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- It is my great pleasure to welcome you all in your sister country Jordan. Wishing you a pleasant stay and all success to your Conference.
- I further express my appreciation for the distinguished participants attending the opening ceremony. I also would like to extend my gratitude for the technical participation of experts from companies, institutions together with Arab and foreign centers specialized in fertilizer technologies. It is worth mentioning that such experts' participation will assist in highlighting the new production technologies, underscoring the latest practices in the field of safety, vocational health and environmental preservation, raising the efficiency and rationalizing the usage of energy and water in addition to supporting fertilizer industry researches. These previously stated issues became of necessity to face the future challenges and shoulder the responsibilities of such an industry; namely the

provision of food, clothes and energy for the increasing world population currently facing a tangible reduction in the world food stock, decrease in agricultural land per capita and the expected negative impact of climate change on future agricultural seasons.

- Convening the AFA International Technical Conference, for the fifth time in Jordan since the establishment of AFA in 1975, and in cooperation with the Jordanian fertilizer companies re-emphasize the special interest paid by Jordan to such a sector, the lands of which are rich with mineral resources and the Dead Sea being abundant with high economic value salts.
- Recognizing the importance of fertilizer industry, aiming at developing such an industry, maximizing its revenues and added value and employing such in order to serve economic and social development, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan continuously worked on entrenching the Arab, regional and international cooperation foundation and exchanging technical and commercial expertise with other producers. Therefore, holding today's Conference comes as a practical manifestation for the former orientation.
- Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan gives due concern to the human capacity, being the pillar stone of the sustainable development. In this context, fertilizer sector in the Kingdom strives to implement ambitious programs so as to increasingly improve work conditions and enhance vocational safety, environment preservation and local communities' development.
- I would like to seize this occasion to state some figures related to fertilizer production in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. To elaborate, the annual production currently reaches 7.5 million tons of phosphate rocks, 560 thousand

tons of phosphoric acid, one million ton of di-phosphate ammonium, 300 thousand tons of DAP, 2.5 million tons of potash, 150 thousand tons of potash nitrate fertilizer, 80 thousand tons of potassium sulfate and 15 thousand tons of di-phosphate calcium.

- Jordan has occupied an important status in Arab fertilizer industry, through adopting a strategic policy coping with international market requirements and depending on directly expanding end and by-products of fertilizers or participating with strategic partners. In this regard, allow me to refer to the following projects:
 - Implementing the new expansion project in Arab Potash Company, this increased the company productivity from 2 to 2.5 million annually.
 - Implementing JIFCO project, which is a common project with IFFCO to produce annually 475 thousand tons of phosphoric acid in Eishidya.
 - Implementing PJA project, which is a common project between Phosphate Company and Petrokimia Gresik Indonesian Company to produce annually 200 thousand tons of phosphoric acid in Indonesia.
 - Implementing JAFCO project, which is a common project with partners from Bahrain, ARMICO and other investors to produce potassium sulfate, calcium chloride, TSP and di-phosphate calcium.
 - It is noteworthy that there are 23 medium and small sized fertilizer companies, which produce compound and liquid fertilizers, for local market and exports.
- Gathering today in such a Conference reflects our common desire to continue the development of this strategic industry providing the opportunity for the best utilization of nation's resources, representing an indispensable introduction to

sustainable agriculture, narrowing the food gap and reducing the world hunger rate.

- At the end, I re-extend my thanks to AFA board members and secretariat for the strenuous efforts made to promote Arab fertilizer industry. Wishing the Conference and participants all success and a pleasant stay in Jordan that is always proud of the attendance of such a galaxy of people.

Thank you very much

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