



### **Speech of AFA Secretary General Engineer Mohamed Abdullah Zain:**

**Good Morning**

**A very warm welcome to you all in Morocco, our generous hosting country**

**AFA Board and some of the distinguished participating attendants were recently gathered in a workshop hosted by one of our respectable Arab companies “GPIC”, in Kingdom of Bahrain, located in the eastern side of the Arab Gulf region;**

**Today, with you all, we are on the western side of the Atlantic Ocean, hosted by Kingdom of Morocco, in Agadir. Hence, AFA is considered to be a great chain connecting the Arab region east to west, gathering nitrogenous fertilizers manufacturers from the eastern part of the Arab region, Arab Gulf, with phosphate fertilizers manufacturers from the western part of the Arab region, Atlantic Ocean. Here, I do remember some verses from the Arabic poetry (to the meaning of):**

بلاد العرب أو وطني وكل العرب أخواني  
بلاد العرب أو وطني من الشام لبغدان  
ومن نجد إلى يمن إلى مصر فقطوان

**Arab countries, my nations, and all the Arabs my brothers  
Arab countries, my nations, from Levant to Baghda  
And from Najd, to Yemen, and Egypt then Tetouan**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

In our Conference today we will focus on the developing and promoting the impact and efficiency of agricultural fertilizer usage.

**Nutrients**

Our Arab region is blessed, if economically integrated, with all three main nutrients for plants, namely phosphate, nitrogen (ammonia urea) and potash. It further includes all raw materials engaged in the manufacturing of such three nutrients, that is to say P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, natural gas and K.

Also, there is a huge stock of the two types of sulfur, accompanying oil and gas, and mine sulfur for sulfuric acid industry, which is used in the preparation of phosphoric acid, thus phosphate fertilizers.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Convening such a Conference in Kingdom of Morocco for the fourth time emphasizes Morocco fertilizer industry stakeholders' keenness upon fertilizer industry in general, being a main pillar for the economic and social development. OCP, such an industrial edifice, a source of pride for us all, is a successful model in the best usage of the huge stock of phosphate ore and related industries, thus resulting in the maximization of its economic returns. OCP occupies a distinguished status in phosphate industry/ extraction and phosphate fertilizers manufacturing regionally and internationally.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Fertilizer industry in the Arab region forms one of the main channels for the provision of fertilizers and related materials to the international market, in the shed of the increasing demand on different kinds of food. This highly contribute in raising agricultural productivity, in quantity and quality, and improving the amount of agricultural product to range between 30% and 80%, bearing in mind the annual increase in world population by nearly 80 million people, hence reaching around 7 billion people. It is worth noting that the world population is expected to reach 8 billion people by 2030 and 9 billion by 2050.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

With reference to the 27<sup>th</sup> AFA International Fertilizer Technology Conference and Exhibition, which we are witnessing today, it is worth mentioning that it has become an important date for all international companies of technology and producers of chemicals and equipment used in such an industry, in order to present and get to know the latest developments in this regard. Moreover, the Conference is considered to be a great chance for Arab fertilizers industry specialists and stakeholders to meet with their counterparts from international companies to exchange developments witnessed by fertilizer industry. Indicators and participation rates have underscored the importance of this event on both the Arab and international levels.

The Conference program comprises 20 working papers. These papers were selected from the proposals submitted to the Secretariat, taking in consideration the following issues:

- Achieving the highest level of participation from foreign and Arab companies.
- Including nitrogenous, phosphate and potash fertilizers among the topics of selected papers.

Some of the important issues tackled by the submitted papers are as follows:

- Applying best Practices in the management and implementation of fertilizers projects:
  - Doubling the production of mines (two times) and fertilizers factories (3 times) in OCP.
  - In this framework, I would like to express my deep honor for OCP giant project and extend my appreciation for the decision takers for embarking on such a challenge.
- Rehabilitating ammonia and urea units
- Using new technology in the processes of restoration and extraction of emissions and determining its impact on:
  - Preserving the environment
  - Increasing productivity
    - Raising the efficiency of P2O5 extraction from 92% to 93%, reaching a return of 3.5 million dollars annually.

- Restoring ammonia, enabling OMIFC of restoring 55 tons of ammonia daily.
- Taking in consideration the importance of chemicals and assisting factors required for fertilizers industry, a number of working papers will be submitted highlighting the modern trends for obtaining the best performance rates.
- Using latest standards in the strategies of equipment and production units' maintenance.
- Presenting successful case studies provided by Arab fertilizer companies reflecting the distinct expertise of such companies (Arab Potash Company – OCP – SAFCO – QAFCO – GCT (Groupe Chimique Tunisien) – Oman India Fertilizer Company)

In conclusion, I would like to renew my appreciation for all the attendants and participants. In addition, I would like to extend my gratitude to OCP, with special thanks to OCP Chairman, General Director Mr. Mustafa Terrab, for the distinguished support, assistance, organization and hospitality; the matter that will have a great impact on the success of such an international technical event.

I further highly welcome the speakers, experts and international companies participating in the exhibition, wishing our three-day scientific gathering to come out with fruitful discussions, recommendations and directions. All of the previously mentioned pinpoints the strategic and future role of fertilizer industry in the promotion of efforts to achieve the desired food security.

Wishing such a gathering all success in accomplishing the set noble goals and all good for Kingdom of Morocco,