

Seeking for Ways to Cooperate in Urban Development between Korea and Oman

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Meeting with the Omani Minister of Housing and Urban Planning on the 28th to discuss ways to cooperate for urban development and smart cities

Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport WON Hee-ryong met with Oman Housing and Urban Planning Minister Khalfan Al-Sueili at the Korea Territorial Development Museum on 28 March and discussed cooperation ways in the field of urban policy, etc. between the two countries.

At this meeting, Minister Won expressed, "We welcome the first visit of Minister Khalfan Al-Sueili to Korea looking forward to discovering cooperative tasks between the two nations and to achieving good results in promoting the Omani government's 'Vision 2040 Development Program'.

"Oman is aiming for sustainable urban development in the urban planning field in accordance with 'Vision 2040', and to this end, we hope to share know-hows from Korea in the area of overall urban development, including metro, urban planning, smart city, and public transportation policies, etc." said Minister Al-Shueili in response.

Adding, “In particular, we are promoting smart city development plans for 5 to 6 cities in Oman and looking forward to cooperation with Korea in the areas of smart city planning, service and technology, etc.”

Then, Minister Won replied, “Korea and Korean companies will have many opportunities for cooperation because they have rich know-how and experience in creating smart cities with various smart services based on excellent ICT technology.”

“We propose to attend the World Smart City Expo scheduled to be held at KINTEX in September of this year, and it will be an opportunity to build networks with excellent Korean private companies and strengthen exchanges and cooperation in the field of smart cities between the two countries.” he mentioned.

Moreover, “In 2018, the MOLIT and the Oman Special Economic Zone at Duqm signed a memorandum of understanding for cooperation in the smart city sector, and, we will actively support cooperation between the two countries through this opportunity.” he added.

Minister Al-Sueili, expressing his appreciation for our proposal, requested as “Currently, Oman is promoting the establishment of an urban planning master plan based on light rail transit development for the capital of Muscat and needed active supports on the reviewing process for the appropriateness of the master plan by the relevant organizations such as the MOLIT and the LH, etc.”

In that regard, Minister Won responded by saying, “Let’s try to expand concrete cooperation in the urban field by promoting exchanges such as dispatching experts from both countries”.

The MOLIT plans to continue to strengthen exchanges with the Middle East, including Oman, and actively support Korean companies' entry into the region by discovering promising cooperation projects and so forth.