



19th Annual Fertilizer Forum

Sharm Al Sheikh: Feb. 26th – 28th, 2013

**Speech of
His Excellency Fahad Sheaibi
AFA Board Chairman**

**Sharm Al Sheikh
26th February 2013**



In the name of Allah, Most Compassionate, Most Merciful

Your Excellency Engineer Osama Kamal, Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources

Your Excellency Khaled Fooda, Governor of South Sinai

Ms. Charlotte Hebebrand Director General, IFA – France

AFA Board Members

Arab and International Companies' Chairmen

Ladies and Gentlemen

May Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon you All

I cordially welcome you all today, in such a prominent event, emphasizing our deep-rooted cooperating relationships aiming at the achievement of our specified common goals.

Allow me at the outset of such a Forum to extend my appreciation to the Arab Republic of Egypt for supporting and sponsoring Arab Fertilizer Association (AFA), since its establishment in 1975 in the State of Kuwait.

Your attendance today reflects the importance and the status of such a Forum regionally and internationally. It further underscores the role of Arab fertilizer industry and trade, occupying an advanced position with reference to exporting fertilizers and related raw materials to international market. Hence, the Forum became an event yearned for by all producers and organizations concerned with such an industry in the whole world.

Distinguished attendants

It is worth mentioning that the Arab countries are keen upon the development of fertilizer industry sector representing an essential affluent for the region countries' national economy and being part of the strive for the achievement of sustainable development.

Moreover, the plans established by the said field related institutions succeeded in reaching a high growth rate, thus promoted the sector ability to meet the increasing demand on fertilizer locally and internationally and consequently the ability to effectively contribute in international food security and sustainable development fulfillment in fertilizer producing Arab countries.

The production capacity of Arab fertilizer industry also increased during the past decades; fertilizer and related raw materials industry reached in 2012 around 90 million tons and exports accounted for more than 50 million tons. Furthermore, there is an expected rise in production attributed to the under execution new projects in some Arab countries.

All of the previously mentioned enhances Arab fertilizer industry share in international markets and emphasizes its role in responding to regional and international fertilizer requirements in order to promote agricultural production, thus achieving more food production.

Honorable gathering

Undoubtedly, the international food security issue is considered one of the major challenges faced by the whole world in the 21st century. To elaborate, during the past 50 years the world population doubled to reach 7 billion people, according to United Nations Food and Agriculture (FAO) report. This figure is even expected to increase so

as to reach 9.3 million people by 2050, therefore requiring an international food production increase by 70%.

As a result, Arab fertilizer industry, represented by Arab Fertilizer Association (AFA) is fully aware of the necessarily technical coordination and exchanging scientific experience among people working in such an industry so as to cope with fertilizer international requirements.

Respecting its entrusted role, Arab Fertilizer Association (AFA) adopts an ambitious policy in the said field, most significant characteristics of which are:

- Assisting members in solving production problems, conducting benchmarking studies periodically and serving fertilizer member companies so as to identify production units' performance level and comparing such with the related international standards as of operational performance, energy, maintenance and abidance by environmental standards.
- Being keen upon issuing booklets and successful case studies with reference to maintenance field; including rehabilitating old units, increasing productivity and cutting costs. In addition to publishing other successful case studies concerning different production phases for guidance purposes and technical expertise and assistance between member countries.
- Entrenching vocational health and safety culture and ongoing review for environmental standards application, via performance measurement indicators manual concerned with Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) fields.
- Issuing a guiding manual for chemical analysis and sampling process in relation to fertilizer industry, aiming at being a reference to all member companies in monitoring different production phases and focusing on products quality and conformity with international standards and specifications.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Arab fertilizer industry has succeeded in having a considerable position in such an industry international map. AFA hence recognizes the importance of pursuing success to achieve the required aspirations and cope with the increasing requirements. In this context, it is necessary to be prepared for facing the upcoming challenges, including:

- Increasing demand on natural gas; its impact on costs and industry competitiveness.
- Strenuous strive to apply developed technology, enhance capabilities and promote the potentials of people working in this industry.
- Continuous revision for and following of regional and international laws and legislations in health, safety and environment fields.

At the end, in the light of this distinct gathering, we wish that our Forum would be a momentum for Arab fertilizer industry development and progress so as to be capable of always fulfilling the increasing demand on fertilizer locally and internationally and to enhance sustainable development in the Arab region.

Thank you very much for your attendance, wishing you all success

Fahad Sheaibi

AFA Chairman