

Dear President of the Turkish Cement Manufactures' Association

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Arab Union for Cement and Building Materials, to extend thanks and appreciation to the Turkish Cement Manufactures' Association for inviting me to participate in the Association's celebrations of the 100<sup>th</sup> Year of Turkish Cement Industry. The celebration of this event has great significance at this particular time due to what the Turkish cement industry has achieved at the local, regional and global levels, as Turkey has become one of the major cement producers and marketers in the Middle East. This was not only confined to cement production, but it also included generating industries for means of cement production and machines, and thus Turkey became one of the main supplier of cement equipment.

The unique position of this industry makes the top its pyramid, represented by TCMA, a pioneer and an important reference for consultancies and training; it is even an institute for cement industry, which benefited those working in this industry of Arab and the Middle East countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On this occasion, I would like to present a brief review of the cement industry in Arab countries during 2010. Arab cement industry has developed over the past years, with number of plants and mills reaching 183 units, mostly in the Arab Mashreq and the GCC countries. Design capacities registered 210 million tons of clinker and 236.5 million tons of cement in 2010, 75% of which are in the Arab Middle East countries. Actual production reached 196 million tons, and consumption was 204 million tons, 156 million tons of which were in the Arab Mashreq and the GCC countries. As for cement trade, imports declined and reached 17 million tons, 10 million tons of which were into the GCC countries; while exports registered 6 million tons.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Cement capacities in Turkey, with more than 100 million tons, and cement capacities in the Arab countries, up to 236 million tons, in addition to Iran, Pakistan and the Middle East countries, account for more than 500 million tons annually. This represents a high percentage of the total world cement industry, rendering these countries a major player.

This necessarily requires cooperation between cement organizations and associations in these countries. We, in the Arab Union for Cement and Building Materials value and are proud of the long relationship we have with the TCMA.

Finally, I do congratulate you on this occasion and wish to strengthen cooperation between our Union and your Association.

Eng. Ahmad Al-Rousan

A.U.C.B.M. Secretary General