

OMAN

## Geoscientists in Oman pay tributes to Nobel laureate

BY TIMES NEWS SERVICE | JUNE 18, 2014 , 11 : 30 PM GST



Applied Geoscience students (from left) Wafa Al Ismaili, Ibtisam Al Kharusi and Marwa Al Riyami were honoured at the function. –Supplied photo

**Barka:** The event 'Crystals, Forbidden Symmetries and Quasi-Crystals' was held at the Qurum Oil and Gas Exhibition Centre, to coincide with the centenary of the Nobel Prize winning physicist Max von Laue.

The German University of Technology in Oman (GUtech) the Geological Society of Oman (GSO) paid tributes to Von Laue for his revolutionary work on crystals.

The seminar also marked Unesco observance of Year 2014 as the International Year of Crystallography.

The samples of the crystals were presented at the Oil and Gas Exhibition Centre, and are now displayed at the GUtech campus.

The seminar and lectures were coordinated by Prof Michaela Bernecker (Department of Applied Geoscience, GUtech) and Prof Florian Rupp (Department of Mathematics and Science, GUtech) with support from GSO committee.

Prof Florian demonstrated the scientific objectives in crystallography studies that significantly contributed to today's understanding of crystalline formation.

Prof Michaela further elaborated on the presence of connectivity between crystallography and oil and gas. GUtech Applied Geosciences (AGEO) students presented talks on Mineral Symmetries, Symmetries of Quasi Crystals, Crystals under the Microscope and Optical Properties of Crystals.

The seminar featured the centre-piece of the exhibition, a commonly found mineral in a variety of geological formations known as pyrite.

It also demonstrated various crystals and quasi-crystals.

The crystal samples displayed at the seminar received great interest from the viewers.

Other than the education of crystallography to the young generation, the Department of Applied Geosciences is working with GSO on a network that will provide a wider understanding of the geology of Oman and its protection.

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