

Egyptian Minister of Industry attends inauguration of Suez Cement's new bag filter system in Helwan

The filter system reduces dust emissions levels to a maximum of 10mg/m³, which is well below Egyptian and European standards and is part of Suez Cement's more than LE 500 million program to improve environmental standards at its facilities across Egypt

Cairo, 17 November 2013. Helwan Cement Company, a subsidiary of Suez Cement Group of Companies (SCGC), inaugurated its new bag filter system today that is set to significantly reduce plant dust particle emissions. Mr. Omar Mohanna, SCGC's chairman, and Mr. Bruno Carré, SCGC's CEO, welcomed H.E. Mounir Fakry AbdelNour, Minister of Trade and Industry, Eng. Mohamed El Sewedy, Chairman of the Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI), Eng. Tarek Tawfik and Eng. Zaki Abdou Bassiouny, the two Deputy Chairmen of FEI, a number of board members of the Federation of Egyptian Industries, representatives from Governmental and Non-Governmental organizations and Civil Society to the Helwan cement plant.

"Suez Cement Group of Companies chose a long time ago to be committed to sustainability. Economic development, environmental protection and social development are the three pillars of sustainability, which comprise the foundation of our performance parameters as well as the challenges faced by the company," stated Mr. Mohanna. *"Our commitment to these three pillars is growing because they enhance our competitiveness in the Egyptian market. We also believe our efforts in this area play a key role in the development of Egyptian society."*

Minister AbdelNour applauded SCGC on its ongoing commitment to the environment.

"On behalf of the government of Egypt, I wish to congratulate SCGC for its impressive environmental record. The new filter system is a perfect example of how the Egyptian government and industry can work together to equip facilities with the best technologies available in terms of production and environmental impact," he added.

In his speech, Mr. Carré reiterated his company's overarching goal to better protect the environment.

“Our unquestionable commitment to the environment strives to go beyond what is required. This project is part of the company's ongoing efforts to continue reducing our environmental impact and implement best-in-class technologies across our five cement plants through an ambitious program, which will cost more than LE 500 million when completed,” he said. “The new bag filter system is equipped with the latest available technology so plants produce the lowest possible dust emission levels in the industry. The filter will reduce Helwan Cement Company's dust emission rates to a maximum of 10mg/m³, which is lower than current Egyptian and European legal standards.”

Since 2005, SCGC has invested a significant percentage of its industrial investments — more than LE 500 million — in the implementation of comprehensive environmental and safety policies.

Thanks to this modernization program, all SCGC plants have considerably lowered their dust emission rates to below industry and governmental limits. The program encompasses several major pollution abatement and emissions control projects launched in cooperation with the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) and the World Bank.

Under the Environmental Pollution Abatement Project (EPAP I and EPAP II), SCGC installed new electrostatic precipitators and gas conditioning towers in its five plants, which decreased dust emissions from 450 mg/m³ to 50 mg/m³.

All SCGC plants are ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 certified. They are also subject to comprehensive audits by the EEAA to ensure full compliance with local standards.

Futhermore, SCGC is working to replace traditional fossil fuels used to produce energy with alternative fuels that will reduce overall carbon dioxide emissions. The emissions produced by alternative fuels, including biomass fuels, are considered “carbon neutral”. Some of the byproducts of these processes can even be used to create other products.

The company is committed to development by providing industry-leading building solutions to support Egypt's commercial and infrastructure projects. Over the past eight years, SCGC has introduced affordable and environmentally-friendly products for local housing developments using the most energy efficient methods.

Moving forward, SCGC hopes to build a better future for generations to come in partnership with the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, local NGOs, United Nations agencies, schools, hospitals and universities. It has also promoted

a number of development programs aimed at improving living conditions of impoverished communities in Helwan, Suez and Minya as well as creating new job opportunities. To date, SCGC has invested more than LE 30 million in such social projects.

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About Suez Cement Group of Companies

With an industrial network of five production facilities in Suez, Kattameya, Tourah, Helwan and El Minya, Suez Cement Group of Companies is one of the largest cement producer in Egypt.

The company has a long-standing history in the market, yet is innovative in launching new brands and products to meet on-market needs. Suez Cement is home to more than 3,500 employees who participate in continuous training and advancement. The group has an active safety and environmental policy, which is imperative for building a sustainable environment for employees and the communities in which it operates. The group has proudly built some of Egypt's most well known landmarks and is building its future around serving the market and growing customer demands.