

Forum on sustainable finance and green banking highlights Oman's transition to sustainable financial future

MUSCAT: The College of Banking and Financial Studies (CBFS) has sponsored the Oman Chapters of 6 globally reputed professional bodies - Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA, USA), Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA, USA), Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE, USA), Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA, USA) and ACI Financial Markets Association (ACI FMA, France).

The 2nd Annual Forum of the College and the Chapters on "Sustainable Finance and Green Banking" was held at the College on May 20, 2025. ICAI Oman Chapter assumed the role of the lead Chapter for organizing the Forum. Dr. Zahran Al Salti Dean of CBFS, was the Chief Guest. CA Charonjit Singh Nanda, President, ICAI, was the keynote speaker. It was attended by over 200 delegates from the banking, financial and other sectors, besides regulators, academicians, students and the Chairmen/ Presidents & Board members of the Chapters.

In his welcome address, Dr. Ahmed Al Abdali, Assistant Dean - Training and Continuing Education, CBFS highlighted the commitment of the College to providing platforms that blend academic knowledge with practical financial leadership. He described the Forum as a powerful step in creating finance professionals who lead with purpose and sustainability.

In his keynote address, CA Nanda emphasized the need for professionals to embrace green finance as an opportunity for innovation and leadership. He underlined that sustainable finance is not a trend but a transformational shift. It is our collective responsibility to drive this change through knowledge, collabora-



tion, and accountability.

The Forum featured technical sessions on "Macroeconomics of climate change- A case study of Oman by Ms. Eiman Al Amri, Executive Accountant, CBO and on "Digital Transformation and Environment Sustainability: Navigating Oman's Sustainability Goal Through Adoption of Technology in Financial Institutions" by Dr. Mohammed Dulal Miah, Associate Professor, CBFS.

The technical sessions covered ESG reporting frameworks and implementation challenges, impact of climate change on financing decisions, carbon credit markets and their applicability in the GCC region, innovations in green banking and responsible investment strategies, risk management and governance in sustainable finance.

Also on the agenda were panel discussions on "Innovating for Impact: The Intersection of Technology, Finance, and Sustainability" featuring Khalid Al Eisri, CEO Al Anwar Investments, Vice President-CFA Oman, CA Rajiv Anand, Deputy Managing Director, Axis Bank, India, CA Giridhar Varadachari, CFO, National Bank of Oman, CA Manoj Fadnis, Past President of ICAI and moderated by Suad Al Balushi, AGM,

Head of Treasury and FI, OHB, and President, ACI-FMA, Oman Chapter and another panel discussion on "The Role of Financial Institutions in Accelerating Green Transitions" featuring CA K Raghu, Past President of ICAI, Ranya Al Zadjali, Manager, Sector Development Dept., CBO, Yasmin Malhotra, Sr. Investment Advisor, Oman LNG and Board member, CFA Oman Chapter and moderated by Dr Fatin Al Zadjali, Head-L & D, Bank Dhofar.

The panel discussions explored the evolving ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) landscape, regulatory developments, the role of transparency, and the importance of aligning financial strategies with sustainable development goals (SDGs).

In sum, the Forum marked a significant step forward in fostering awareness and action toward environmentally conscious financial systems. It highlighted the urgent need for financial institutions to transition from short-term profit motives to long-term, value-driven strategies aligned with global sustainability goals. Key messages emphasized that green finance is now essential, requiring collaboration, accountability, and innovation across the financial ecosystem.