

# IBNAPplus

Country Corporate Magazine of Lafarge Iraq



**Michael Watson:**  
The legendary  
expat of Lafarge  
Iraq



**Karbala Refinery**  
Project gets underway  
with the involvement of  
Lafarge



**The completion**  
of Kobane Bridge,  
Sulaimani

# TOGETHER WE'RE BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE



We have invested over 1 billion USD in the cement sector to develop infrastructure, build houses and ensure a consistently high standard of quality in building materials and construction.

We're building a unique recycling facility in Sulaimaniyah to solve the city's growing waste problem and provide an alternative source of energy.



We support our local communities through our social responsibility projects dedicated to education, health and culture.



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WE ARE  
GOING  
THROUGH  
A VERY  
TOUGH  
PERIOD  
IT IS TIME TO  
SUPPORT  
EACH OTHER

◆ ◆ ◆  
*Dear Colleagues,  
Business Partners and  
members of surrounding  
Communities,*



*Rachid Benyakhlef - Country CEO Lafarge Iraq*

We are going through a very tough period of time in Iraq. Worsening security and the economic conditions have severely impacted the economic situation in the country and dramatically decreased oil prices. The private sector is in a struggle to survive under these very challenging circumstances. Many companies face difficulties running their businesses; they decrease their staff or they cannot pay salaries. The construction

sector in general and the cement industry in particular have been heavily affected by this situation. In addition to extremely difficult market conditions, the cement industry is suffering from unfair competition of imported cement highly subsidized by the origin countries. Although the Federal Government takes some ban initiatives on borders against imported cement, we do not see similar action in the Federal Region of Kurdistan, which doesn't help to sustain the business in the region. We expect regional authorities will be more supportive in this respect to protect the national industry that creates economic and social value for the country.



**THE ONLY WAY TO MANAGE  
THIS CRISIS IS TO SUPPORT  
EACH OTHER**

The only way to manage this crisis situation with minimum damage is to support each other and act together. Only this way can we save the future of our business. We need to understand that we all are in the same boat and no one will survive if the boat sinks. *It is time to be in solidarity and support each other by thinking of the common good rather than individual expectations or the interests of a certain group that we belong to.* Our colleagues, business partners and our local communities should see that we spend all possible efforts to keep the business running, paying salaries and to meet contract obligations in this very tough period. We also keep supporting our local communities by creating economic and social value direct and indirect ways. But we ask our local communities for more understanding as we cannot meet additional expectations such as creating new jobs or providing direct financial support during this difficult period due to reasons mentioned above. Our first and foremost priority is to keep our business alive and to achieve this, we all must adapt to the current situation and sacrifice as needed.

**GOOD NEWS REFLECTING  
OUR BELIEF IN THE FUTURE**



*Despite the heavy crisis we are going through, there is good news that strengthens our hopes for the future.* The Karbala Refinery Project is a large and significant infrastructure project has recently been launched and as Lafarge Iraq, we are very glad to be one of the contributing companies in this project. We recently had a meaningful day of events in Sulaimani, where we operate the Bazian and Tasluja cement plants in business partnership with Faruk Holding.

The first event was the opening ceremony of the new electro-static filter in Tasluja Cement Plant. The new 'de-dusting' filter ensures that air in the plant and its surrounding areas is now much cleaner and the filtration system is infinitely more efficient than the old one. Dr. Aso Faraidun, the Governor of Sulaimani City, Hawre Daro, CEO of Faruk Group, Saad Sabbar, Head of Middle East & Africa Region at LafargeHolcim, and other distinguished guests from the local authorities and universities as well as a large group of media members and our plant teams attended the ceremony. The new \$6 million filter system now in operation at the Tasluja Cement Plant is the biggest investment made at the plant since the beginning of the partnership of Lafarge and Faruk Holding in cement operations. The second event was about the community investment projects in the Tasluja area with an approximated total value of \$1 million. The final event was the opening of the new mechanical training center located at the Bazian Cement Plant. The training center will allow for staff to receive vital training courses in-country and will also welcome Lafarge employees from across the region as it is their second training center in the Middle East and Africa and home to the only Mini-plant simulator in the region.

We hope to see good news like this more and more in the near future.

I look forward to getting to know you in the coming issue.  
Yours sincerely

# RISK ASSESSMENT

## FUNDAMENTAL TO HEALTH & SAFETY

A proper risk assessment is the very first step to prevent any possible accident in the work place or outside. To do this you need to think about what might cause harm to people and decide whether you are taking reasonable steps to prevent that harm. This is known as risk assessment. People are often put off by the idea of risk assessment because they think it is over

complicated, difficult to complete and unnecessary. A risk assessment is simply looking closely at what in your place of work or about your work activities could cause harm to your employees and visitors to your workplace (e.g. customers, suppliers, sales representatives etc.) and determining the control measures you can implement to minimise the risk.

### There are 3 basic steps to a Risk Assessment:

- 1

Identify the hazards
- 2

Identify the level of risk for each hazard
- 3

Identify the controls or improvements that need to be put in place to avoid or reduce the risk.

(i.e. anything that has the potential to cause harm, in terms of human injury or ill-health. For example working with chemicals, dangerous substances or dangerous equipment).

(i.e. the chance/likelihood of harm occurring, coupled with how severe the harm or ill health could be). Decide who could be harmed and how and give consideration to vulnerable groups (e.g. young persons, the elderly, pregnant employees, shift workers etc.).

Your control measures are the most significant part of the risk assessment, as they set out the steps that must be followed to protect people.



**STOP:** Take a step back and look around your work place  
**THINK:** Think what might affect your health and safety  
**OBSERVE:** Observe safety, good practices and apply  
**PROCEED:** Do your work in safe manner

**STOP**  
The Pre-Job Risk Assessment to the working ensures that all risks related to working environment are defined and addressed to ensure a safe working environment for you and your team. STOP should be performed prior to any activity and at the time of shift change as the conditions might change. The 5 minutes to be reserved for STOP might save your life.





After almost  
50 years in the  
cement industry  
**Michael Watson,**  
the legendary expat of  
Lafarge Iraq departs.  
Here he tells us  
about his story.



Michael Watson

#### First step of a long career:

***“I watched the cement  
plant being built  
and decided that  
I would like  
to work there”***

I was born in Newcastle upon Tyne in the north of England. I studied part time at Sunderland and Teesside Polytechnics, both now Universities, and graduated as a Qualified Chartered Industrial Chemist. I started work in the Laboratory at a cement plant near my home after leaving school. I had watched the cement plant being built and decided that I would like to work there. So, my first work place was Weardale Cement Plant in Co Durham UK.



**Leading the change:  
“Going forward I am sure that  
the LafargeHolcim will be very  
strong and profitable”**

I worked for Blue Circle Industries formally Associated Portland Cement Manufacturer from 1967 until 2001 during which time I had a 3 year 1 month Secondment to WAPCO in Nigeria from 1982 to 1985 after which I held 3 Plant Managers positions in the UK followed in 1999 with a Secondment to Malaysia before Lafarge took over Blue Circle in 2001.

Many senior managers left the group in 2001 during the transition of Blue Circle to Lafarge however, I have never regretted staying and working in Lafarge. Both Blue Circle and Lafarge have been very good employers to me and the combination of the two groups at that time went relatively smoothly as the synergies were positively implemented. Now we are working on new synergies with Lafarge and Holcim, great potential but not without some difficulties. Many good people are leaving and it will take time for the new group to settle into the new organisation. Going forward I am sure that the LafargeHolcim will be very strong and profitable. My hope is that all employees will enjoy their work in the new group and have the same job satisfaction that I have had over the years in the Cement Industry.

**20 years in expatriation:  
“I have no regrets and  
thoroughly enjoyed my work  
both in the UK and as an expat”**

I have been an Expat in Nigeria, Malaysia, the Philippines and Iraq.

I will never forget working in all these countries because they all have different cultures and I had many good experiences in each one. From my 48 years working I spent a total of 20 years outside the UK as an expat. At first you really think about going back home (UK) at the end of your secondment and that was the case for me in Nigeria and to an extent in Malaysia. However, once the excitement and experience of working around the world for a reliable employer kicks in it is very difficult to adapt to home



Michael Watson - 1970

life. Again, I have no regrets and thoroughly enjoyed my work both in the UK and as an expat.

**Iraq Impressions:  
“I am very pleased to see how  
the people here are really  
now working in the way of an  
international company”**

I joined Iraq BU on the 16th July 2009 just one year after Lafarge took over Orascom. At that time there were two big plants in the North, Bazian and Tasluja. There was quite a difference in culture between Lafarge and Orascom in the way operations were managed, however, the job was to bring the Lafarge culture and ways to Iraq and to develop a local team. I am very pleased to now see strong local teams in place in both Plants as well as both Plants being declared POM 2.0 inside. Iraqi Kurdistan is known for its natural beauty, oil reserves and now cement production with new plants opening.

My last mission in Karbala was probably the toughest of them all. However, I am very pleased to see how the people here are now working in the way of an international company. Once the plant is fully rehabilitated, it will be a very strong player in the Iraq cement industry and I am sure that the team will step forward to make it a great plant. Cement manufacture is all about people, and cement manufacture in Iraq has grown up a lot in recent years.. The security situation has slowed growth, but with huge oil deposits the future should be very good for the Group and employees.



## Our People

### Witnessing historical milestones in the cement industry: “The biggest change is information technology”



In 160 years no one has found a replacement for Portland cement - hence the future is positive for the industry. Cement technology has not really changed that much over the years, I remember burning tyres in the Kilns during the early 1970s. I was involved in the development of vertical mills for cement grinding also in the 1970s, and now they are established as normal around the world. I think that the biggest change is linked to the strides the world has made on information technology. We can sit comfortably at home now and with the click of a button on the laptop see how the kiln is running. Ignition type projects have taken this technology a step further and like motor cars one day cement plants will be fully computerised but there will always be a place for a well trained motivated workforce to look after our Industry. I keep saying that cement making is all about people working together in a positive way, the stronger the team the better the results.

### Advice to the young engineers: “Keep a positive mind-set and work as a strong team player”

I have always enjoyed my work and my advice to young engineers/cement professionals would be to have an open mind and to take in as much information as you can from more experienced colleagues. Then to keep a positive mind-set and work as a strong team player. Make sure that you enjoy your work because a large amount of your life will be spent at work.

### Retirement plans: “During the last 48 years I only lost two days at work due to a really bad dose of flu”

I live now in the Philippines and this is where I will continue to stay, playing golf and keeping active, but with a continued interest in world cement. I have been very lucky that my health held up and that during the last 48 years I only lost two days at work due to a really bad dose of flu. I only hope that early to bed early to rise with plenty of exercise will keep me fit for many years ahead.



### Working with Michael Watson



Grant Earnshaw - LafargeHolcim Group

**Before I moved to Iraq a member of the Group’s Executive Committee sat me down and explained that there were 3 different phases of being a large country CEO, they were:**

1. Life before Michael Watson - Things seemed okay but generally progress, team organisation, performance and progress were an everyday struggle but that is what you thought the cement business was like.
2. Life with Michael Watson - Things just came together, teams were energised, engaged, excited to face the challenges, costs fell, performance improved and nothing seemed to be out of reach in terms of meeting safety, performance, costs targets, tackling the big issues and having some fun whilst you did it. At the same time this wise man was a key member of the leadership team and a good coach and inspiration for his colleagues and boss.
3. Life after Michael Watson - Things continued to work well and a sense of maturity, pride and accomplishment could be felt everywhere in the operations and teams. People referred to the role model and leader as doing things the “Michael Watson Way”, with respect, ambition, pride and absolute determination to succeed.

Having had the privilege to work with Michael and have him leading many of our teams in Iraq was an absolute pleasure. Michael is quite unique both personally and professionally and I personally along with the teams in Iraq and all through the group have a great deal to thank him for his exceptional contribution and the legacy he will leave.



Michael Tabchouri - CEO – KCML

I have known Michael Watson for over three years, during which we have closely worked together through some difficult times and uncomfortable situations. I am sure that in every place Michael worked, everyone has seen his omnipresence in the plant and his relentless efforts for bigger and better achievements. Michael Watson has made a reputation as one of the greatest performers in our group and in the cement industry. The Karbala cement business benefited from his experience in the rehabilitation works and the construction of a power plant. With his Iraqi colleagues Michael patiently taught them and exposed both the young and more experienced to new ways, Michael raised the production volumes to unprecedented levels using out-dated equipment. I want to especially thank Michael for his significant efforts and achievements and his impact on our business in the past 4 years and wish him all the best in his new life of quasi-retirement. Michael Watson will be remembered dearly by the many close friends he made working here.



Meran Akram - Bazian Cement Plant Production Manager



Nicolas Toulemonde - LafargeHolcim Group

I have never seen such a competent industrial guy in my whole career, such a kind and dedicated person, so honest, so humble and very hands on who showed everyone the utmost respect; whilst always trying to be fair to everyone. Every employee in the plant is like one of his family he is trying to nurture. There is no topic that he doesn’t have a detailed knowledge of. Michael always chooses to support and nurture people.



Mohamed Fathy - Senior Performance Director  
Karbala Cement Plant

Michael Watson is unique and hard to challenge. For many of us Michael engraved his name in our industrial memory by imparting the knowledge and supporting the working team with a ready smile at all times. I wish him an enjoyable retirement but I am sure he will never disconnect entirely from the cement industry!

Michael was like a school for the Bazian team; he has been the best example for us in all areas starting with health & safety and technical competency. His sense of humanity and warm attitude towards people helped us a lot to learn more and more from him. He never saw a difficult situation as a “problem” but as a “challenge” and taught us how to deal with challenges.

There is a meeting room in Bazian Cement Plant named after him and we will remember him every day. We are grateful to Michael for all his contributions.



# Lafarge Iraq & Faruk Holding complete three major investments in Tasluja and Bazian



**Lafarge Iraq and Faruk Holding are pleased to announce the opening of a new \$6 Million USD filter system for cleaner air at the Tasluja Cement Plant, \$966 000 USD of community investment projects in the Tasluja area, and their world class mechanical training facility in the Bazian Cement Plant.**

Lafarge Iraq and Faruk Holding showcased the completion of three major investments in Tasluja and Bazian, confirming their on going commitment to sustainable investment in the environment, education and the community. The new \$6 million filter system now in operation at the Tasluja Cement Plant, is the biggest investment made at the plant since the beginning of the partnership of Lafarge and Faruk Holding in cement operations. The new 'de-dusting' filter ensures that air in the plant and its surrounding areas is now much cleaner and the filtration system is infinitely more efficient than the old one.



Maintaining a sustainable and safe environment is one of Lafarge and Faruk Group's key aims and the Tasluja plant now comes up to high international standards for clean air.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Rachid Benyakhlef, the Country CEO of Lafarge Iraq said that he was pleased that in tough economic conditions Lafarge was still able to invest further in the plant and improve the air quality in the plant and surrounding areas. Local contractor Zarya Company, part of Faruk Holding, completed the main civil works of the new filter.



Dr. Aso Faraidun, the Governor of Sulaimani and representatives from official bodies and the University of Sulaimani also attended the opening ceremony. The opening ceremony was followed by a tour of the recently completed community investment projects, \$966 000 USD was jointly invested by Lafarge and their local partner Faruk Holding in a variety of projects for the villages of Chaqzh Saru and Chaqzh Khwaru. Speaking during the events, Hawre Daro, the CEO of Faruk Holding, emphasised the importance of companies continuing to invest in their workforces and the surrounding communities and environments. Without investment during difficult times, future growth will be even slower.

The final event was the opening of the new mechanical training centre located at Lafarge's Bazian plant. The training centre will allow for staff to receive vital training courses in-country and will also welcome Lafarge employees from across the region as it is their second training centre in the Middle East and Africa and home to the only Mini-plant simulator in the region. The training centre will help to further develop the skills of the local and regional workforce by passing on the extensive knowledge and experience of the LafargeHolcim group.

Saad Sebbar, the Head of Middle East and Africa Region at LafargeHolcim also expressed how pleased he was to see the significant investment in human development and the opportunities this would bring to a large number of employees and contractors locally. Rachid Benyakhlef, CEO of Lafarge Iraq, remarked at the opening that Lafarge's continued investment in its staff meant that they have not had to rely solely on expat staff and have developed a strong local team. 'We hope that this training centre will demonstrate the continued commitment of Lafarge to the development of its staff, we are delighted that the Bazian training centre is home to the second training centre in Middle East and the only mini cement plant simulator in this region.'





## The completion of Kobane Bridge, Sulaimani



Wrya Mohamed Tahir - General Manager of Amanj Company

The infrastructure investments in Iraqi Kurdistan keep running despite strong economic challenges. The Kobane Bridge, a large intersection project in Sulaimani, has been completed.

Mohamed Tahir, the General Manager of Amanj Company, the contractor of the project, explains why they preferred Lafarge as their building materials supplier.

**“Road and bridge construction requires a high level of technical standards”**

Our company was established in 2000 and we deal with different construction areas such as road and bridge, residential complexes etc. The Kobane Bridge is a significant project not only for us but also for the city as it is located at a very central crossroad point connecting major lines inside the city. Before this project, we completed two other large bridge projects around Sulaimani which were Sitak and Gadan bridges. Road and bridge construction is not an easy job; it requires a strong project management as well as a high quality of materials and application. The stability of the quality in the materials we use is crucial for the success of the work. Also timing is very important since roads and bridges are infrastructure elements, which people need as soon as possible. Therefore, we needed reliable providers to work with who will provide us with high quality products and services, on time and in full and that is exactly the reason why we preferred Lafarge Iraq.



**“We fully trust in the product and service quality provided by Lafarge Iraq”**

For the construction of Kobane Bridge we needed high strength – high performance concrete with a minimum resistance of 60 MPa which is not something offered by all concrete companies in Iraq. We know that Lafarge Iraq, as a member of LafargeHolcim, has world class knowhow and experience in concrete production.

Mohamed Hassib, the Lafarge - RMX Plant Manager in Sulaimani has been a great facilitator in our cooperation with Lafarge; he has been able to provide all the answers and solutions we needed on time, as requested. The total amount of concrete used in the project is around 30,000 cubic meter in different strengths. The stability of the concrete quality as well as strong service support were very important and Lafarge did not disappoint us at any time during the project. One other thing that I should mention is the level of health and safety management at Lafarge. This is something that also helped us to manage the project without any major incident or harm. Construction and concrete applications might be very risky for the workers if the basic health and safety rules are not followed. Lafarge having worldwide principles and standards regarding health and safety is a leading example in this manner.



## The Karbala Refinery Project gets underway

The Karbala Refinery is one of the largest infrastructure projects in the oil field in Iraq. The project is a joint venture between three Korean companies, Hyundai, GS and KS. Lafarge Iraq will be one of the main building materials suppliers of the project.

Ali Said, General Manager, Lafarge Iraq - Ready Mixed Concrete BU Middle & South, shares information about the project



(Left to right) Horia Adrian, LafargeHolcim ME Area Manager, Rachid Benyakhlef, Lafarge Iraq Country CEO, Joel Didiot, Lafarge Iraq Country HR Director, Ali Said, GM RMX Central & South Iraq are on the site talking to the representative of the contractor company



## A significant project for the future of the country

The Karbala Refinery project is considered the largest infrastructure project in the middle of Iraq (Karbala province) with an expected completion date of 2018. As the main infrastructure project in the middle of Iraq, it will employ many local engineers and bring international contractors to the province and will add 140,000 bpd to the oil production capacity of Iraq. The refinery will be located 35 km south west of Karbala and 150 km from Baghdad. It has a total project area of 10 square kilometers.



Ali Said General Manager Lafarge Concrete Middle and South Iraq

**“We are excited to be involved in such a large and strategic infrastructure project in Iraq”**

Today, Lafarge is the sole cement supplier to the Karbala Refinery project and currently supplying the cement for the first phase of the project (115,000 Tons of SRC within 2 years starting from May of 2015) the first phase is being implemented by Dongyang Construction Company. In the second phase of the project, out of the expected requirement of 750,000 m<sup>3</sup> 250,000 m<sup>3</sup> will be supplied by Lafarge Concrete. It represents the largest infrastructure project that Lafarge has secured for concrete supply since entry to the country in 2008. The project will also play a pivotal role in consuming SRC cement from the newly rehabilitated Karbala cement plant nearby.

Our client, (joint venture of three Korean companies, Hyundai, GS and KS and the end client being Southern Company for Oil Project (SCOP) , is the project owner on behalf of the Ministry of Oil) recently gave their feedback to LafargeHolcim senior management during their visit to the site in February 2016. SCOP was pleased to have LafargeHolcim involved in their project as we will be a professional and quality-oriented supplier to the Construction contractors. SCOP and HDGSK JV have faced major challenges on concrete supply since start of their project and they are now looking forward to LafargeHolcim's technical and operational expertise to move ahead with their project.

## The Minister's visit to the Karbala Cement Plant



The Minister of Industry and Minerals Mohammad Sahib Al-Daraji, accompanied by a delegation from Karbala governorate board, visited the Karbala Cement Plant to follow up on the latest stages of the plant's rehabilitation. During the visit, the Minister discussed the plant's rehabilitation progress with Michael Tabchouri, the CEO of Karbala Cement Manufacturing Limited (KCML) - and Ehab Kozman, the Rehabilitation Project Manager. The Minister expressed his happiness with the new power station that provides the plant with power, and he also expressed his readiness to follow up on the project stressing the necessity of completing the rehabilitation work on time.

## Lafarge to operate a new RMX plant in Baghdad

Following several months of discussion and negotiations, Lafarge Iraq Concrete BU South / Center Iraq have signed an agreement with Al Rasheed Company (which belongs to the Iraqi Ministry of Housing and Construction (MoHC)) to operate a ready-mix concrete batching plant in the Rusafa area of Baghdad.

The ten-year land lease agreement allows Lafarge to install and operate its own batching plant in addition to operating Al Rasheed's batching plant as backup to serve all MoHC projects and the general market of Iraq's capital city. This is an important milestone for the ready mixed concrete business; it represents the first step to serve the market outside the restricted area.



Abdul-Rahman Al-Zerjaawy, General Director of Al Rasheed Co (on the left)  
Ali Said, General Manager Lafarge Concrete Middle & South Iraq (on the right)

## Training for masons in Karbala



Lafarge Iraq cement and concrete teams organised a training program in Karbala for 25 masons as well as some retailers and distributors. The purpose of the training was to raise masons' awareness about Lafarge Iraq's cement and concrete products and their applications. The event was arranged in coordination with the Lafarge Academy, which conducts special training and seminars for the different target audiences. The training consisted of two sessions; one theoretical session and one practical session that covered plastering

and concrete applications. The plastering application was prepared two days prior to the event and the concrete activity was performed at the Al Samah RMX Plant of Lafarge. The two main topics of the training program were the technical properties of cement and concrete with regard to national and international standards and the basic principles to follow during the application. All participants shared positive feedback about the training and asked for similar events to be repeated regularly in the future.



## Looking at the Karbala Cement Plant as a local community member

Head of the Legal Department. Here he shares his thoughts on the role the Karbala Cement Plant plays in the local community.

Mahfouz Sattay Al Tamimi, is a Law graduate from Baghdad University and served as the mayor of Ain al-Tamur until 2013; currently he is a member of the Karbala Provincial Council.

### A cement plant with a long history

My relationship with the Karbala Cement Plant started a long time ago, when the plant was established in early 1980s. The plant is close to my small town and as the biggest project in the Karbala Province, it provides many job opportunities for the people of my town. Those opportunities motivate many of the plant's workers to be more efficient. The plant was subjected to significant damage due to aerial bombing during the first Gulf War in 1991. I had suffered a lot because of what happened to the plant and I had deep wish to rehabilitate it as soon as possible but unfortunately, the repair work was delayed for many years.

### Lafarge: Rehabilitation starts

In 2010, I was delighted when Karbala Cement Manufacturing Limited Co. (Lafarge) signed a contract with the government to rehabilitate the plant. I said at the time that this is a step in the right direction to rehabilitate and operate the plant because Lafarge is a world leader and has many years of experience in the industry. Thankfully, I was right in my thinking. Despite of all the security, economic and legal challenges, Lafarge proved their capability to overcome all the obstacles and move steadily to the success of this project.



Mahfouz Sattay Al Tamimi (on the left)

### Continuous support for local community projects

From the very beginning of the rehabilitation project, the management of KCML-Lafarge has shown great concern for the local community and have made significant contributions to many aspects of life in Ain Al Tamur and the other areas around the plant. Notably, they developed the cultural center in Ain Al Tamur and built a school in the plant housing camp. I have met many of Lafarge's officials who have demonstrated love and respect to all our traditions as Iraqi people in general and to Karbala society in particular. This attitude of Lafarge is very important, it is a significant factor in strengthening the relationship with the local communities surrounding the plant.

We hope the company will continue to give greater attention to the specific construction projects, especially the kind of projects that are creating new job opportunities for the young people in the province. We wish Lafarge continued success in Iraq.

## Karbala Cement Plant leads progress in the South of Iraq

### *The impressions of Nasser Mutaib Al-Khazali, the Head of the Economic Committee in Karbala Province*



Nasser Mutaib Al-Khazali - Head of the Economic Committee in Karbala Province

### Karbala Cement Plant serves to develop the region

When I became the Head of Economic Committee, I paid special attention to supporting the rehabilitation project ongoing in the plant, as there were some challenges to deal with. I am happy to see that the plant is getting very close to being ready to operate at full capacity. This is very important because the Karbala Cement Plant serves to develop the region by creating economic and social value. Lafarge Iraq and its business partners have significantly invested in the rehabilitation of this plant; they did not give up despite all difficulties and this encourages us to support this business initiative. We regularly visit the plant; the Minister of Industry and Minerals accompanied us on our last visit. The success of the Karbala Project, even under such challenging conditions, will help to attract other investments that will accelerate the industrial progress in the region. The cement industry and construction in general, especially infrastructure projects, will be leading this development process.

### A worldwide knowhow and international standards

We notice that LafargeHolcim is a world leader in building materials; it has a worldwide knowhow in cement production endorsed by international technical and environmental standards as well as world-class products and services. We are pleased to see that the Karbala Cement Plant is not only progressing in terms of operational quality, but that it is also a leading example in terms of health and safety standards and stakeholder engagement. The company has been supporting local communities in many ways including health, education and infrastructure services etc. In this respect, we hope that the plant will be able to provide more electric power to the local communities surrounding the plant, which is quite important for keeping a certain level of quality of life in the region. I am thankful to the company management and to all professional teams working in the plant. I believe that the level of people development and business management at the Karbala Cement Plant will be a best practice model for many other enterprises in the region and in the country.



## Dashty Bazian Company: The experienced contractor of Bazian Cement Plant



Omar Alei Ahmad - Dashty Bazian Company Owner (Right)

Dashty Bazian is a contractor company providing different services to the Bazian Cement Plant since 2005. Omar Alei Ahmad, the owner of the company, talks about this long lasting business partnership.

### “Bazian Plant became our second address”

We started working for the Bazian Cement Plant in 2005; our company had a different name, Qamar Shimal, at that time. As our business developed we changed the name to Dashty Company. When Lafarge and Faruk Group took over the plant, we continued working as contractor; our company is now called Dashty Bazian. Since we have been working with the Plant for such a long time it has become our second address now. We are responsible for transportation between the quarries to the plant including the transportation of clinker, and also raw materials inside the plant. Currently we have 40 vehicles working at the Bazian plant site; we also have our own facilities for our staff in the plant area.

### “Lafarge’s international standards helped us significantly develop our business and quality of work”

We have been working for more than 10 years at the Bazian Cement Plant. Our business and our company have developed in line with the changes and developments at the plant. After the plant was taken over by Lafarge and Faruk Holding, these improvements became faster and more visible. We can see a big difference and improvement in our

activities including the quality and quantity of our work. Especially the attention and priority given to health and safety by the Bazian Plant management is guiding us in all work we do for the plant; we are learning more and more how to do our job more safely and correctly. We are very glad to see that Lafarge teams do not differentiate between employees and contractors when it comes to health & safety, and also in other main principles of action. We wish that Lafarge would implement its health & safety program in the surrounding communities to increase the awareness of health & safety in the region. We even suggested to ask the TV channels to have a special program regarding safety as Lafarge has been able to take the lead regarding health and safety compared to the other companies in the region.

### “We support each other in adapting to the difficult economic situation”

The current economic situation has affected our company as all others in the country and we know that it is also not easy for our business partners; so we support each other through different actions for adapting to tough economic conditions. We know that these difficult times require solidarity between business partners as the members of the same family. As a member of the local community and as a business partner, we are grateful to the LafargeHolcim Group and Faruk Holding for creating such significant economic and social value for the region. We would also like to thank the management team of the Bazian Cement Plant, and all the departments who always work professionally and who also support the area with great projects in addition to their primary business.

## LafargeHolcim Foundation for Sustainable Construction

Creating awareness, promoting excellence.

The LafargeHolcim Foundation aims to create awareness of the importance of sustainable construction among professionals and the public. It seeks to globally interlink knowledge and to encourage sustainable responses to the built environment that lead to an improved quality of life.

Together with its partner universities, the Foundation advances the academic discourse of sustainable construction by holding international symposiums, the LafargeHolcim Forum and Roundtable. The Foundation also presents LafargeHolcim Awards on regional and global levels. The Awards are the most significant international competition for sustainable design and are open to everyone involved in sustainable construction.

### LafargeHolcim Awards

Projects The LafargeHolcim Awards is an international competition that recognizes innovative projects and future-oriented concepts on regional and global levels. It is designed to encourage architects, planners, engineers and project owners to go beyond balancing environmental performance, social responsibility, and economic growth. Projects and concepts are in the fields of architecture, building and civil engineering, landscape and urban design, materials, products and construction technologies.

The competition is handled in two stages and a total of USD 2 million in prize money is awarded in each three-year cycle. In the regional phase the best projects and concepts are sought in the five world regions: Europe, North America, Latin America, Africa Middle East and Asia Pacific. In the global phase, the 15 projects that received Gold, Silver or Bronze Awards in the regions automatically qualify for the



### Global Awards.

Independent juries evaluate the entries in the regions and an additional jury assesses the finalists' entries at the global level. The juries, hosted by the partner universities of the Foundation, are comprised of highly-regarded members of science, business and society. The current competition, the fourth International Awards attracted more than 6,000 entries for construction projects and visions to be pursued in 152 countries on all continents. At regional level, 62 projects were honoured with Awards, Acknowledgement or “Next Generation” prizes. In 2015, Global Awards Gold, Silver and Bronze are conferred to projects in Colombia, Sri Lanka and the USA. Find out more about the award-winning projects at [www.lafargeholcim-awards.org](http://www.lafargeholcim-awards.org).

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# 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY of the INVENTION of CONCRETE TRUCKMIXER



Stephen Stepanian filed a patent application for the first truck mixer in 1916, he is credited as the inventor of a self-discharging motorized transit mixer that was the predecessor of the concrete mixer truck. He was an Armenian American inventor and owner of numerous patents including the Elevator and Conveyor, Compound Tool, and the Wrench. Stepanian is often called the “father of the ready-mix concrete industry”.



Special concrete transport trucks (in-transit mixers) are made to transport and mix concrete up to the construction site. The concrete mixing transport truck maintains the material's liquid state through agitation, or turning of the drum, until delivery. The interior of the drum on a concrete mixing truck is fitted with a spiral blade. In one rotational direction, the concrete is pushed deeper into the drum. This is the direction the drum is rotated while the concrete is being transported to the building site. This is known as “charging” the mixer. When the drum rotates in the other direction, the Archimedes’ screw-type arrangement “discharges”, or forces the concrete out of the drum. From there it may go onto chutes to guide the viscous concrete directly to the job site. If the truck cannot get close enough to the site to use the chutes, the concrete may be discharged into a concrete pump, connected to a flexible hose, or onto a conveyor belt which can be extended some distance (typically ten or more metres). Concrete mixers generally do not travel far from their plant, as the concrete begins to set as soon as it is in the truck. Many contractors require that the concrete be in place within 90 minutes of loading.

## REWARD QUIZ

**How much cement is needed per 1m<sup>3</sup> standard – C25 class concrete?**

- a) 150 - 200 kg   b) 250 – 300 kg  
c) 350 - 400 kg   d) 450 - 500 kg

You can send your answers to:  
[info.iraq@lafargeholcim.com](mailto:info.iraq@lafargeholcim.com)

The 3 Winners of the reward quiz in the previous issue are:  
1) Majid El Any ( Baghdad Office)  
2) Farah Qahtan (Bazian Cement Plant)  
3) Shahla Salah (Tasluja Cement Plant)

The correct answer for the previous quiz: C) 50 kg



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