

Egypt's Output Surge Marginally in September

Egypt's output has increased marginally when compared with 384,000 tonnes during September this year. Libyan crude steel output in October '15 too increased during the month. The country had not recorded production during Sep '15. Morocco's production jumped higher over the previous month. South African production increased by 25,000 tonnes when matched with the previous month.

According to the recent data published by the World Steel Association, the crude steel

production by the African region declined by 1.5% during the month of October year-on-year.

Egypt produced 400,000 tonnes of crude steel, considerably lower by 19% when compared to 494,000 tonnes production achieved during October 2014. Libya's crude steel output dropped to 15,000 tonnes during the month of October this year, when matched with 42,000 tonnes produced during the same month a year before. Morocco's output plunged by 42% to 30,000 tonnes,

when compared to 52,000 tonnes production achieved during October 2014. South Africa's crude steel output increased considerably by 23.8% to 650,000 tonnes during the month when matched with the production figures of 525,000 tonnes during the same month a year before.

Chinese Firm To Set Up \$20m Steel Pipe Unit in Sohar



China-based Jiangsu Changbao Steel Tube Company is planning to set up a \$20 million manufacturing unit in Sohar for producing 50,000 tonnes of special steel pipes per annum for a wide range of industries including oil and gas, chemical and automobile industry.

Sohar Port and Freezone has signed a lease agreement with Jiangsu Changbao Steel Tube, which produces seamless steel pipes for a broad range of industries including petroleum, chemicals, automobile and machinery manufacturing.

The signing ceremony to finalise the new contract took place with Sohar Port and Freezone chairman Sultan bin Salem Al Habsi.

The new manufacturing facility, which will be located in Sohar Freezone, involves an initial investment of approximately \$20 million and will specialise in the production of steel piping and related products for the Omani and regional oil and gas industries.

It is estimated that the annual capacity at the new plant will be 50,000 tonnes of steel pipes and tubular products, with part of the output destined for export to the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) and other markets.

Billed as one of China's oldest seamless steel tube mills, Jiangsu Changbao specialises in the manufacture of high-end pipes and tubular products for the oil and gas industry. Its expansive facilities in China, comprising five hot-rolling mills and eight treading lines, are equipped to produce 750,000 tonnes of seamless steel tubes, including 250,000 tonnes of tubing, 250,000 tonnes of casing and 150,000 tonnes of boiler pipes every year.

Aside from the oil and gas industry, the company's products also cater to the power generation and energy sectors, and are marketed across the world, including Europe, the United States, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Africa, Middle East and other regions.

"We are delighted to have signed this new lease agreement with Jiangsu Changbao. Changbao, which is already a supplier for a number of Sohar tenants, including METS, and as with all our work here in the Freezone, we hope to eventually combine projects and provide synergised services to increase ease of business and value for tenants," said Sohar Freezone chief executive officer Jamal Aziz.

Middle East Crude Steel Production Tumble 9% in October



According to most recent data published by the World Steel Association (World Steel), the crude steel production by the Middle East region dropped sharply by 8.9% during the month of October '15 year-on-year. The region's crude steel output totaled 2.267 Million tonnes during October this year, as compared with 2.490 Million tonnes during the same month a year before.

The total crude steel production by Iran during October was 1.380 Million tonnes, considerably down by 4.4% in comparison with the October 2014 production of 1.444 Million tonnes. Qatar produced 216,000 tonnes of crude steel, sharply lower by 22.3% when compared to 278,000 tonnes production achieved during October 2014. Meantime, Saudi Arabia's crude steel output edged lower over the previous year to around 400,000 tonnes during October this year. The total crude steel production by the UAE during October was 272,000 tonnes, significantly higher by 20.7% in comparison with the October 2014 production of 225,000 tonnes.

The cumulative crude steel output by the Middle East region during the initial ten months of current year totaled 23.175 Million tonnes, marginally lower by 0.1% when compared with the output of 23.190 Million tonnes during the corresponding ten-month period in 2014.