

GCC Aluminium Production will be more than 5 Million Tonnes A Year by Mid-2014

- Mahmood Daylami

The Gulf Aluminium Council is a coordinating body that represents, promotes and protects the interests of the aluminium industry within the Gulf. The council's main objectives are to provide a forum to develop strategies for common issues and concerns facing the aluminium industry in the region, and to share best practices so as to improve the efficiency of the industry. The GAC supports the successful growth of the aluminum

industry in the GCC by enhancing the working environment in the industry through the adoption of highest safety work practices, commitment to protecting the environment and safeguarding the health and well-being of its employees and communities.

Through the council, GAC members continually explore opportunities for synergy between their operations this will further improve the region's international competitiveness.

The GAC also serves as a coordinated voice for the aluminium industry in the Gulf by acting as a representative body for its members locally and internationally. GAC was

founded by the Primary Aluminium producers in the Gulf.

Mahmood Daylami is currently secretary general of Gulf Aluminium association. He has vast experiences 33 years in all aspects of the aluminium industry. Prior to joining Gulf

Aluminium Council He was with Aluminium Bahrain

(ALBA), holding the position of Deputy Chief Executive Officer at with executive responsibilities for

smelter operations, power stations and

Calciners plants. He is also very

active member of a number of

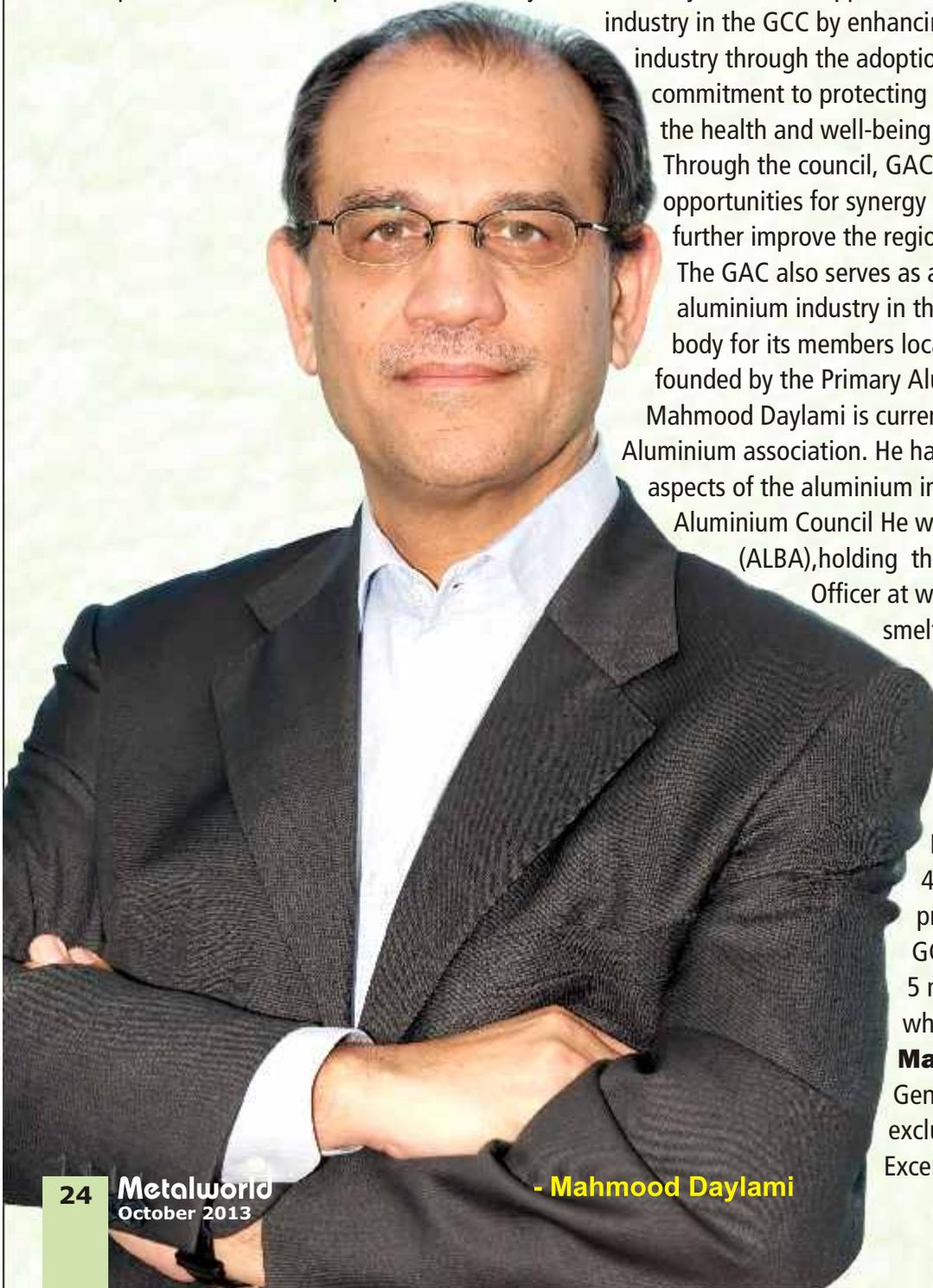
business, educational and civil

associations and societies.

"The production in the Middle East (GCC, Egypt and Iran) is around 4,500,000 tonnes a year. GCC produces more than 85% of the total GCC production and will be more than 5 million tonnes a year by mid-2014, when Emal Phase II is completed" says

Mahmood Daylami, Secretary General, Gulf Aluminium Council in an exclusive interview with Metalworld.

Excerpts



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For last few years aluminium industry is growing at sustain rate in Middle East. According to you what are the reasons that you would attribute to it?

- There are several reasons for the growth of aluminium in the Middle East. Availability of energy at a competitive price especially in the gulf, availability of capital and the desire of the governments of the region to develop sustainable industry that have potential for growth contributing to the general economy of the country and create employment.

Such strategies are supported by the increased demand for Aluminium internationally. The location of the smelter and downstream close to the International market such as Europe, Africa and Far East and availability of excellent infrastructure and transportation to reach all the potential market, makes gulf a unique Aluminium production center.

What is the present status of aluminium in the Middle East region?

- Currently, the production in the Middle East (GCC, Egypt and Iran) is around 4,500,000 tonnes a year. GCC

produces more than 85% of the total GCC production and will be more than 5 million tonnes a year by mid-2014, when Emal Phase II is completed.

According to you what are the growth areas? How do you see the future prospects (in terms of primary manufacture and downstream processing)?

- The main growth area will be in the downstream, with high possibilities for primary such as line 6 at Alba, Bahrain and Oman Rolling Mill completed construction and startup one month ago to produce 160,000 tonnes of Fins and Foil products, Ma'aden Rolling Mill in Saudi Arabia is 50% completed and by 2015 they will produce 380,000 tonnes for car products and 100,000 tonnes for Auto industry.

How can oversea participants contribute in the growth of aluminium in Gulf?

- GCC now is one of the main centers in the world for Aluminium production and Aluminium related services. All the GCC countries have plans and encourage the establishment of downstream investments in their prospective countries using Aluminium

as raw material.

Tell us about various activities of Gulf Aluminium Council?

- The Gulf Aluminium Council is a coordinating body that represents, promotes and protects the interests of the aluminium industry within the Gulf. The council's main objectives are to provide a forum to develop strategies for common issues and concerns facing the aluminium industry in the region, and to share best practices so as to improve the efficiency of the industry.

How does the council facilitates growth of Aluminium in Gulf region?

- GAC provides platform for sharing best practices in many fields in the Aluminium industry in the region such as Maintenance, Operations, Safety, Environment, Human Resources Development and try to build synergy that exist between the members.

There are working groups represented by all the smelters and where applicable by downstream to develop plan and programme that facilitates, productivity improvement, cost saving or people development, not to mention safety & environmental protection. ○○○