



The EAGLE

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TAISM continues to 'Rise to the Challenge'

Only three months ago, on what was planned to be the last day of the 2006-07 school year, TAISM's campus was engulfed in a raging torrent of water from Wadi Azaiba which flooded the school area during Cyclone Gonu. At the height of the storm, the campus community evacuated to higher ground to wait for the waters to recede, and later returned to find their homes and the school grounds full of mud and debris. Remarkably, TAISM's campus stood strong throughout the storm, with only minor damage in what was to be remembered as the most destructive cyclone to hit Oman in recent history.

Two months later, when the school administration and new staff arrived in Muscat, we were amazed to see the progress Oman had made in its post-storm recovery. Thanks to the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said and the resourcefulness and energy of the citizens, life was brought "back to normal" and Muscat was once again thriving. Concurrently, the school continued to 'Rise to the Challenge' as crews cleaned up the campus and construction crews completed a new library, student center/cafeteria, and gym in time for the August 27 opening.

As we enter our third week of school, our 565 students, 108 staff members, and supportive parent community celebrate the new year. We are fortunate to have wonderful students and families working with talented and dedicated teachers and support staff. In addition, the school enjoys continued cooperation with the government of the Sultanate of Oman, as well as support from the US Embassy in Muscat. US Ambassador Gary Grappo and his staff assisted the school community throughout the struggles of Gonu and provided ongoing logistical assistance throughout the summer.

One individual within the TAISM community should be recognized for his vision and hard work in leading our development to this new year: Mr. Fawzi Mushantaf, Vice Chairman of the TAISM Board of Directors and Chairman of the Campus Development Committee, volunteered his guidance as the construction project came to fruition, and gave us reassurance that our vision of growth would be realized. Mr. Mushantaf has been a member of the Board of Directors since the initial construction of the Ghala campus, and has been a leader in the development of our campus master plan.