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Publishing Director

Ladan Pourtork
l.pourtork@kci-world.com
Tel.: +31 575 585 292

Director India Operations

Kay Creedon
k.creedon@kci-world.com
Tel.: 0031 683 671 708

Editor

Daniel Sweet
d.sweet@kci-world.com

Editorial Team

John Butterfield
j.butterfield@kci-world.com

Lucien Joppen
l.joppen@kci-world.com

Joanne McIntyre
j.mcintyre@kci-world.com

David Sear
d.sear@kci-world.com

Advertising contact (print & online)

Kay Creedon
k.creedon@kci-world.com
Tel.: 0031 683 671 708

Subscriptions (print & online)

Erica Riethorst
e.riethorst@kci-world.com
Tel.: +31 575 585 271

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Publishing House

KCI Publishing B.V.
Jacob Damsingel 17,
NL-7201 AN Zutphen, The Netherlands

Mailing address:

Jacob Damsingel 17, NL-7201 AN Zutphen, The Netherlands
Info.zutphen@kci-world.com
Tel.: +31 575 585 270; Fax: +31 575 511099
Bank account: ABNAMRO 56.64.05.164
BIC: ABNANL2A
IBAN: NL50ABNA0566405164

China Office:

KCI Shanghai, Room 603, 6F, #400 Zhejiang Mid. Road,
200001, China
Info.shanghai@kci-world.com
Tel.: +86 21 6351 9609; Fax: +86 21 6351 9607

Germany Office

KCI GmbH, Tiergartenstraat 64, D-47533 Kleve,
Germany
info@kleve@kci-world.com
Tel.: +49 2821 71145 0 Fax: +49 2821 71145 69

Canada Office

KCI Corporation, 36 King East, Suite 701,
Toronto ON M5C 1E5, Canada
Info.toronto@kci-world.com
Tel.: +1 416 361 7030; Fax: +1 416 361 6191



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Stainless Steel World is spreading its wings!



Stainless Steel World is spreading its wings and shall host the Stainless Steel World Middle East exhibition in Muscat, Oman in March 2020. The exhibition will form part of the larger and already established Oman Petroleum & Energy Show (OPES) event which is organized under the patronage of the Ministry of Oil & Gas of Oman. According to a recent report by the IMF, Oman is one of the fastest growing economies in the GSS region, and whilst it remains dependent on its oil and gas revenues, it has made significant efforts to diversify its economy across other industries over last years. Whilst SSWME (Stainless Steel World Middle East) is an international event, it will be of significant interest to Indian stainless steel manufacturers. Oman is not just a close neighbor but an important trading partner, and the total volume of trade between the two nations increased by nearly a billion dollars in the last 5 years.

Today India is the 2nd largest producer of stainless steel in the world. This has largely been achieved by heavy investments into new technologies and infrastructures, as well as by increased consumer demands for stainless steel across many industries (automobile, architecture, and other "Make in India" government initiatives. Despite this there are some very serious concerns about the continued growth of the sector. The primary challenge for the Indian domestic stainless steel industry is the high level of imports that constitute a ~20% share of the domestic market of stainless steel flat products. This has created a serious bottleneck in the growth of domestic production, leading to low capacity utilization along with financial and job losses. The rise in

imports is clear when comparing Ministry of Commerce data between the fiscal years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. In just one cycle, the number of imports rose from 4,52,704 MT to 4,84,547 MT. This is an issue that has to be solved, and the first step to solving any problem comes in identifying the causes. On pages 7 & 8, Mr. KK Pahuja, president of the Indian Stainless Steel Development Association (ISSDA) has written a very insightful article on the issue.

Last but certainly not least, the spotlight feature article on pages 4&5 focuses on the Ahmedabad-based manufacturer Suraj who began their journey as traders of ferrous and non-ferrous grades, but since 1994 have dealt exclusively in stainless steel products. Almost 50 years on, Suraj is not only one of Indian's major manufacturers but a globally recognized brand, supplying seamless pipes, instrumentation tubes, heat exchanger "U" tubes, and flanges to the Indian market as well as 70 countries worldwide. They serve a variety of industries including oil and gas, power plants, chemical plants, and most recently pharma and dairy.

The next issue of the Journal will be the October/November issue, which will focus on "Stainless Steel World Exhibition and Conference in Maastricht, The Netherlands." If you wish to contribute please do feel free to contact me.

I wish you enjoyable reading.
Kind regards and thank you.
Kay T. Creedon
Director Stainless Steel World India & Middle East
k.creedon@kci-world.com

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