

Inaugural Speech

by

**His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Bin Saleh Al-Sada
Minister of Energy and Industry
Qatar Petroleum Chairman & Managing Director**

at the

**80th International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA) Annual
Conference**

**22 May 2012 , 11:00A.M.
Ritz Carlton Hotel**

**Mr. Luc Maenaë, IFA Director General,
Mr. William J. Doyle, IFA President,
Mr. Khalifa Al-Suwaidi, CEO of QAFCO,
IFA Members,**

**Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

A very good morning to you all.

It is my pleasure to welcome all of you here in Doha and sincerely wish a great success for your conference. It is a reflection of a remarkable international cooperation and joint efforts for serving the world to make it a better place.

I understand, the global fertilizer industry produces some 170 million tonnes of fertilizer nutrients annually. These are used in every corner of the globe to support agricultural production. There is no substitute for the plant nutrients and fertilizers being the major source for the same, therefore they represent an essential ingredient in the drive towards world food security.

I am really delighted to see such a distinguished attendance from all the four corners of the globe. Your presence here emphasizes the increasing importance of the role that the Arab world in general and GCC in particular has been playing in global fertilizer

manufacturing and marketing. Qatar is one of the prominent GCC nitrogenous fertilizer producer and exporter to the world.

With the combination of population growth and the diminishing availability of arable land, the role of nitrogenous fertilizers, in the production of food will continue to be crucial. The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization has predicted that food production will need to increase by 70% to feed an additional 2.3 billion people by 2050. The world fertilizer industry, along with others in the food production supply chain is working hard to meet this target and the GCC

fertilizer producers will continue to play a very important role in it.

Currently, GCC is responsible for about 16% of the world's total nitrogen exports, and is also positioned to cater to 18 % of the world Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) export market.

Besides these nitrogenous and phosphatic nutrients, GCC contributes another very vital ingredient for the production of fertilizers, that is Sulphur.

Although Sulphur is a by-product for the hydrocarbon industry, it is an essential building block for producing fertilizer and is in itself a secondary nutrient needed for the growth of plants. GCC states with their abundance of Sulphur, export an estimated 6.2 million tonnes per year or about 18% of the world total. With the expansion of oil and gas operations, availability of this product in the region is set to increase further.

Another aspect that supports the mineral fertilizer industry of the GCC states is their ideal location vis-a-vis some of the largest importing nations, like India, which alone accounts for about 20% of the world's total nutrient trade. South Asia is the largest export market for GCC nitrogen products followed by South East Asia, North America, Africa and Oceania.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At this inaugural session of the 80th International Fertilizer Industry Association Annual conference here in Doha, I pay a rich tribute to all of you, who in one way or the other have been contributing to the food security of the world.

As we know, food security is a vital component of national and global security. Securing food sustainability for people has been and still is the major concern for economic and comprehensive development everywhere in the world. The process of securing food to respond to the growing needs

of the world's population under global climate change, remains a great concern, and represents one of the main challenges for the humanity.

Food security is directly linked to the agriculture industry. Therefore, efforts have been directed towards the development of close linkage between the industry and agriculture, incorporating the use of technological advancements. In this context, the fertilizer industry stands as one of the most important industrial bases that serve and develop global agricultural production by enhancing the quality of production, while at the same time increasing the yield.

It is heartening to note that the Global fertilizer industry has progressively developed over the past few decades and has contributed considerably to increase agricultural production worldwide. This highlights the ability of the fertilizer industry and its leaders to address the current and future global challenges.

This conference therefore is of vital importance as the current situation of food and nutrition in the world necessitates a collaborative effort to face these challenges. Hence, the industry players should adopt a common vision with regard to the near and distant future, a vision that helps develop the

fertilizer industry and ensures that it plays a sustainable role that is beneficial for the whole world.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Your meeting today represents a good opportunity for exchanging experiences; deepening the concept of collaborative international work which should positively reflect on further development of the fertilizer industry. The ever increasing global demand for food indicates, the world cannot meet this challenge except through the adoption of modern agricultural technologies and increasing the yields of the crops by utilizing more fertilizers.

In this scenario, the MENA region, specially the GCC countries are expected and highly required to play a dynamic role as they have an abundance of availability of raw material for mineral fertilizer production. Benefiting from the wise and visionary leadership of His Highness the Emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Qatar has already made great strides in this direction through huge expansion in the production facilities of QAFCO, which has grown from a modest manufacturer to a giant producer and seller of nitrogenous fertilizers. With the inauguration

of Qafco-5 last year, we have become the world's largest single-site producer of ammonia and urea. We expect to further enhance this position after inauguration of Qafco-6 project at the end of

this year. The export of urea from Qafco will reach 5.6 million tons next year, representing about one-eighth (1/8th) of the world's traded urea.

Before I conclude let me remind you of the importance of food security of the world in the words of the Prophet Mohammad (Peace be upon him) who said "Any community, whosoever they are, if a person among them became hungry, they will be removed from the protection of Allah the Blessed, the Supreme." [Ahmed]

So, Ladies & Gentlemen, the success of the fertilizer industry is not only linked to its economic viability or commercial success but transcends to support the very existence of life on this earth as it relates to both body & soul of the humanity at large.

Once again let me wish you all the very best for the success of this conference and enjoy the hospitality of Doha, which symbolizes a center of change for the betterment of life for the citizens of this world.

Thank you.