

Arab Iron & Steel Union urges protecting regional Industry

The Arab Iron and Steel Union board of directors met in Dubai recently, in the presence of its members representing the iron and steel industry in Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt, Qatar, Jordan, Algeria and Bahrain.

The participants discussed several subjects on top of which is the unjustified sudden increase in imports to the Arab region, whether from reinforced steel or flat steel products, in very low prices, causing severe damages to the national industry in the concerned Arab countries.

They warned of the destructive effect, particularly of the Chinese imports entering the region in prices much less than the international and local prices, thus threatening the Arab companies whose local markets are exposed to severe dumping,



affecting its production volume and profits as well, which in turn damages the large investments in current and future steel industry projects.

The huge production surplus in China instigated several countries, including Canada and America, to impose dumping fees of around 110 percent. While Turkey increased its customs fees on reinforced steel from 15-30 percent to 30-40 percent, some European

countries also imposed 13-45 percent customs protection fees on the Chinese flats steel products.

Since the Chinese production of reinforced steel and flat steel sweeps global markets, the Arab Iron and Steel Union warned the Arab governments that the lack of influential customs protection in most of the region's countries will lead to escalation of the problem.

The union also called on the governments to review the customs fees on imports, and raise it to the level that could stave off the threat of cheap imports, and to put into effect the measures that would ensure compliance of imported iron with the standard specifications that guarantee quality product along the lines of the local product.

Solb Misr invests USD 100 million in Ataqa Plant



Amwal Alghad reported that Egypt based steel group, Solb Misr has pumped investments worth USD 100 million to establish a new production line for its Ataqa factory. Mr Gamal El-Garhy owner and chairman of Solb Misr said "That the Group's factory in Ataqa is on a total space of around 1.1 million meters. Solb Misr has recently obtained the state Industrial Development Authority's approval to produce an additional 2.5 million tonnes of steel billets annually."

Moreover, the Egyptian prominent businessmen Mr El Garhy stressed that the country's factories and companies are capable of filling the national projects' needs of steel. He expected that the coming phase would witness a growing demand for steel products by 20% to 25%, triggered by the country's ongoing national projects.

This section is a compilation from various company press releases, business dailies & trade publications

Egyptian Iron and Steel net loss widened to EGP 125 million in Q1



Egypt Independent reported that the Egyptian Iron and Steel Company net loss widened to EGP 125 million in the Q1 of 2014 to 2015 from EGP 112 million a year earlier. Its board report attributed the drop to low production volumes as a result of the disruption of cooking coal supplied to its plants, which stood at 40% of the contracted amount, leading to a halt of three of its four furnaces.

In related news, the company incurred

EGP 35 million in losses due to a five day cease of operations as a result of a workers' strike and operations are now back to normal despite an ongoing protest by workers demanding the payment of FY2013 to 2014 bonus.

The Center for Trade Unions and Workers Services said that halting operations at the only functional furnace in the factory could cause tens of millions of pounds in losses.



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