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Contribution by Oman

**to the CSTD 2024-2025 priority theme on “Technology foresight and technology
assessment for sustainable development”**

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**Technology Foresight and Technology Assessment for Sustainable
Development**

(ForSTI and TA)

Qs	Responses
1	The Sultanate of Oman has not conducted ForSTI and TA officially at the national level. However, the National Strategy for Research (2008 - 2020) has identified Technology Foresight as one of the key implementation programs. During the formulation of this strategy, the teams conducted a series of workshops and assessments using the Delphi method. It was intended for the identification of National Priority Research Areas. So, the foresight was done in the capacity of the project, and it was suggested at that time to perform the exercise every five years to update the implementation process of the strategy.
2	The ForSTI and TA were not performed due to several reasons. The implementation of the strategy assumed the 3-phases model that focuses at the first phase on removing the challenges at the National Innovation System.





	<p>Therefore, the strategic focus was directed towards establishing the enabling ecosystem for research and innovation. In addition, ForSTI and TA were not the main priority at that phase as key performance indicators were moderate, such as total expenditure on research and innovation, percentage of expenditure from the GDP, and the research capacity in terms of number of researchers.</p> <p>As for the future, yes, we would like to conduct it, if we get the required resources.</p>
3	<p>The governance of Research and Innovation in the Sultanate of Oman is not centralized. So, if this exercise to be conducted at the national level, it can be done through the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation in collaboration with both the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion. This will be done obviously in collaboration with the various academic organizations as well as the private sector.</p>
4	<p>The previous exercise was part of a national project and was conducted by The Research Council (previously), which was a governmental funding body for research and innovation. Now, it is part of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation.</p>





5	<p>It was part of the formulation of the National Strategy for Research (2008 - 2020). The key objectives were to identify areas of strategic importance for Oman. It also aimed to promote linking local researchers to their international peers. In addition, it aimed to encourage international knowledge transfer and to inform research thrusts in Oman. It covered the following research areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Social, Humanities, and Basic Sciences- Health and Social Development- Environment and Biological Resources- Education and Human Resources Development- Energy and Industry- Communication and Information Technology
6	<p>The Delphi method.</p>
7	<p>The main challenge was the lack of skilled facilitators to perform the method that was relatively new at that time.</p> <p>And yes, we would like to have technical support.</p>





8	The ForSTI was only performed within the capacity of the project. TA was not considered.
9	Currently, there is no involvement in specific international cooperations or partnership regarding ForSTI and TA.
10	<p>The expected role form international cooperation will be in developing national capacity to achieve the following objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ensuring that Oman's strategic research thrusts are aligned with emerging global trends.2. Providing effective mechanisms to transfer knowledge from the wider international research community to local researchers3. Involving the wider stakeholders within Oman to be part of the process, and creating a culture of innovation and also to get a wider community support for the identified areas. <p>International cooperation, and the CSTD can help a lot, by showcasing previous global practical experiences, providing technical support, as well as providing administrative guidance.</p>
11	No significant examples at the national level.





12	In general, ForSTI and TA can be instrumental in prioritizing strategic research areas for grants and centers. In the capacity of the research strategy project, it was a crucial step in decision making to value capture and for the commercialization of research and innovation outputs. It also helped to identify areas of national strategic importance for Oman. It was also helpful in promoting linkages with the international community.
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