



19th Annual Fertilizer Forum & Exhibition “Fertilizer Feeds the World”

Sharm Al-Sheikh, SAVOY Hotel & Resort
26 - 28 February 2013

The charming city of Sharm El-Sheikh hosted the 19th Annual Fertilizer Forum, held by **Arab Fertilizer Association**, with the theme titled “**Fertilizer Feeds the World**”, from 26 to 28 February 2013.

Such a Forum is convened after a series of continuous successes achieved during the past consecutive 18 years. The Forum is accordingly considered the most remarkable event with reference to fertilizer industry in the Arab and Middle East region, attended by 500 prominent figures; chairmen of Arab and international fertilizer companies and concerned international organizations and associations, senior experts, executives and General Managers representing more than 150 companies and organizations from around 40 countries.

The Forum program broad lines tackled the following issues:

- Fertilizer international policies
- Fertilizer World Market: Supply and Demand Balance
- Working towards achieving international food security
- Rationalizing energy usage in fertilizer industry
- Fertilizer and Human Health: Food, Fodder and Fibers
- In addition to other related issues

Dr. Shafik Ashkar, AFA Secretary General, hence, emphasized on the fact that the growing demand on food, feeding, fibers and bio-fuels require agricultural productivity increase, particularly in the light of the limited agricultural lands. To illustrate, these lands account for not less than 40% of

agricultural production; without fertilizers many countries will lose the relative advantage of food self-sufficiency, in the shed of annual world population increase of 80 million people. It is worth mentioning that world population will reach around 8 billion people by 2030.

- 2013 is witnessing a new cycle of increasing regional and international needs and fertilizer trade movement accompanied by a rise in world demand on agricultural products, pursuant to current and expected indicators (around 6%).
- Therefore, the challenges facing fertilizer industry and the demand rate hike necessitate the provision of the required amounts of different fertilizers and related raw materials. These challenges will undoubtedly be encountered via the additional capacities that entered the commercial production during 2011/ 2012, and expected until 2016, witnessed by a number of Arab countries, namely Qatar, Egypt and Saudi Arabia

Dr. Ashkar further clarified that the Arab fertilizer sector was capable of entrenching a special status in the world market as a result to the abundance in raw materials, including natural gas, phosphate rocks and potash. Also, he stated the momentum importance of fertilizer industry revenues to the economies of Arab countries producing and exporting fertilizers and related raw materials. Around 90% of total Arab production is export-oriented because of the low consumption rate of Arab market. The revenues consequently contribute in the economic and social development of producing countries. The Arab region total production of fertilizers and related raw materials in 2011 reached around 80 million tons while exports exceeded 48 million tons.

In addition, Dr. Ashkar underscored that Arab region share represents 30% of gas world reserve, around 70% of phosphate rock reserve, 35% of urea world market, 79% of phosphate rock trade, 34% of super tri-phosphate, 56% of phosphoric acid, 37% of DAP, 5% of potash and 21% of sulphur world exports.

Arab region significant is also highlighted. Numerous fertilizers projects were being launched in the Arab region. For instance, QAFCO 5 came into existence by the end of September 2011 reaching annual production capacity of 3.6 million tons of ammonia and 4.2 million tons of urea. Moreover, Maaden Company joined the commercial production scope, increasing phosphate fertilizer production. Besides a number of projects in the Arab region and Egypt

was approved; the volume of investments in fertilizer sector is expected to reach USD 1.4 million during the current period.

An industrial exhibition will be accompanying the Forum, in which 31 Arab and foreign companies concerned with fertilizer industry, trade and shipping will be participating. These companies will represent different countries, that is to say Egypt, Denmark, Austria, Germany, India, USA, France, Turkey, Italy and UK.
