

# Boosting Oman-Germany ties

By A Staff Reporter

OMAN TRIBUNE

MUSCAT Furthering cooperation between German and Omani universities and hospitals was on the agenda of Minister of State of Bavaria for Labour, Social, Family and Women Affairs Christa Stewens' visit to the Sultanate.

Stewens came to Muscat on a two-day visit with a German health delegation. "We will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) next week in Munich or in Muscat," said Stewens at a press conference on Saturday.

The MoU will be about cooperation in the health sector, including exchange programmes for students and doctors between universities such as the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, the universities of



Christa Stewens

Erlangen-Nuernberg, Regensburg, Wuerzburg as well as exchange programmes with several hospitals like the Klinikum Augsburg.

The Sultanate will choose the doctors and students who will come for studies to Germany. At present there are six students at different hospitals in Bavaria as well as some German students currently working in Omani hospitals. "I think we should start with a small number of students, 10 to 15," said

Stewens. She stressed the importance of German language skills for studies. "They should have a basic knowledge of German," she said. In cooperation with the Omani-German University of Technology (OGTech), Stewens said that a Goethe institute for German language courses and culture could be established in

Muscat. On her third visit to the Sultanate, Stewens is fascinated by the beauty of the landscape and the hospitality of the Omani people. "I think Omanis are one of the friendliest people in the world. I like the country very much," she said.

On her return to Munich, Stewens said she would discuss her experiences in

Oman. "I will talk to the Chamber of Commerce and different business associations about life in Oman and possibilities for investment," said Stewens.

She believes Oman and Bavaria has many things in common. "We are the biggest region in Germany, we have the highest number of tourists and we successfully combine Bavarian traditions and technology," said Stewens.

Bavaria, located in the South of Germany, has 17 million habitants and is the biggest region in Germany. Bavaria is the hub for a number of international companies like BMW, Siemens and Bosch and home to 11 universities, 17 universities of technology, three main research centres, 11 Max-Planck Institutes and nine branches of the Fraunhofer Research Institute.

## Health ministry official meets Stewens

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MUSCAT HE Mohammed Bin Hassan Bin Ali, Undersecretary for Planning Affairs at the Ministry of Health, and senior managers at the ministry received Christa Stewens,

Minister of State of Bavaria for Labour, Social, Family and Women Affairs, and her delegation on Saturday.

They discussed cooperation between the two countries in the health sector, especially with regard to training Omani doctors in Bavarian hospitals.