

## **Oman sets aside funds to promote higher education**

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Sufficient funds have been set aside to promote the country's higher education sector during the ongoing Seventh Five Year Plan, Dr Rawyah bint Saud Al Busaidiyah, the higher education minister, has assured members of the Majlis Ash'shura.

She said the major goals of the ministry during the plan were increasing the number of students admitted to higher education institutions, improving standards of education and encouraging scientific research.

Dr Rawyah stressed that adequate funds had been allocated in the plan to pursue the government's policy of according the highest priority to education and training. She is the second minister to address the Majlis during its current session. The council hosted the Minister of Social Development on Saturday and Sunday.

Dr Rawyah outlined her ministry's achievements, plans, programmes and policies, highlighting its accomplishments during the Sixth Plan from 2001 to 2005.

She briefed members on higher education institutions in the country, admission procedures, steps taken to improve quality and Omanisation policies. She also reviewed the performance of the unified admission system that was introduced in April last year. Later, she answered questions from members.