

Press Release

## **Abu Dhabi to host Middle East's Aluminium Experts at 17<sup>th</sup> ARABAL Conference**

**Abu Dhabi, 23 September 2013:** Arab International Aluminium Conference (ARABAL) Chairman and Founder, Mohammed Al-Naki announced today details of the upcoming ARABAL conference that will be held in November 5-7<sup>th</sup> at the St. Regis Hotel on Saadiyat Island. The event, which will be hosted by Emirates Aluminium this year, will boast local, regional and international speakers addressing both the economic and development impacts of aluminium smelting in the region.

"The success of each event in the ARABAL series has paralleled the region's increasing importance on the world stage. In 2012, the Arab world produced 7.8% of the total global production. This figure is expected to rise to 10% by 2020 as expansion and greenfield projects come on-stream," said Al-Naki.

In recent years, the growth of the aluminium sector in the region has been exponential. Ma'aden, Emirates Aluminium, QATALUM and Sohar have all come into existence in the past five years. The rapid expansion has been fuelled by a growing demand from Asia and other developing markets for a reliable supply of high-quality aluminium.

"Growth in production capacity is just one factor contributing to the Middle East's rise in importance," said Al-Naki. "In a world where quality and reliability have become the ultimate benchmarks, companies sourcing aluminium constantly look for quality products made available to them through a reliable delivery mechanism. The ability of the Middle East's aluminium producers to ensure consistent quality and reliable delivery to customers around the world is a strong competitive advantage.

This year, ARABAL will be celebrating its thirtieth anniversary, but rather than looking back on the history of aluminium production in the region, the organisers have chosen to focus on how the sector will shape the economics of the region and on the technological advances – some of which have been developed in the region – that will make aluminium production cleaner and more efficient.

"The aluminium industry has brought jobs, diversification and opportunity across the region, contributing substantially to GDP at national and regional level," said Al-Naki. "The development of innovative reduction technology, developed in-house within the UAE and already licensed for use elsewhere, has further raised the profile of our region in the global industry – especially in terms of greater operating efficiency and reduced environmental impact."

"The relative youth of the aluminium producers in the Middle East is another regional strength, as each incorporates leading-edge technologies, systems, processes and performance parameters. In fact, our region is home to some of the leaders in global aluminium industry," continued Al-Naki.

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### **Notes to Editor**

**About Arab International Aluminium Conference (ARABAL):** Arabal is the premier trade event for the Middle East's aluminium industry and the only conference in the world attended by every single primary aluminium manufacturer in the region, which makes it the conference of choice for anyone interested in the Middle East aluminium industry.



The story began in 1983 with Kuwait Aluminium Co. bringing together the leading figures in Middle East Aluminium to strengthen ties and discuss the issues of the day to provide an overview about the entire aluminium industry. Over the past 29 years, The Arab International Aluminium Conference, ARABAL, has grown to attract heads of industry from around the world to attend, speak, and exhibit, and by 2011 ARABAL attracted more than 450 delegates.

Since its foundation, and until 2009, the conference has been hosted in a different country in the Middle East region bi-annually. As of the 2010 conference in Oman, due to the impact and significant role of ARABAL, the steering committee agreed to hold the conference on an annual basis. This year's conference will be hosted by Emirates Aluminium in Abu Dhabi at the stunning St. Regis Hotel on Saadiyat Island.

**For media information, contact:**

## **17<sup>th</sup> ARABAL in Abu Dhabi concludes successfully with over 600 delegates**

**Abu Dhabi, 10 November:** Emirates Aluminium (EMAL), host of the 17<sup>th</sup> Arab International Aluminium Conference held in Abu Dhabi, brought the region's premier aluminium event to a close on a high note. Making his concluding remarks at the event, Saeed Fadhel Al Mazrooei, President and Chief Executive Officer of EMAL said, "ARABAL has long been a venue for knowledge sharing and partnership formation, but this year was notable for the diversity and abundance of both."

Over 600 local, regional and international delegates, speakers, sponsors and exhibitors attended the conference to share their knowhow and expertise, and address both the economic and development impacts of aluminium smelting in the region.

"We hope that you found the experience rewarding, enlightening and fruitful. Our theme this year – together, we drive the aluminium industry forward – was an ambitious statement, but one that proved profoundly true", Al Mazrooei added.

Themed under "Together, driving the industry forward", the 17th ARABAL celebrated its thirtieth anniversary for the first time here in Abu Dhabi. "The things happening in this region are driving the market and setting new industry standards. The 650 of you who came to this year's conference are leading that charge, and we're proud to play a small role in facilitating learning, networking and knowledge-sharing between you," Al Mazrooei said. Out of the international guests, over 150 international delegates visiting Abu Dhabi were given the opportunity to visit the EMAL smelter. The tour included a drive by tour of phase one and the newly opened phase two, the power plant, reduction facilities, central maintenance services and the port area with a special stop off at EMAL's Casthouse for a conversation with EMAL employees.

A common thread wound through the opening speeches of the ARABAL 2013 conference; the opportunities available for more small and medium enterprises (SMEs) within GCC states and for greater integration amongst all Arab countries were highlighted and explained with detail and passion by H.E. Eng. Mohammed Ahmed Bin Abdul Aziz Al Shihhi, Undersecretary of the UAE Ministry of Economy, Mohammed Al Naki, Chairman of ARABAL and Saeed Fadhel Al Mazrooei, President and Chief Executive Officer for EMAL.

ARABAL will be hosted by Aluminium Bahrain (ALBA) in Bahrain next year. Al Mazrooei concluded, "Every year this event grows in size and importance, and the 2014 conference is shaping up to raise the bar again. Thank you for spending a few days with us here in Abu Dhabi. We hope you enjoyed the time you spent at ARABAL and exploring this wonderful city."

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