



**Opening Speech of Dr Ashkar**  
**20<sup>th</sup> Int'l. Technical Fertilizers Conference & Exhibition**  
**19-21 June 2007, Tunisia**

His Excellency, Afify Shalaby	Minister of Industry, Energy and Small and Medium Enterprises
Mr. Ridha TOUITI	President Director General of Compagnie des Phosphates de Gafsa/ Groupe Chimique Tunisien
Dr. Nizar Fallouh	AFA Chairman
Mr. Hedhili Kefi	Representative of the Tunisian Companies and Member of AFA Board of Directors
Excellencies,	Members of AFA Board, the General Assembly and Representatives of International Organizations & Institutions

***Dear Participants,***

It gives me pride and pleasure to welcome his Excellency, Minister of Industry, Energy and Small and Medium Enterprises and to extend our deep appreciation to his good self for sponsoring the 20<sup>th</sup> AFA International Technical Fertilizers conference held under the theme: “Fertilizers Industry: Technological Developmenten & Environmental Protection”.

I would like further to express gratitude for his Excellency the Minster for the concern given the Arab Fertilizer Association and for his interest in introducing any new development in the fertilizers or technological domains to improve and promote the industry.

Such efforts would maximize the industry benefits and create a formidable work environment and general ambience in order to achieve the mission statement of AFA namely:

“Best utilization of available natural resources, to accomplish highest  
achievement of added value together  
with effective contribution in economic & social development”.



*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Tunisia hosts for the fourth time this international technical conference, a matter that undoubtedly emphasizes the keenness and awareness of people working in the fertilizers industry in Tunisia of the importance of such industry and its impact on the implementation of the economic development programs.

Tunisia aims at maximizing benefits of phosphate rocks and creating more work opportunities so as to contribute in stimulating a social development nationwide spearheaded by major companies such as:

- Compagnie des Phosphates de Gafsa
- Groupe Chimique Tunisien
- Granuphos

The abovementioned companies have an experience in extracting and processing raw phosphate rocks that exceeds a 100 years of excellence and remarkable results.

In going back to the conference which will take 3 working days. It will tackle a total of 28 working papers

- 15 working papers submitted by international companies specialized in fertilizers, equipment, facilities and safety.
- 13 working papers from Arab companies touching upon successful experiences and experiments in fertilizers' industry as well as environment protection.

Nearly 500 hundred participants representing thirty foreign and Arab countries have joined the proceeding of the conference in order to draw benefits of scientific developments for the sake of their institutions, companies and future of this industry.

An industrial exhibition will be held on the peripheral of the conference where 15 international and Arab companies will showcase their products.

*Your Excellency, Sponsor of the Conference*  
*Ladies and Gentlemen*

It has become imperative on the Secretariat General of the Arab Fertilizer Association to extend its deep appreciation and gratitude to the Tunisian companies supporting the conference Special thanks is due to:



- *His Excellency, Mr. Ridha TOUITI*
- *His Excellency, Mr. Hedhili Kefi*

Who spared no effort to provide all kinds of support and assistance along with their team of industrial companies. Such support was evident in the meticulous organization of this conference, a matter which underscored their determination to make a success out of it.

Thank You Again

May God Guide our steps to be of benefit to the fertilizers industry and the Mankind