MoU signed for setting up Entrepreneurship Campus

By A Staff Reporter

MUSCAT — Caledonian College of Engineering (CCE) has entered into a partnership with SME Development Fund (SMEDF) of National Company for Projects and Management LLC to launch an 'Entrepreneurial Campus' initiative within the college. The partnership seeks to contribute to national efforts to support young Omans in entrepreneurial enterprises.

The partnership was marked by an MoU signed by Dr Ahmed Hassan Mohammed al Bulushi, Acting Dean — Caledonian College, and Raphael Parambi, CEO, SME Development Fund — NCDFM.

SMEDF is targeted at growing the SME sector of the Omani economy. It operates the 'Entrepreneurial Campus' initiative, a broad array of programmes and resources that help build a participating college's capacity to develop and run exciting, high-impact entrepreneurial programmes on campus for students and new entrepreneurs.

In November 2012, CCE, the leading private higher education institution providing high quality technological education in Oman, launched a dedicated entity called 'Caledonian Centre for Creativity and Innovation' (CCEI) solely to promote and nurture the spirit of entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation among talented students and staff.

Further, the college has been offering aspect of entrepreneurship skill development courses which are embedded within curriculum of engineering programmes. The department of education and professional development is also actively participating for promoting entrepreneurial campus within CCE.

The partnership with SMEDF will assist in building a culture of entrepreneurship among students. In addition to courses on entrepreneurship, the partnership will lead to the formation of a college entrepreneurship club. The entrepreneurship club will be the focal point for furthering the entrepreneurial aspirations of students. The club will be engaged in organising competitions, events and workshops focused on entrepreneurship. The club will meet regularly to discuss and promote the entrepreneurial ambitions of the student community. It will also serve to promote student-led campus companies which will help students understand the realities of business by conducting small commercial projects themselves.

This year the SMEDF's 'Entrepreneurial Campus' initiative has been launched in five colleges in Muscat, one of the selected is Caledonian College of Engineering, and in the coming years it will be rolled out across colleges all over Oman. The initiative includes workshops, seminars, and creativity clubs, conducting contests, game-oriented entrepreneurial competition and various other initiatives that instil the value of entrepreneurship among students and which, in turn, will help in the materialising of student ideas into a service or product.