

OPENING ADDRESS

INAUGURAL MEETING OF NACE-JUBAIL SECTION

by

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Gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure to welcome you to the inaugural meeting dinner of NACE-Jubail Section a local Chapter of National Association of Corrosion Engineers (NACE) International – West Asia and Africa Region. It is long overdue to have such a strategically important association in Jubail since the city probably has the highest concentration of major industries in the Region. Thus, I am delighted that this Chapter is at last established for promoting corrosion awareness and to discuss and provide solutions to corrosion problems. As pioneer members of NACE-Jubail, tonight you are part of a history making ceremony.

Corrosion is a major degradation process by which the components and structures in industries and infrastructures fail prematurely and cause significant economic losses. Corrosion of our assets and protection of the environment are very important issues which affect all of us. All metals corrode over time when exposed to moisture and in coastal city like Jubail; where the intensity of corrosion is very high. Metals are subjected to excessive corrosion attacks due to high humidity, seawater, high water table in winter, sabkha soil, flare emissions, sunlight, seasonal temperature variations, industrial chemicals, industrial pollutions, etc. Steel is most commonly and widely used metal in structures, machineries, plants and industrial installations. Even in developed countries the loss due to corrosion is quite high to the extent of 3% to 4% of GDP.

NACE-Jubail Section is being established at a time when the city is in the midst of a massive program of development to establish the second phase of the industrial city. . NACE-Jubail Chapter is of direct relevance to these endeavours because quite a large number of structures with steel, reinforced concrete and pre-stressed concrete would be constructed in these projects of infrastructure development. Metallic materials are prone to corrosion. Therefore, we need to build infrastructures that can withstand the corrosion degradation through climatic changes and environmental conditions. Better quality of materials are necessary so that the structures have long life and have better quality.

On the other hand, the aging of infrastructure is one of the most serious problems faced by the existing plants in Jubail-City most of which were built more than 20 years ago. In past decades, corrosion professionals focussed primarily on new construction specifying materials and designing corrosion prevention and control systems for plants and installations, pipelines, tanks, etc. Today, as much of the aging infrastructure reaches the end of its designed lifetime, the emphasis is on maintaining and extending the life of these valuable assets.

To tackle the menace of corrosion, it is important to understand the corrosion process, to evolve a diagnostic mechanism so that correct corrosion control measures are identified and adopted. It is a well know fact that due to dissemination of the information through local corrosion associations like NACE-Jubail, various innovative corrosion control measures are getting established.

Such networking efforts would result in lower maintenance cost and would enhance the service life of structures especially in coastal regions or in areas with lot of industrial pollution.

It is also important to standardise the techniques for investigation, design and control processes. Corrosion audit has to be practised so as to save and account the corrosion losses in a practical manner. Adequate training of professionals and workers would greatly facilitate the control measures. With massive infrastructure development and upgradation programs planned, industries would need more materials and corrosion engineers who are trained to look at wider durability issues. There is a definite need for developing high corrosion resistance paints and coatings besides highly capable cathodic protection system. Corrosion control measures need to be practised appropriately in the industries.

In this respect, I hope that NACE-Jubail will provide the platform to generate ideas for addressing these concerns by bringing about greater awareness about causes of corrosion and its control.

I thank you all for attending the inaugural meeting of NACE-Jubail.

I take this opportunity to convey the best wishes of SABIC management for the success of NACE-Jubail.

Thank you.