



Speech of His Excellency Dr. Samir Al Sayyad Minister of Industry and Trade

**Your Excellency: Engineer/ Mohammad Adel Al Mouzi
In Charge of Ministry of Investment Public Enterprises
AFA Board Chairman**

**Your Excellency: Ambassador/ Mohammad Mohammad Rabie
Secretary General of Council of Arab Economic Unity**

Dear: AFA Board Members

**Your Excellency: Dr. Shafik Ashkar
AFA Secretary General**

**Dear: Companies Chairmen and Representatives of Arab and
International Organizations**

Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset, allow me to welcome the distinguished attendants of today's Forum, coming from Egypt and other Arab countries, wishing them all a happy

stay. I further seize such an opportunity to express all appreciation and gratitude to AFA for the strenuous efforts exerted and effective initiative taken resulting in such an annual superb Forum. Also, I wish the Forum all success in the accomplishment of its stated goals, hence contributing in the enhancement of common Arab economic work.

With honor I join such a sublime group gathering in the 17th AFA International Annual Forum. I participate in this great event filled with hope that it would represent a genuine opportunity to reach a better future for our Arab region, making use of the attendance of a distinctive number of Egyptian and Arab companies working in fertilizer industry field.

Fulfilling the invitation to participate in such a Forum and following up AFA activities emerge from my full belief in the vital role played by the Arab technical associations in presenting a number of initiatives and suggestions, thus reflecting a striking element on which different economic strategies are founded in order to support cooperation between Arab countries.

The 17th AFA International Annual Forum takes place in a very crucial time in Egypt history that is to say after the internationally astonishing 25th of January revolution. Despite of the benefits gained by the said grand revolution, we are currently facing challenges affecting various industrial and commercial country sectors, important of which:

- The uncertainty of investors concerning the investment atmosphere in Egypt.
- The appearance of some factional protests by workers adversely affecting the production movement in most factories.
- The disturbance of work in the banking sector negatively influencing the creditworthiness of producers.

Therefore, the government sought diligently, since its very beginning, to combat and overcome the previously stated obstacles. Ministry of Industry and Foreign Trade rapidly dealt with all related sectors and held meetings with representatives from all exporting councils and commercial and industrial chambers with the aim of identifying and solving the arousing problems. The Ministry also convened prolonged and intensified meetings with a number of Arab and foreign ambassadors in Egypt, so as to convey an assuring message, to Egypt commercial partners, with reference to the economic affairs in Egypt. All these meetings highlighted the following issues:

1. Pursuing the free economic open policies of Egypt, welcoming foreign investments, enabling the national private sector to effectively participate in

boosting the country development process and having a positive government role assisting in the achievement of social justice.

2. Abiding by all Egypt international agreements and executing all signed commercial treaties.

3. Continuing the fruitful and constructive cooperation with Egypt commercial partners and emphasizing on the importance of fostering relations with partner countries, as a means of overcoming such a critical phase witnessed by Egypt.

4. Building on the achievements of the past period together with the government commitment to expand the base of foreign economic relationships with different countries, via a network of commercial agreements assisting in opening new markets for Egyptian exports.

5. Emphasizing the current government keenness on reaching social justice, combating poverty and creating job opportunities for the new generations in a way helping to encourage the domestic demand in the Egyptian market.

6. Working on attracting Arab and foreign investments, especially the ones related to the transfer of technology, assimilation of man power and provision of added value.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Convening such a Forum, in the shed of the current challenges facing food sector and agricultural production increase, taking in consideration the looming international food crisis and food prices hike, represent a great challenge before the food importing countries especially Egypt. Nevertheless, the attendance of such a great number of international associations and organizations chairmen in addition to the heads of huge companies working in the field of fertilizer industry reflect the great position of Egypt regionally and internationally. Furthermore, this underscores the special status of fertilizer industry in Egypt particularly and Arab region generally.

Fertilizer industry in Egypt has witnessed tangible developments, during the last few years, with fertilizer exports representing 26% of the total exports of the Export Council for Chemicals. To elaborate, Egypt fertilizer exports increased to reach 5.7 billion pounds in 2010, representing a rise of 12% compared to 2009, bearing in mind that exports value of 2006 exceeded not 1.2 billion pounds.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am totally confident that the productive and positive collaboration, between all the associations concerned with fertilizer industry in Arab and other countries, will inevitably lead to overcoming some of the current world crises. I would also like to express my appreciation to all the recommendations resulting from the periodical annual conferences organized by AFA. It is noteworthy that during the coming phase the Ministry will study the referred to recommendations in an attempt to set a mechanism effectuating them. This effort will take place in coordination with the Ministry counterparts in Arab countries.

At the end, I thank all who participated in the success of such a Forum, being an important event for strengthening communication and entrenching cooperation between governmental bodies and private sector highlighting the developed initiatives in the fields of trade, investment and other related fields of common interest.

Regards

Dr. Samir Al Sayyad
Minister of Industry and Trade
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