



Mr. Jamal Ahmed Sarayrah, AFA Chairman

With great pleasure, I would like to welcome you all in the 27th AFA International Fertilizer Technology Conference, convened commendably in Kingdom of Morocco, which hosted such a gathering numerous before. I further would like, in my name and on behalf of AFA Board members, to extend all appreciation to the government of Morocco and OCP for their support and assistance provided to our international technical Conference. Also, I would like to especially welcome researchers, appreciating their fruitful contribution with researches hopefully that would benefit fertilizer industry noble goals, aiming at boosting food system and organizations efforts in combating poverty and hunger.

When referring to our dear State of Morocco, we pray God to preserve its natural resources, at the top of which its major share of international phosphate stock. It is our source of pride that Morocco is ranked first in such an industry. In this regard, we highly value and pay tribute to OCP role in promoting the constructive scientific research, through its center CERPHOS, and particularly researches held in the Moroccan universities.

This technical Conference has become an event followed by international companies, working in the field of technology, equipment and chemicals used in this industry, so as to present its recent developments in this concern. Moreover, such a gathering is considered to be an opportunity for specialists, working in Arab fertilizer industry, to meet with their counterparts, from international companies, show their latest updates through regional working papers, exhibit companies experience in different technical fields, tackle industry issues of concern and improve industry efficiency and added value to make use of such natural resources.

Studies mention that the world will face a food crisis within the coming decades, the reasons of which are summarized in: the heated increase in world population, decrease in the lands allocated for agriculture usage, shortage of rain in some regions and the improvement of living standards, which means the rise of demand on certain resources, important of which is food.

Such a challenge generates a remarkable opportunity for the Arab region to develop fertilizers and food production industries, in order to achieve the desired sustainable development and the best standard of living for the coming generations.

Therefore, AFA pays due concern to the new advancements in fertilizer industry and using the stat-of-the-art technology aiming at such an industry improvement, maximization of returns, promotion of work and surrounding environment, in line with AFA mission underpinning the best utilization of available natural resources, achievement of the highest added value and effective contribution in economic and social development.

Furthermore, the success of any industrial or service provider institution cannot be measured with its accomplished profits only, as much as being committed to the application of HSE standards and systems and contribution in the community service.

Finally, allow me to end my speech by extending sincere appreciation to Mr. Mustapha Terrab for hosting such a huge international Conference together with all OCP assisting team for the provision of the highest support and assistance levels.

Also, allow me to express special gratitude for the researchers participating in such an event and warmly re-welcome all the attendants; wishing to concert all our efforts for the advancement and progress of Arab fertilizer industry in order to promote international food security in the Arab region and the world as a whole.

May God protect Morocco's King and people and bestow His bounties of safety and security upon them all.