



Lasting Encounters...

A VISIT FROM THE SULTANATE OF OMAN

Student Exchange between
Sabel Schule München and
Ahmed bin Majid School

**A travel report: “Why has nobody
shown us this beautiful place
before?”**

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June 19th, 2011; ca. 06:15: Arrival at Munich Airport. 18 Omani students, aged between 14 and 17, leave the baggage claim area to stay with 18 German host families for a fortnight. Outside the airport a world is waiting that is most impressive for its weather...

It's cold and rainy – wonderful! That's how different perceptions can be. The Omanis really enjoyed the German weather.

29 students on 13 chairs! Team leader Florian Schröder let them work and think together and the exchange began in a cooperative way.



Fascinating Scenery: From the Desert to the Rotwand Mountain



Hiking made its mark on one or two. And if only they had known that this sign reads “Be careful. Woodcutting.”



Nevertheless, enthusiasm for mountaineering grew and half of the group climbed the Rotwandspitze with a height of nearly 1900 meters. A 14-year-old Omani asked his teacher: “Why has nobody shown us this beautiful place before?”



Despite the enthusiasm for mountains and the water running in the cold streams, the prayer could not be missed...



And that's what we've learned from our excursions:

BMW Ostrich Feathers and Automation

During a factory tour (special thanks to Mrs Moldenhauer) we found out that car bodies are polished with ostrich feathers before they are painted.



The famous Bavarian castle of Neuschwanstein reminded the students of Walt Disney and was completely different from the hiking experience.

The Deutsches Museum: What German Scientists Cannot Do

“We have innovative Scientists and Technicians, but we can't do anything simple. We don't want to be simple and we don't like to be simple,” said our guide in the Deutsches Museum. However, there was one exception: the discount supermarket Aldi.



Most of the participants of the exchange – whether German or Omani – support the Football Club Bayern Munich – Visiting the Allianz Arena was a must!

Globales Lernen: The decision making process

Leadership Qualities and Manipulation

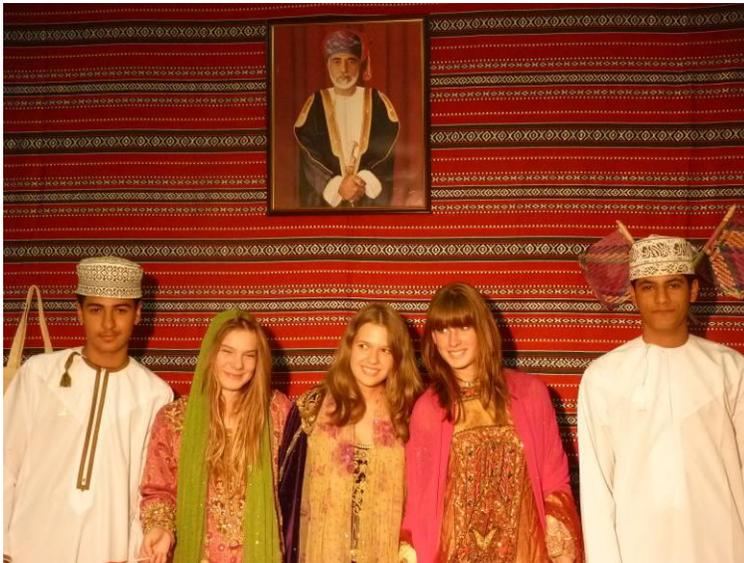
We asked Omani pupils what they think of leading figures who manipulate in order to bring about decisions and which qualities a so-called “leader of the pack” should have.

Comparing the opinions of two different cultures, it was striking that both groups deemed similar leading qualities vital for a manager. However, the Omanis thought of manipulative dealings as more natural than Germans did.



During the project lessons the focus was on how decisions – be it in a group or in society - can be made by a person.

An Exhibition of Omani Culture: Colorful, Inviting and Likeable



What was brought over the Indian Ocean to our home pastures left us speechless: Tea, coffee, all kinds of dates, sweet delights, books, working materials, pictures...

The competent, tender and convincing way in which students and teachers gave us an insight into the Omani culture was utterly impressive.

Passion for detail:



With humor and subject-specific knowledge, Omani students informed us about procedures connected to the production of wire cables and mattresses etc.



Students, head teacher Mr Pfaelzer and all the colleagues were moved by their experiences...

Parents, students, sponsors and teachers had a farewell party and some of the parents started thinking about whether they should visit Oman themselves ...

Right from the beginning the student exchange programme was subsidized and also co-initiated by the German-Omani association, in particular by its general secretary Georg Popp and communications advisor Mr Juma Al Maskari. Both of them assisted us in dealing with cultural particularities and organized financial support for the whole project, especially for the last dinner:



The room was full of atmosphere. And some parents started thinking about travelling to the Sultanate of Oman together.



 **Sabel** - Begegnungen, die bleiben

Team: Abdulrahman Salim, Sharifa Al-Busaidi, Florian Schröder & Bernhard Warsitz

