**Embassy of India**

**Muscat**

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PRESS RELEASE

**Indian Embassy organizes B2B Meeting related to Healthcare Sector**

Embassy of India, Muscat, is organizing an India-Oman Business-to-Business (B2B) Meeting, related to Healthcare & Medical Tourism Sector, aimed at facilitating interaction and tie-ups between representatives of 24 Indian hospitals and representatives of hospitals, medical institutions and other stakeholders in healthcare sector of Oman. Representatives of 24 Indian hospitals, led by Dr S Sajikumar, Chairman, Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) Kerala & Chief Physician & Managing Director, Dhatri Group, are visiting Oman to participate in ‘IMTEC Oman 2018 Exhibition & Conference’ which in being held from 24-26 April 2018.

Within the framework of their strategic partnership, India and Oman have been engaged in cooperation in health sector. A MoU on Cooperation in Healthcare was signed during the visit of Prime Minister of India to Oman, which heralds a new era of cooperation in healthcare sector between the two countries. Indian hospitals have opened their branches in Oman. Indian businesspersons have also invested in hospitals and clinics in Oman. Indian doctors and paramedics have been working in health care institutions in both public and private sectors of Oman and they are reputed for their professional competence and personal care. People of Oman, who have traditionally been visiting India for medical treatment, are aware of the quality of Indian hospitals as well as Indian doctors and paramedics. India is a preferred destination for medical tourism for people of Oman. With finest doctors, world-class medical facilities and holistic healthcare options, India is known for providing quality health care at affordable cost. The above B2B Meeting is a part of the Embassy’s endeavours to promote medical tourism from Oman to India.

 Indian Embassy has been striving to ensure that Omanis seeking medical treatment in India do not face any difficulty in obtaining medical visa. The Embassy issues Medical Visas on a priority basis. Threre is a separate counter for submission of Medical Visa applications at BLS Centre. Medical visa fees has been reduced to OMR 30.900 for visas valid upto six months and OMR 46.300 for visas valid upto one year. Medical visas are issued with double and multiple entries, on case-to-case basis. Applicants can apply with a report from an Omani hospital and an appointment letter from an Indian hospital.

 With introduction of e-Medical Visa, it has become possible for people in Oman to obtain medical visas through a completely online procedure. E-Medical Visa is valid for three visits to India and costs around OMR 20.000. The duration of stay in India under ‘e- Medical Visa’ is upto 60 days. However, depending on recommendation of the concerned Indian hospital, Foreigners Regional Registration Officer (FRRO) can allow extension of stay upto 6 months.

In order to facilitate foreign nationals, including Omanis, visiting India for medical treatment, Government of India has decided to open separate counters at Immigration points for speedy and smooth clearance of Medical Visa holders, initially at 6 International Airports viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad.

Those interested in attending the above B2B Meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, 25th April 2018, at 5.30 PM, at the premises of the Indian Embassy in Diplomatic Area Al-Khuwair, are requested to approach Embassy of India by email at com.oman@mea.gov.in or call at 24684559.

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**Muscat, 24 April, 2018**