receptive to local social and economic needs – with alacrity!
- Infrastructure for evidence-based policy decisions

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

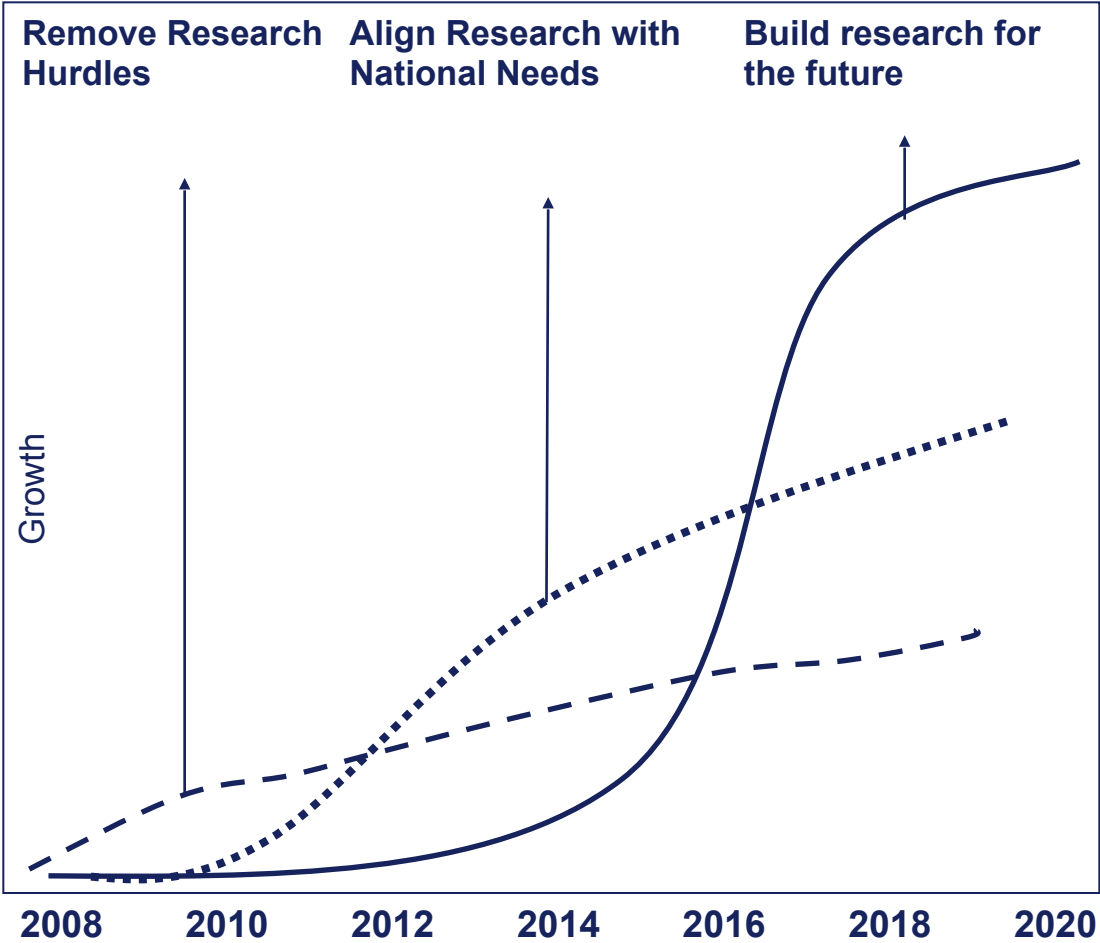
- i. Diffuse knowledge between academia, local industries, government, and other publics
- j. Align research with local social, economic and developmental issues
- k. Embed Oman in the global web of research to collaborate on top ideas
- l. Foster innovation across society, specially among entrepreneurs & 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 Oman-based researchers
- o. Create an environment to attract Omani expatriate researchers and scholars



Research Strategy



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

<p>Enhanced Oil Recovery</p> 	<p>Smart fields</p> 	<p>ICT and convergence</p> 	<p>Education research</p> 
<p>Nanotechnology</p> 	<p>Water Management</p> 	<p>Agro-research</p> 	<p>Culture and heritage</p> 
<p>Renewable energy</p> 	<p>Biotechnology</p> 	<p>Medical sciences</p> 	<p>Humanities, social sciences</p> 

Comment

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



Bandwidth and
interconnection

Collaboration

Content



OMREN

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**The physical connectivity
infrastructure**

**e-collaboration and
learning**

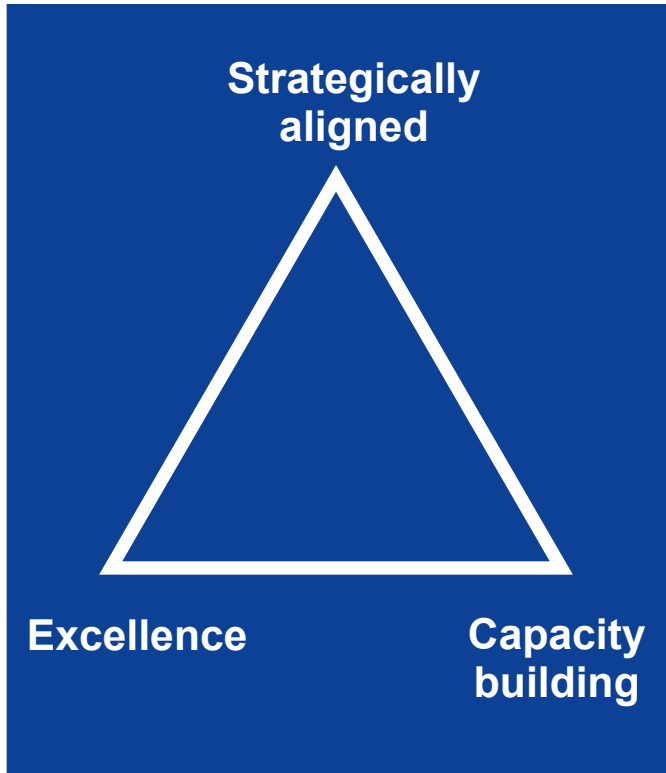
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The tools to work together

e-library

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**The access to the world of
knowledge**



Open research grants
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Investigator-driven ideas

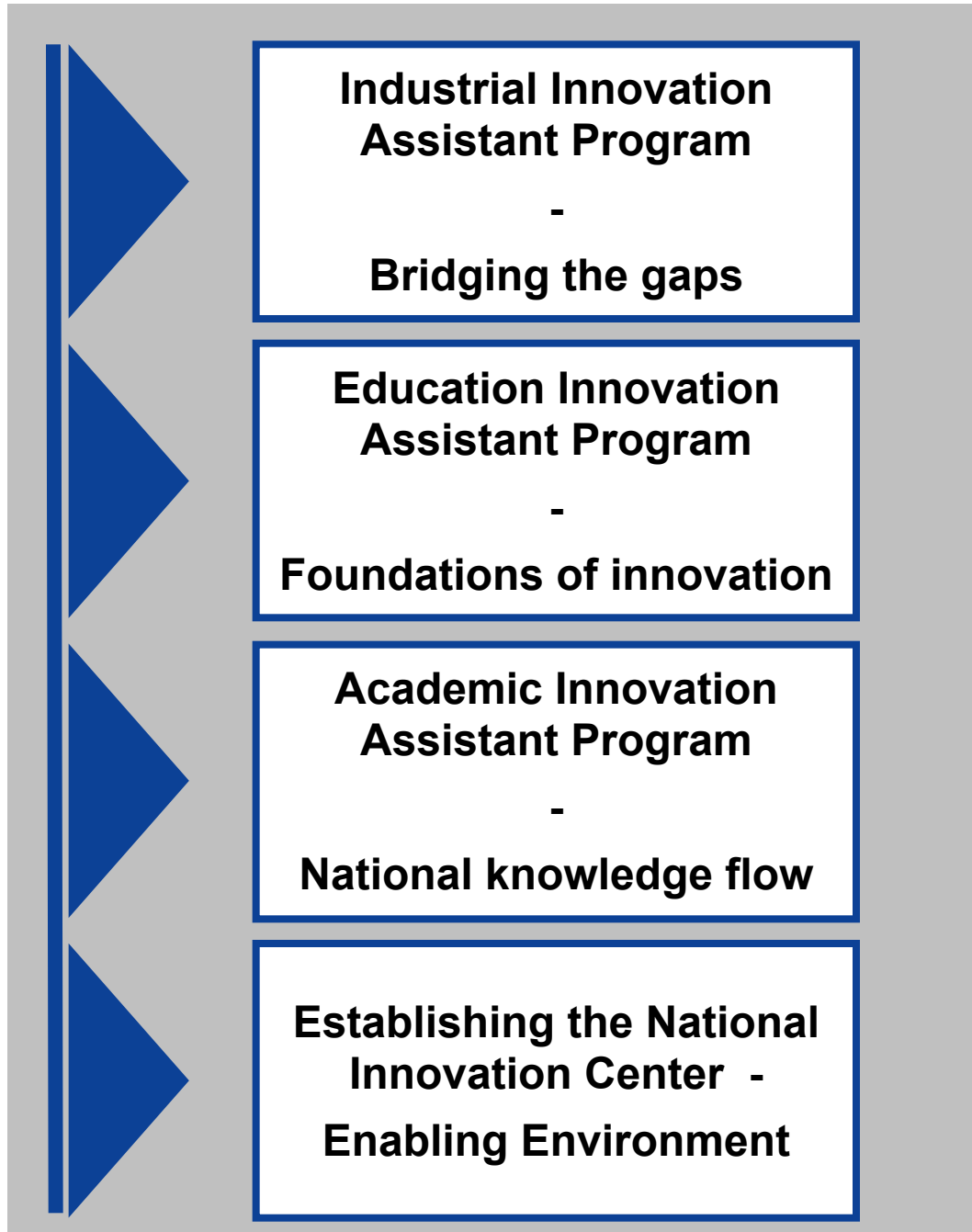
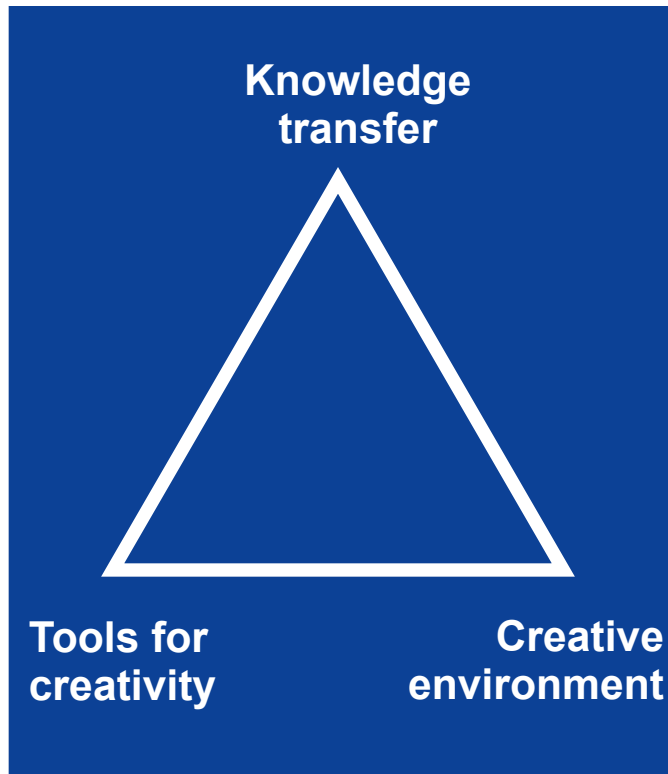
Directed strategic grants
-
Targeted answer to issues

Research chairs
-
Strategic capacity building

Research institutes
-
Excellence for the future

**Undergraduate Students
Research Grants**

**Sustainable Development
Research Program**







S&T Parks



Knowledge
friendly

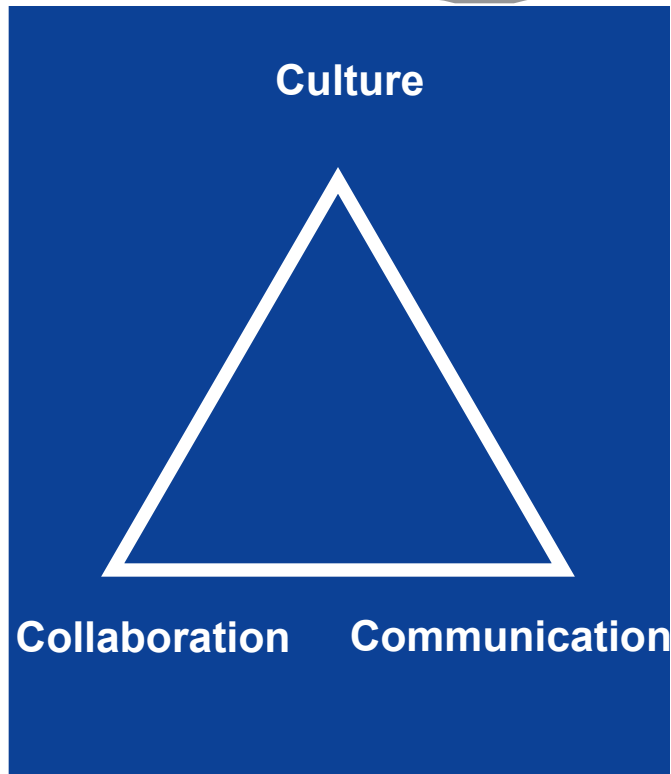
R&D facilities

Piloting and
commercializing



**Innovation Park Muscat
(IPM)
Science and Technology
City**

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**The home of Research and
Innovation**



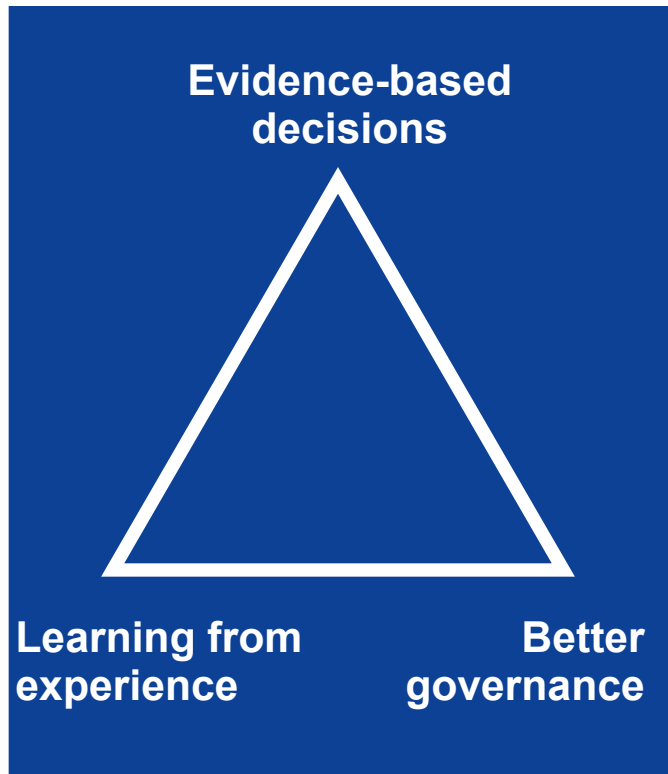
Publication support
-
Communicating results and initiatives



Awareness
-
Promoting a research culture



Conference support
-
Scholar-driven events



We are still trying to build a National Innovation System ...



Thank You ...