First Omani woman to head for Antarctic expedition on Feb 25

Zeena will visit sites previously seen only by early explorers

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Zeena al Towayya is set to be the first Omani woman to head for the International Antarctic Expedition (IAE) 2041 this year. She will depart from Muscat on February 25 and return on March 17.

After Bader Hamed al Rahbi and Ali Abdullah al Esry, who joined an expedition that had a 16-day sojourn in Antarctica last year, Zeena, who is an IT professional, will be joining Robert Swan, the founder of the expedition. A polar explorer, environmental leader and public speaker, Swan is the first person in history to walk to both the North and South Poles.

"I am glad to be part of a team that aims to promote recycling, renewable energy and sustainability to combat the effects of climate change," Zeena told reporters at the Caledonian College of Engineering (CCE) on Saturday. The mission is to explore Antarctica, its wildlife and unique landscapes. "As an expedition member, I will be responsible for informing, engaging and inspiring Omani youths to be proactive and take initiatives that will protect the environment and provide a sustainable future."

With team members comprising 72 people from around the world, Zeena will explore the Antarctic Peninsula, visiting sites previously seen only by early explorers. "I will gain first-hand knowledge of the continent's fragile ecosystem, experience its wildlife and observe the magnificent landscapes of Antarctica."

On February 25, she will fly from Muscat to Buenos Aires, Argentina. "I will then travel to Ushuaia in Argentina, the world's southern-most human settlement, where I will join the rest of the team. From there, we will take a cruise ship to Antarctica."

She is determined to make the most of the rare opportunity. "On my return, I plan to give lectures at colleges, schools and community gatherings. I always had a vision of doing voluntary work, becoming a leader of positive change and conserving the environment," she added.

Zeena said the agenda of IAE 2041 is to preserve the remote continent's fragile ecosystem and unique wildlife and promote recycling until the year 2041, when the protocol on environmental protection to the Antarctic treaty, also called the Madrid protocol, signed by 27 countries, comes up for review. "Once I am back, I, along with Bader al Rahbi and Ali al Esry, hope to convince Oman to sign the protocol too," she said.

The expedition is being supported by CCE. "We are always ready to support such initiatives and it's a great honour to do so. We wish Zeena all the best and hope she will inspire others to take good care of the environment," CCE acting dean Dr Ahmed Hassan al Bulushi said.
First Omani woman to head for Antarctica

By Raal al Jardaniya

MUSCAT — Caledonian College of Engineering held yesterday a press conference to introduce the first Omani Woman heading for Antarctica.

It is a great milestone in Omani history and matter of pride for Caledonian College of Engineering that Ms Zeena al Towayya will become the first Omani woman to step foot in Antarctica.

Zeena al Towayya is an alumna of Caledonian College of Engineering (CCE). She graduated from CCE with a BSc Honors' degree in Computer Engineering in 2008 and has since worked as an e-consulting Service Manager.

She is currently taking a break from employment to focus on preparing for completing the Antarctica Expedition.

Zeena will be joining the expedition leader, Robert Swan and his 2041 Team for this year's expedition to Antarctica.

Swan OBE, as polar explorer, environmental leader and public was the first person in history to walk both the North and South Poles and is the founder of this international Antarctica Expedition 91AE0 2041.

The mission aims to explore Antarctica’s wildlife and its unique landscape. Expedition members, as a prerequisite of their participation, are responsible for informing, engaging and inspiring the next generation of leaders in their country of origin to take proactive initiative that will protect the environment and provide for sustainable future.

Zeena ably takes up the challenge to be the champion of this worthy cause. As an engineer, she will be focusing especially on the benefits of renewable and sustainable energy resourcing.

She commented, when the idea of participating in this Expedition first comes to my mind and discussed it with my family and friends I faced a huge refuse. The big challenge to me was to convince all those who rejected the idea. Also she adds that the main difficulties she faced was who will sponsor her participation and helping her to reach her achievement.

Zeena said that this expedition will strengthen her leadership attitude and adds to her a totally new and exciting experience. She commented that she will have a huge campaign to address her experience to all institutes and whenever she has a chance to speak up about her step towards this environment.

— Pics by Said al Harrasi
Omani woman’s date with Antarctica

On February 27, when Zeena Al Towayya joins the ‘2041 Team’ expedition in Argentina, she will become the first Omani woman set to explore the Antarctic Peninsula.

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MUSCAT: It is a dream come true for Zeena Al Towayya, a computer engineer by profession and an environmentalist by career. Exactly six days from today, she will board her flight to Argentina to start her expedition to Antarctica, one of the most remote and inhospitable environments on earth.

On February 27, when she joins the ‘2041 Team’ expedition, led by explorer Robert Swan, at Ushuaia in Argentina to start the International Antarctic Expedition (IAE) 2012, she will become the first Omani woman to explore the Antarctic Peninsula. She will experience its unique wildlife and gain firsthand knowledge of the continent’s fragile eco-system, all while learning about climate change and what mankind can do to protect the last great wilderness on earth.

“I am a bit nervous. But this is really a dream come true for me. This trip has a noble cause. When I complete this trip successfully and return, I will be able to share my knowledge with others to create more awareness on environmental issues,” Zeena, who is in her 20s, told Times of Oman.

Covered by over 5 million square miles of solid ice, Antarctica is the world’s highest, driest, coldest and windswept continent. The lowest recorded temperature in Antarctica was -89 Celsius (Volatok Station). No place on earth provides a more demanding environment to face the ultimate leadership challenge for a human being.

“It all began when I got a chance to attend a leadership workshop in London, where I met Robert Swan, a polar explorer, environmental leader and the first person ever to have walked to the North and South Poles. He is an exceptionally gifted communicator and is regarded as one of the world’s top motivational speakers. When I talked to him and listened to him, I decided that I will also join him,” Zeena said.

After this young explorer with a noble cause decided to join IAE 2012, she resigned her job.

“From the end of 2011, even though I didn’t have a job, I was totally engaged in the pre-journey preparation. I was working round the clock, sending emails, letters, finding sponsors and all…” said Zeena, who is very particular that she is an environment explorer and not an adventurer.

Main sponsors

While she got some positive response from some sponsors, others disappointed her. Caledonian College of Engineering (CCE), OTI, Oman and Dettol are her sponsors.

“Zeena is our former student. So, when she approached us with this noble cause, which will make every Omani proud, how could we say no to her?” Nizamuddin Ahmed, Deputy Dean and Registrar of CCE, said. “She was a shy girl when she joined us. But when she was in her final year classes, she overcame her weakness. She is now a woman who is bold enough to explore Antarctica. We are proud of her.

“Earlier also, one of our students has explored Antarctica and made us proud. The education and curriculum we are providing here are helping our students a lot,” the deputy dean added.

Zeena will reach Argentina on February 27 and will attend a leadership programme on February 28. Then, along with her 72-member team, she will hike Martin Glacier on February 29.

On March 1, she will depart for Antarctica and on March 2 and 3, they will be sailing through Drake Passage.

From March 4 to March 9, they will cross the west coast of Antarctica Peninsula.

“Depending on ice and weather conditions, the western coast of the Antarctic Peninsula is ours to explore. Our experienced leaders will use their local knowledge to plan our day-to-day voyage, capitalising on the best weather and ice conditions. Once we arrive in the calmer waters of the peninsula, we will make several shore landings in inflation rubber boats called Zodias. Cruising along spectacular ice shelves or following whales that feed near the surface, we will experience the distinct advantage of being on a small vessel, which gives everyone the opportunity to experience these very special close encounters with the environment,” Zeena said.

On March 10, Zeena and her team will reach Education Base in King George Island.

On March 11, they will sail back towards Argentina, and on March 17, Zeena will return to Oman.

“Working with a group of onboard experts will help me not only in enjoying an ideal setting for personal development, but I will also be uniquely positioned to share my experiences and knowledge gained with my colleagues, friends and families back home,” said Zeena, who is now anxiously waiting to begin her dream voyage.

Zeena Al Towayya
‘2041 Team’ member
Caledonian college to sponsor Zaina in South Pole trip

Waleed Mahmoud
OMAN TRIBUNE

MUSCAT The Caledonian College of Engineering said it will sponsor Eng. Zaina Al Tawiah, in her expedition to the South Pole.

The journey will begin on February 25 and ends by March 17.

Al Tawiah will be the first Omani woman to take an expedition to the freezing South Pole. She will join environment scientists and other adventurers from Arab and foreign countries for the trip.

At a press conference, Dr Ahmed Al Baloushi, dean of the college, said the college is keen to support such initiatives.

Zaina is a former graduate from the college in 2008.

Zaina said she will join the campaign of Robert Swan Team 2041, which will take part in the campaign of the South Pole Continent for this year. She said the journey aims at exploring the South Pole’s wild life and the unique natural scenes.

“I hope to represent the Sultanate in the journey and to lift the Sultanate flag on the South Pole,” she said.
عمانية تشد الرحال إلى القارة القطبية الجنوبية

عقدت كلية كالدونيان الهندسية، صباح أمس، مؤتمراً حول توجه زينة التوفرة للقارة القطبية، وذلك بحضور القائم بأعمال عميد الكلية د.أحمد البلوشي ونائبه ناظم الدين أحمد، حيث ناقش المؤتمر أهمية هذه الزيارة التي ستقوم بها المهندسة زينة واهتمام الكلية بدعم طلابها بعد تخرجهم لإبصار المزيد من مواهبهم وقدراتهم وضع بسمة في تحقيق أحلامهم ورفع اسم عمان عاليًا.

وقال د.أحمد البلوشي إنه حدث مهم بالنسبة للسلطنة، ومصدر فخر واعتزاز لكلية كالدونيان الهندسية أن تكون زينة التوقيع هي أول مارأة عمانية تتطاقدها القارة القطبية الجنوبية.

وقد تخرجت زينة من كلية كالدونيان الهندسية بمؤهل البكالوريوس مع مرتبة الشرف في هندسة الحاسوب في العام 2008، وعملت كمدير لخدمات الاستشارات الإلكترونية.

والحاليا تجري فترة راحة من العمل للتركيز على إعداد واستكمال حملة القارة القطبية الجنوبية.

وستنضم زينة لحملة فريق روبرت سوان «2041» للمشارك في حملة القارة القطبية الجنوبية لهذا العام، علما أن المستكشف القطبي والقائد البيئي سوان هو أول شخص في التاريخ يمشي إلى كل من القطبين الشمالي والجنوبي وهو مؤسس الحملة الدولية (IAE).

التزامت المهنة في استكشاف القارة القطبية الجنوبية، والحياة البرية والمناظر الطبيعية الفريدة. وتنطوي مسؤولية أعضاء البعثة على تطوير مشاريع خاصة على الفوائد من موارد الطاقة المتاحة والمتوافرة.

Al. Shabiba/19/2/12
الحضور خلال المؤتمر الصحفي

من عالم الحاسوب... إلى قطب التلوّج

"زينة".. أول حماية تستكشف القطب الجنوبي

24 مغامراً يشاركون في الرحلة لإجراء أبحاث علمية حول ظاهرة التغير المناخي

كتبت: وليد محمود

تصوير/ سالم الرمضي

في تجربة لم تكن من نوعها، تخوض مهندسة الحاسوب زينة بنت خلفان آل نوير مغامرة في القارة القطبيّة الجنوبية، بمشاركة علماء في مجال البيئي، والبحث عن النزاعات من حول الرحلات المفتوحة، وتفشي زينة.

وقالت: "أنا أتعلم بلدي تميّز مشواراً ورفعت علم عمان على تلك الرحلة المغامرة. وقد تبع سمعة المغامر، وروت سوور API عن كل الرحلة بالفعل، وروفعت القبض، وتفشي زينة. "

ويستكشف القطبي، وقائد يبّن على الهدف في الرحلات المغامرة، حيث يغامر بدورات، وتحقيق إنجازات، وзнакомة PEOPLE WITH THE WORLD THROUGH THE EYES OF THEIR Photographs (IAE) 2041 في الوقت الذي يكتبونتاحية..

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 زمنة آل تويه أول عمانية تتوجه إلى القارة القطبية الجنوبية

كتبت، خلود الفزارية

عقدت كلية كالدونيان صباح أمس مؤتمرا صحفياً لزينية آل تويه كونها أول امرأة عمانية تطأ قدماها القارة القطبية الجنوبية. تحدثت فيه عن تجربة توجهها إلى القطب الجنوبي وأهدافها من المشاركة في هذه الحملة، وما تجده الوصول إليه من خدمة للبيئة والتوعية بموارد الطبيعة.

وتعتبر الكلية إنجازاً طماً التي تخرجت به مؤهل الدكتوراه في مرتبتة الشرف في هندسة الحاسب في عام 2008، مما يعكسها في التاريخ العماني ومصدر فخر واعتزاز لكلية كالدونيان الهندسية.

ومثلت زينية بمديرة تقدم لخدمات الاستشارات الإلكترونية، وتجري حالياً فترة راحة من العمل للتركيز على إعداد واستكمال حملة القارة القطبية الجنوبية.

وستلزم زينية لحملة فريق روبرت سوان 2041، المشارك في حملة القارة القطبية الجنوبية لهذا العام، حيث أن سوان OBE، المستكشف القطبي، والقائد البليز هو أول شخص في التاريخ يمشي إلى كل من القطبين الشمالي والجنوبي وهو مؤسس الحملة الدولية للقطب الجنوبي (IAE) 2041.

وتتمثل المهمة في استكشاف القارة القطبية الجنوبية. والحياة البرية والمناظر الطبيعية المميزة، وتندوب مسؤولة أعضاء الهيئة المسؤولة من الزعماء في بلدهم الأصلي بضرورة الجيل القادم من الزعماء في بلدهم الأصلي بضرورة