



شرکت ملی صنایع پتروشیمی
مدیریت برنامه ریزی و توسعه

اهم اخبار جهان پتروشیمی

شماره ۴۷۳

گزارش سیزدهمین کنفرانس GPCA در سال ۲۰۱۸

۱. ✓ سرمایه گذاری آرامکوی سعودی در صنایع شیمیایی
براساس اظهارات مدیرعامل شرکت آرامکوی سعودی، این شرکت طی ده سال آینده نزدیک به ۱۰۰ میلیارد دلار در توسعه صنایع شیمیایی سرمایه گذاری می کند. این سرمایه گذاری با هدف تبدیل روزانه بیش از دو میلیون بشکه نفت خام به محصولات شیمیایی در داخل و خارج از عربستان سعودی (بخصوص در کشورهای دارای بازارهای مصرف در حال رشد) صورت می گیرد.
۲. ✓ توسعه صنایع تبدیل نفت خام به محصولات شیمیایی در عربستان سعودی
سیاست راهبردی شرکت آرامکوی سعودی، توسعه صنایع شیمیایی با تبدیل مستقیم روزانه ۲-۳ میلیون بشکه نفت خام به محصولات پتروشیمیایی می باشد.
در این راه ، توسعه طرحهای پتروپالایشگاهی به منظور تبدیل بیش از ۷۰ درصد خوراک خام به محصولات پتروشیمیایی و احداث واحدهای تبدیل نفت خام به محصولات شیمیایی (CTC) مد نظر شرکت آرامکوی سعودی است.
۳. ✓ اقتصاد هندوستان نیازمند سرمایه گذاری های جدید در صنایع شیمیایی
تقویت رشد اقتصادی - صنعتی هندوستان و جمعیت جوان جوامع روستایی این کشور فرصتهای مناسبی برای احداث ظرفیت های جدید صنایع شیمیایی - پتروشیمیایی در هندوستان پدید آورده است ، تامین نیازهای رو به رشد این کشور نیازمند احداث ۱۴ واحد کراکر تا سال ۲۰۴۰ با سرمایه بیش از ۶۵ میلیارد دلار می باشد.
۴. ✓ افزایش صادرات پلیمری کشورهای GCC به چین
افزایش نرخ تعرفه بر واردات محصولات پلیمری آمریکا ، فرصت مناسبی پیش روی صادر کنندگان کشورهای GCC قرار داده تا بتوانند بر صادرات پلیمری خود به بازارهای چین بیافزایند.
در سال ۲۰۱۷ صنایع پلیمری ناحیه GCC در مجموع نزدیک به ۳۵/۳ میلیارد دلار (معادل ۴۲ درصد صادرات پلیمر جهان) محصولات خود را به بازارهای جهانی صادر کرده اند ، بازارهای آسیایی نخستین مقصد صادراتی این صنایع در این سال بوده اند.

- ✓ بهره برداری از مجتمع پلاستیک عمان در سال ۲۰۲۰ ۵
- براساس اعلان شرکت ORPIC مجتمع تولید پلاستیک عمان در سال ۲۰۲۰ به بهره برداری می رسد، این مجتمع سالانه ۸۰۰ هزار تن پلی اتیلن سنگین - سبک خطی و ۳۰۰ هزار تن پلی پروپیلن تولید می کند.
- ✓ زیان کشورهای جهان از بستن بازارهای خود ۶
- سیاستهای برخی کشورهای جهان در حمایت از تولیدات داخلی و بستن بازارهای خود بر واردات آثار جدی در صنایع پایین دست شیمیایی بر جای می گذارد.
- براساس اظهارات دبیر کل GPCA، هیچ کس از این سیاست ها سودی نخواهد برد بلکه برعکس اغلب کشورها از این موضوع متضرر خواهند شد. جنگ تجاری آمریکا- چین زنگ های خطر را به صدا درآورده و کاهش رشد اقتصاد جهانی را در پی دارد.
- ✓ رشد ۳/۴ درصدی ظرفیت تولیدات شیمیایی ۷
- براساس اعلان GCC (شورای همکاری خلیج فارس)، ظرفیت تولید محصولات شیمیایی این ناحیه تا سال ۲۰۲۷ از رشد متوسط ۳/۴ درصد در سال برخوردار خواهد بود.
- براین اساس ظرفیت تولید عربستان سعودی از ۱۲۰ میلیون تن در سال ۲۰۱۹ به ۱۴۷/۵ میلیون تن می رسد، کشورهای قطر و امارات متحده عربی پس از عربستان سعودی در رتبه های بعدی تولیدات شیمیایی قرار دارند.
- ✓ رشد ۶/۱ درصدی صادرات شیمیایی عربستان سعودی ۹
- صادرات محصولات شیمیایی عربستان سعودی در سال ۲۰۱۷ با رشد ۶/۱ درصدی به ۳۸/۶ میلیون تن رسیده است، کشورهای قطر و امارات متحده عربی نیز به ترتیب با ۱۰/۳ و ۹/۹ میلیون تن رتبه های بعدی را در اختیار دارند.
- ✓ آسیا، مهمترین شریک تجاری ناحیه GCC ۹
- آسیا همچنان مهمترین شریک تجاری کشورهای GCC به حساب می آید، در سال ۲۰۱۷ در مجموع ۴۵ میلیون تن محصولات شیمیایی از این ناحیه به بازارهای آسیایی صادر شده است اروپا، آفریقا، آمریکای جنوبی و آمریکای شمالی در رتبه های بعدی قرار گرفته اند.
- ✓ اقدامات کشورهای GCC برای مواجهه با سیاست های حمایت از تولیدات داخلی کشورهای جهان ۱۰
- به نظر می رسد معاملات شیمیایی تولید کنندگان ناحیه GCC در سالهای ۲۰۱۸ و ۲۰۱۹ علیرغم تنش های سیاسی بین المللی و اقدامات حمایتی از بازارهای مصرف کشورهای جهان از رشد متوسطی برخوردار باشد.
- جنگ تجاری آمریکا- چین، خروج بریتانیا از اتحادیه اروپا و خروج آمریکا از پیمان تجاری نفتا از مهمترین تنش های بین المللی به شمار می روند.
- ✓ رشد ۱۷ درصدی درآمد صنایع شیمیایی ناحیه GCC ۱۱
- در سال ۲۰۱۷ صنایع شیمیایی ناحیه GCC با رشد ۱۷ درصدی توانسته اند در مجموع به ۸۴/۲ میلیارد دلار درآمد دست یابند که پس از سال ۲۰۱۱ بالاترین نرخ رشد را نشان می دهد. افزایش نرخ جهانی نفت خام و تقویت بازارهای مصرف آمریکا، اروپا و آسیا از دلایل اصلی این رشد درآمد می باشند.

✓ رشد ظرفیت صنایع شیمیایی ناحیه GCC ۱۱

سهم کشورهای GCC در ظرفیت تولید محصولات پتروشیمیایی جهان از ۳/۲ درصد سال ۲۰۰۰ به ۶/۶ درصد در سال ۲۰۱۷ (معادل ۱۶۷ میلیون تن) افزایش یافته است ، مهمترین دلیل این رشد افزایش سرمایه گذاری در عربستان سعودی بوده است. کشور چین با ۳۷ درصد (معادل ۸۴۴ میلیون تن) بیشترین سهم را در تولیدات شیمیایی جهان به خود اختصاص داده است آمریکای شمالی با سهم ۱۴ درصدی در جایگاه دوم جهان قرار دارد.

تهیه و ترجمه: احمد کشوری

فرحناز عرب حسنی

Saudi Aramco CEO: Company's strategy will include more downstream acquisitions

Amin Nasser said in his keynote at the GPCA Forum that Aramco would invest more than \$100bn in chemicals over the next 10 years

Saudi Aramco President and CEO Amin Nasser told delegates attending the 13th annual Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA) Forum that a key Saudi Aramco objective is to bring its downstream business to the same prominence as its upstream, as the company undergoes substantial expansions in refining, marketing and lubes.

“Saudi Aramco will make the most of those prospects with chemicals investments of more than \$100 billion over the next 10 years—not including a prospective acquisition. We are expanding this business both in Saudi Arabia and in fast-growing overseas markets like China and India, with the aim of converting two million barrels per day of crude oil into petrochemicals—and we may eventually move our target higher to three million barrels.”

Nasser highlighted chemicals as the most promising element of the company’s downstream strategy. He said that chemicals will represent about one-third of world oil demand growth between now and 2030, and nearly half by 2050. Petrochemicals will add nearly seven million barrels per day (bpd) of oil demand by 2050, reaching a total of some 20 million bpd. This growth will be driven by an expanding world population and a growing middle class.

“Our ultimate target of 8-10 million barrels per day of integrated refining and marketing capacity will create a better balance between our upstream and downstream segments,” Nasser said.

He added, “Our downstream business ventures will provide a reliable destination for Saudi Aramco’s future oil production, and diversify both the company’s business portfolio and the Kingdom’s economy.”

Saudi Aramco’s downstream strategy seeks to enhance its resource base by targeting increased horizontal and vertical integration across the hydrocarbon value chain. “With a diversified, integrated, and robust business portfolio,” Nasser said, “our supply, trading, and marketing model will mitigate oil price volatility, generate additional revenues, and expand opportunities for conversion industries, local manufacturers, and service providers—all of which drive job growth and value creation.”

Negotiations are underway for a 70% stake in Riyadh-based diversified chemicals leader SABIC, with the aim of creating one of the world's strongest integrated energy and chemicals companies. The acquisition would leverage Saudi Aramco's innovative developments in crude oil to chemicals technology, or C2C, a process that eliminates the refinery stage to transform crude oil directly into valuable petrochemicals.

GPCA '18: Saudi Aramco to convert up to 3m bbl/day oil into petchems

27 November 2018 08:29

DUBAI (ICIS)--Saudi Aramco is focusing on four key strategies to expand its chemical business, in which it aims to convert about 2m-3m barrels of crude oil per day directly into petrochemical products, said Amin Nasser, chief executive of the Saudi national energy company.

"We are expanding our petrochemical business in Saudi Arabia and growing overseas market with an aim of converting almost two million to three million of crude oil into petrochemicals," Nasser said in his keynote address to the 13th Annual Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA) Forum.

"This will provide a reliable destination for Saudi Aramco's future oil production and diversify both the company's portfolio and the Kingdom's [Saudi Arabia]. It will also create additional value," said.

Nasser said the company was focusing on four key strategies for future growth of business.

"First is the integration of petrochemicals with our expanding global refining and marketing system, with oil feedstock at the heart of this strategy.

"We are targeting the conversion of up to 70% of the feedstock into petrochemicals. This challenging goal will be driven by advances in cutting-edge technology, which leads me to the second strategy," he added.

"Our chemicals vision is supported by the development of groundbreaking crude oil-to-chemicals direct conversion technologies, where we are already seeing major progress in advanced thermal and catalytic cracking processes.

He explained that technology will be one of the key enablers for the company to build profitable and sustainable business.

"By developing our own oil-centric chemicals technologies, we will enjoy a sustained competitive edge throughout our region's large resource base of oil; capture additional

value; and diversify our petrochemicals product slate, since heavier liquid feedstocks like oil offer a much wider product slate than those derived from lighter feedstocks,” he added.

Nasser said the company’s third strategy involves acquisitions.

“To reach our bold goal of converting two-to-three million barrels per day of oil into petrochemicals, both organic growth and strategic acquisitions are essential.”

Nasser said the fourth strategy is to extend beyond the core chemicals business into ‘end-use applications’ of chemical products.

“That’s why we are giving special attention to developing and promoting cutting-edge non-metallic materials derived from petrochemicals.

“I see great potential in non-metallic materials as a substitute for natural materials in a wide range of high growth industries. These include automotive, housing, construction, packaging, oil and gas, renewables, and others.”

The Annual GPCA Forum runs from 26-28 November in Dubai.

GPCA ’18: India’s strong growth requires huge chem investments – official

27 November 2018 08:56

DUBAI (ICIS)--India’s strong economic and industrial growth along with a young, urbanising population offers many opportunities for collaboration as the country requires huge investments in new capacity to meet growing demand, a government official said on Tuesday.

“To meet growing demand, India will need five crackers by 2025, and an additional 14 by 2040,” said Raghavendra Rao, secretary, chemicals and petrochemicals, at India’s department of chemicals and petrochemicals, adding that the investment potential in petrochemicals alone for these crackers is about \$65bn.

India’s strong demand growth for petrochemical intermediates also offers “Make in India” opportunities for chemical players, Rao told delegates at the 13th Annual Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA) Forum being held on 26-28 November in Dubai.

There is a huge demand-capacity gap in India expected in the 2021 fiscal year for example, with deficits expected in high density polyethylene (HDPE) and linear low density polyethylene (LLDPE) despite recent capacity expansions, he said.

Deficits are also expected in methanol, propylene and C6-based derivatives, while demand for paraxylene (PX), purified terephthalic acid (PTA) and monoethylene glycol (MEG) are expected to rise driven by the growth in polyesters, Rao said.

The Indian government has also taken several steps to facilitate investments in the country in recent times, Rao said.

This includes investments in infrastructure, mega investments regions, a more favourable tax system and promoting skilled manpower and labour, he said.

The government has also encouraged development and improvement of the country's four Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemical Investment Regions (PCPIRs) in Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.

Rao pointed the recent move by Saudi Aramco and ADNOC in June this year to jointly develop and build an integrated refinery and petrochemical complex in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra.

The complex will have a processing capacity of 1.2m bbl/day of crude oil, or 60m tonnes/year and is set to produce 10m tonnes/year of petrochemical products.

GPCA '18: GCC polymer exports to grow amid US-China trade war

27 November 2018 09:15

DUBAI (ICIS)--Polymers exports of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries are set to increase amid the US-China trade war.

China will need to look to other producers for imports in order to meet growing demand, with the GCC well positioned to fill the void following the 25% additional import tariffs imposed on most US polymers.

The GCC remains one of the major net exporters of polymers, which had a 42% share to the region's total export revenue of \$35.3bn in 2017, according to a Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA) report released in Dubai during its annual forum.

Asia was the top destination for GCC chemical exports, posting a 7% growth in 2017, and accounts for 64% of total export volume, or almost 45m tonnes.

As the US-China trade war continues to escalate, polymer players in Asia expect the full impact from the second and third rounds of additional tariffs on polymer resins and

plastic products to be felt in 2019 unless the two economic giants come to a deal soon to resolve the dispute.

“There might be optimization of exports where US suppliers will supply to China from their plants in other regions and move their cargoes from [the] US to other regions, including southeast Asia, Europe and Africa,” said a regional trader on the sidelines of the GPCA Forum.

Trade performance in 2019 will also be dependent on the global economic condition, as well as the supply-demand balance instead of commodity prices.

“At the moment, it is not a matter of price anymore when buyers make their decisions to buy their cargoes but more on the correct time to buy, especially during a price downtrend,” said a Middle East producer.

The first quarter of 2019, typically after the Lunar New Year in February, might provide a glimpse on the economic condition and how the polymers market will move for the rest of the year.

The Lunar New Year is celebrated in most parts of northeast and southeast Asia.

The 13th annual Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA) Forum runs from 26-28 November in Dubai.

GPCA '18: Oman's Liwa Plastics on track to starting up in 2020

27 November 2018 06:51

DUBAI (ICIS)--Oman Oil Refineries and Petroleum Industries Co's (ORPIC) Liwa Plastics Industrial Complex is on track to startup its polyethylene (PE) and polypropylene (PP) plants in 2020 after commissioning in late 2019, industry sources said.

Speaking to ICIS at the sidelines of the 13th Annual Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA) Forum currently underway in Dubai, company sources said that construction at the polymer plants is about 95% complete, with discussions underway on proposed production of slates and grades.

The PE unit will comprise an 800,000 tonne/year swing plant designed to produce linear low density PE (LLDPE) and high density PE (HDPE) grades using Univation technology.

The polypropylene (PP) unit operating on the Spheripol process will be designed to produce 300,000 tonnes/year.

The company plans to produce PP block and random copolymer grades in addition to homopolymers at the new facility, market sources said.

The GPCA Forum is being held on 26-28 November in Dubai.

GPCA '18: Nobody wins from closed market policies - GPCA chief

25 November 2018 01:00

SINGAPORE (ICIS)--Trade protectionism will have serious ramifications on downstream industries as it makes countries that adopt such measures less competitive in the international markets, Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA) secretary general Abdulwahab Al Sadoun said.

“We believe that nobody wins from closed market policies. On the contrary, more often than not, countries find themselves on the losing side,” he told ICIS ahead of the 13th annual forum in Dubai on 26-28 November with the theme “Executing Transformation and Investing in Growth”.

“Since its inception in 2006, GPCA has advocated for open market policies as we believe that market liberalization helps individual producers from the Arabian Gulf to gain access to key markets, and the wider industry to earn greater returns,” Al-Sadoun said.

The trade war between the world’s two largest economies – China and the US – is gradually reshaping global trade dynamics, he said.

The raging US-China trade war has raised alarm bells across the world, with economic growth projected to slow down as a result.

“We are yet to see how a fully-fledged trade war will play out long term, but some analysts are predicting a blow to globalization and global economic growth,” he said.

Prices across petrochemical markets have been falling in recent months in Asia, with market participants blaming the demand weakness to the trade struggle between the world’s economic giants.

In the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), free access to global markets is a lifeline for the regional chemicals industry as it is predominantly export-oriented with over 80% of its output shipped abroad.

“With recent moves by the US to impose import duties on the EU and China, this could drive GCC leaders to establish free-market alliances and negotiate mutually favorable terms with these countries,” Al Sadoun said.

China is the largest export market for GCC chemicals, accounting for 23% of all GCC chemical shipments, with Europe as the region’s second biggest market.

“The EU also stands to benefit significantly by reaching favorable trade agreement with the region as this would not only result in closer economic ties but afford EU consumers’ access to more competitively priced products,” the GPCA chief said.

As for the US’ sanctions on Iranian oil exports, the Middle East country’s new projects will likely be delayed and postponed in the medium to long term, Al Sadoun said, citing views from analysts.

India is expected to remain a major customer of Iranian chemicals such as plastics and urea, but Tehran’s exports to Europe will likely be hit hard, Al Sadoun said.

“GCC producers are active in many of these key markets, and the main impact from [the] US sanctions on Iran would mainly be felt on the supply side, creating new opportunities for international producers to fill the gaps,” Al Sadoun said.

The GPCA chief expects the group’s upcoming forum in Dubai to generate the same strong interest as in the previous year.

The 12th GPCA Annual Forum in 2017 attracted 2,053 delegates from 591 companies and 49 countries.

“We expect attendance to remain steady this year,” Al Sadoun said.

“This year’s program will examine strategies, case studies and the steps companies can take to enhance their transformational journey.”

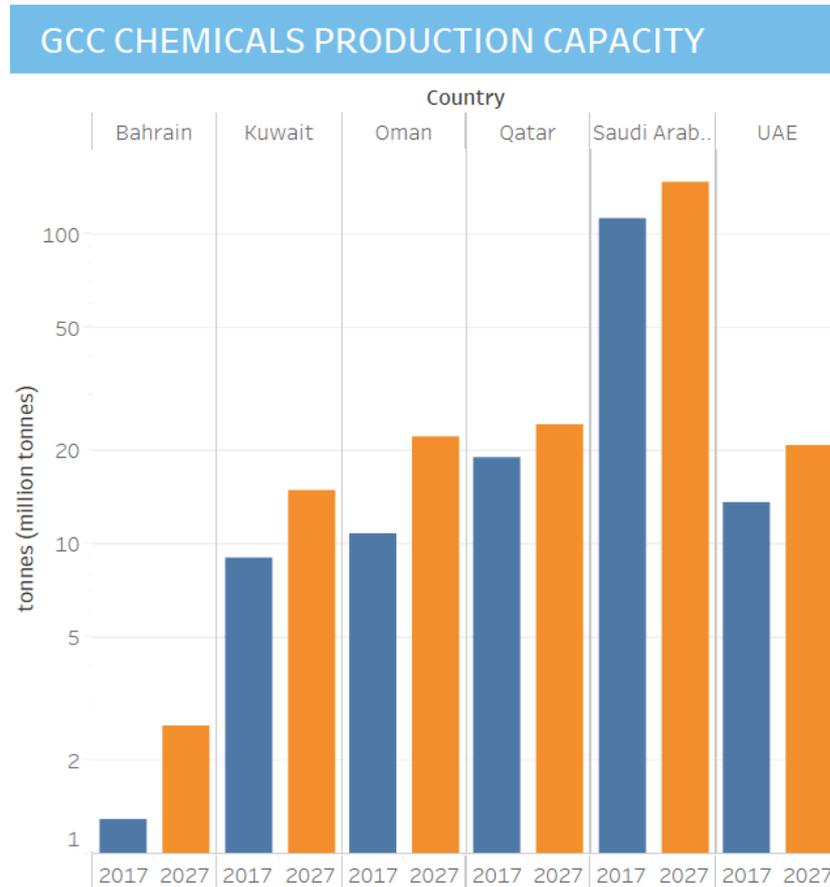
"In addition, the industry needs to invest and prepare for global growth and the challenges of a changing business environment,” he said.

GPCA '18: GCC annual chemical production capacity to grow 3.4%

26 November 2018 06:44

DUBAI (ICIS)--The Gulf Cooperation Council’s (GCC) chemicals production capacity is expected to grow by 3.4% per year through to 2027, driven by capacity additions in

Saudi Arabia, the Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA) said on Monday.



- Growth driven by investment activity on the back of rising export demand.

- In Saudi Arabia, the future forecast is for chemical production capacity to continue to rise by 2.7% per year to 147.5m tonnes by 2027. Its 2019 capacity is expected to grow to 120.8m tonnes.

- Despite uncertainties, Qatar is expected to remain one of the largest producers in the region, with about 11% in market share. Its chemical industry will grow by 1% in 2018 and 2019; with an expected acceleration in the coming year to bring the annual average growth to 2.6% between 2017-2027.

- UAE industry to grow 4.4% per year throughout 2017-2027. The Abu Dhabi National Oil Co (Adnoc) plans to triple petrochemical output by 2025.

Data taken from the GPCA Facts and Figures 2017 report released at the 13th GPCA Forum in Dubai which runs on 26-28 November 2018.

GPCA '18: Saudi Arabia chemical exports rise 6.1% in 2017

26 November 2018 07:38

DUBAI (ICIS)--Saudi Arabia's chemicals exports rose by 6.1% year on year to 38.6m tonnes in 2017, representing more than half of overall shipments abroad made by the Gulf Cooperation Council last year, data from the Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA) showed on Monday.

Overall chemical exports from Qatar grew by 1.1% year on year to 10.3m tonnes in 2017 while shipments out of the UAE were up by 4.6% at 9.9m tonnes, the GPCA said in its Facts and Figures 2017 report published during the 13th Annual GPCA Forum in Dubai.

Overall exports of chemicals in the GCC stood at 70.3m tonnes this year, compared with 37.9m tonnes in 2007, the data showed.

Overall chemical shipments from the GCC grew at a compounded annual growth rate of 6.4% in 2007-2017, according to the GPCA.

The annual GPCA forum runs on 26-28 November.

GPCA '18: Asia remains GCC largest trading partner - GPCA

26 November 2018 07:48

DUBAI (ICIS)--Asia remains the largest trading partner for the GCC, accounting for 64% of the total export volumes in 2017, or almost 45m tonnes, data from the Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA) showed on Monday.

“With this dominance, Asia is a single region determining the growth trajectory of GCC exports,” the GPCA said.

The second largest exporting markets are Western Europe (10%), followed by Africa, South America and North America, with about 6-7% share each, according to the GPCA.

The GPCA said that preliminary data shows that petrochemicals (basic, intermediates, value added chemicals) represent 40% of GCC exports to Asia, followed by polymers (30%) and fertilizers (24%).

The highest growth in 2017 was registered within the fertilizer segment, with physical volume shipments increasing by 19% year on year, driven by volume export increase from Saudi Arabia.

Within the polymer segment, exports to Asia grew by 7% in 2017, slightly higher than total export growth to Asian countries, the GPCA said.

The annual GPCA forum runs on 26-28 November.

GPCA '18: GCC chem trades to take hit from protectionist measures

26 November 2018 08:20

DUBAI (ICIS)--The Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) chemicals trading is expected to post "moderate growth" in both 2018 and 2019 amid ongoing international political tensions and spreading protectionist measures, the Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA) said on Monday.

These issues have the "potential to pose a setback to recovery of global trade", the GPCA said in its Facts and Figures 2017 report released during the 13th Annual GPCA Forum in Dubai.

"The decisions of the United States to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and to reassess the terms of its other existing trade agreements could lead to escalation in trade barriers," it said.

Uncertainty surrounding UK's negotiations for its exit from the EU, termed as "Brexit", may also undermine the global outlook via a deterioration in business confidence in Europe, the GPCA said.

Additionally, the US-China trade war continues to escalate, with the third round of tariffs imposed against each other expected to impact chemicals and polymers, it said.

Chemicals trade performance in 2019 is also dependent on continued growth within customer industries and commodity prices, the GPCA said.

"For the GCC, as commodity exporters, the rise in global commodity prices will support growth in export revenues," it said.

“As reported by the World Bank, crude oil prices are expected to average \$72/bbl in 2018 and \$74/bbl in 2019. The growth of the petrochemical industry has long been intertwined with that of crude oil and rising crude oil prices will drive up market prices for many downstream chemical intermediates and plastics.”

GPCA '18: GCC revenue growth at 17% in 2017; highest since 2011 - GPCA

26 November 2018 08:33

DUBAI (ICIS)--The overall revenue generated by the chemicals industry in the Gulf Cooperation Council rose by 17% year on year to \$84.2bn in 2017, marking the highest growth rate since 2011, the Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA) said on Monday.

This is also higher than the 9% compounded annual growth rate in revenue that the chemicals industry has registered in 2007-2017, the GPCA said in its Facts and Figures 2017 report released during the 13th Annual GPCA Forum in Dubai.

“This was a recovery year for the industry with revenue performing well in most product segments,” the GPCA said.

The average prices of 12 major petrochemicals and polymers in 2017 increased by 17%, compared with a 4% decline in the previous year.

Improvement was driven by higher crude oil prices and stronger markets in the US, Europe and Asia, the GPCA said, citing data from the ICIS Global Petrochemical Index (IPEX).

“In 2018, IPEX index has already registered a growth of 8% over 2017 average prices, giving an optimism towards 2018 results,” the GPCA said.

The annual GPCA forum runs on 26-28 November.

GPCA '18: GCC's share in global chemicals production capacity grows to 6.6%

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DUBAI (ICIS)--The Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) share in global petrochemical capacity has more than doubled from 3.2% in 2000 to 6.6% in 2017 at 167m tonnes, mostly driven by new investments in Saudi Arabia, the Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA) said on Monday.

Saudi Arabia's chemicals production capacity currently accounts for 4.4% of the global market share, the GPCA said in its Facts and Figures 2017 report released during the 13th Annual GPCA Forum in Dubai.

China leads the global industry, accounting for 37% of the world's chemical production capacity in 2017 at 844m tonnes.

However, with close to 7% growth last year, the GCC has outpaced China where production capacity increased by 4.2% and Asia-Pacific as a whole with 3.9% growth.

North America remains the second largest producer globally, representing 14% of petrochemical capacity last year.

North America's share globally has dropped from 25% in 2000.

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