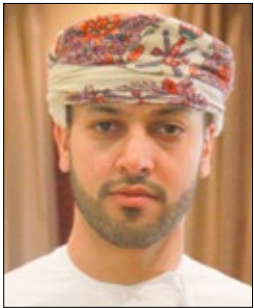


Oman, cyber security & the world

By **TALAL AL ZUBAIR**

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TALAL AL ZUBAIR is the founder and current CEO of the National Security Services Group – Oman’s leading Cybersecurity firm. He holds a Bachelor Degree in International Business from the Grenoble Graduate School of Business (France) and a degree in Terrorism and Radicalisation Studies from the University of St. Andrews. Talal Al Zubair is the first ever non-British Civilian to have enrolled in the prestigious Joint Services and Command Staff College for the Advanced Command and Staff – Strategy and Policy Course.

The modern Oman Renaissance (1970-present) founded by His late Majesty Sultan Qaboos (*may his soul rest in peace*), has had an unprecedented positive effect on transforming the country from all dimensions (healthcare, education, infrastructure & economy to name a few). By the mid-seventies of the previous century the Sultanate managed to reconstruct the national infrastructure needed to ensure a thriving society and economy. From there, through education and an ample dosage of incentives, the growth of all industries took shape in Oman, and the successful turning point was the burgeoning development of proprietary Omani products that have found their consumers in international markets.

With the blessed arrival of HM Sultan Haitham bin Tarik (*may God bless and protect*), HM’s advocacy and pursuit to continue on the same foreign policies of his late predecessor, and the implementation of the National Strategy Oman Vision 2040 (HM Sultan Haitham bin Tarik is the Chairman of the committee), which aims to further robust the economy, as well as in his Speech to the Nation in February 2020, which emphasises to empower the youth, who are the posterity and future of Oman; there is the indication of the necessary momentum for ensuring a propitious trajectory for the Sultanate.

Today, local Omani products and services have managed to successfully penetrate international markets. Today, the National Security Services Group (NSSG) has become that role model and a success story of being independent and exclusive with its

own range of proprietary services and solutions in the cybersecurity domain. We are proud to become the first indigenous cybersecurity firm in Oman. The importance of self-sufficiency (to a relative degree) in any particular industry ought to be the primary goal of any National pursuit. Today we have customers in the GCC, Asia and Europe. We aim to assist and become trusted companions of our partners, and help them navigate into the digital universe securely, but more importantly resiliently. NSSG also happens to be the only organisation in the entire MENA region to be CREST (International Cybersecurity Accrediting body based in London,UK) certified for its Penetration Testing services, and happens to be the only firm in Oman providing a full-Technology Indemnity Insurance Coverage to its clients under Cyber audits. This projects our virtue in rendering trust and assurances towards our partners before commencing any given services.

The NSSG is playing a seminal role in Oman’s Digitisation strategy, through National workshops and working along with other national stakeholders to identify ways and means to address challenges through a collective effort delivered through various programs (i.e Tanfeeth). We are proud to witness the speed of the results of all efforts which have been worked hard on. In 2018, Oman ranked third globally (behind the USA and Canada) for “countries best prepared for cyber attacks”. This demonstrates the level of sophistication Oman possesses, and our aim is to share our experiences with our international partners and clients to help them narrow down their cybersecurity challenges. E



A meeting of the Omani-British working group