

Cimenterie Nationale Participates in the 7th Arab International Conference and Exhibition on Environment Protection in Cement & Building Materials Industries

Cimenterie Nationale (CN) participated in the "7th Arab International Conference and Exhibition on Environment Protection in Cement & Building Materials Industries held from the 10th to the 12th of November, at Phoenicia Intercontinental Hotel and organized by the Arab Union for Cement and Building Materials, in cooperation with the Lebanese Cement Companies, the Arab League (Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment), and the United Nations Environment Program. In addition to its participation in the Organizing Committee, Cimenterie Nationale held an exhibition pavilion and gave a presentation entitled "Green Is Smart".

This conference attracted more than 400 people working in the cement and building materials industries, from Europe and the Arab world, along with representatives of the ministries of environment and industry, and international and Arab corporations and bodies, specialized in pollution monitoring and follow-up on environmental regulations.

Founded in 1953, Cimenterie Nationale has been awarded the ISO 14001 certification for the Environment, reflecting its engagement to constantly remain an environmentally responsible cement manufacturer. As such, the company abides by the highest international environmental standards in terms emissions and dust reduction, waste management and recycling, and is continuously and heavily investing in its production facilities to keep them in line with these standards.

Moreover, Cimenterie Nationale has launched a series of environmental initiatives, such as the turtle monitoring project (which entailed a full-fledged beach cleaning operation in Chekka), in addition to various reforestation activities. The company also provides continuous support to many associations and projects, such as the Bsouss Silk Museum, the Ecocitoyen Libanais Project launched by the "TERRE Liban" Association and the "Abu Zreik" national reforestation campaign (a leading endeavor also initiated by TERRE Liban).

The health and safety of employees in the workplace is an absolute priority for Cimenterie Nationale. As such, CN has developed a series of measures that are in line with the highest safety standards, which range from consistent use of appropriate protective equipment to undertaking continuous awareness and training sessions revolving around safety issues. By doing that, the management intends to fulfill its goal in having a "zero-accident" working environment.

Cimenterie Nationale currently produces 2.7 million tons of cement per year (of which 1.7 million tons were sold in the local market in 2009, while a million tons were exported to Syria,

Iraq and other countries of the Mediterranean Basin). As such, the local market share of Cimenterie Nationale is between 35 and 40 percent, and the company is now considered the biggest cement producer in Lebanon, and the largest cement exporter from Lebanon to Syria and western Iraq. The company is a major socioeconomic player as it provides job opportunities in Lebanon for a large number of citizens (550 direct jobs and more than 1000 indirect jobs).

The Arab Union for Cement and Building Materials is an inter-Arab International organization, affiliated to the General Secretariat of the Arab League and the Council of Arab Economic Unity. It aims at developing and supporting technical, industrial and commercial relations; coordinating industrial activities amongst its members in the field of cement and building materials; and achieving technical and economical integration among Arab countries.