



Agenda 2025

Arab Steel Summit 2025

October 07-08, 2025
Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre
Muscat - Sultanate of Oman

Tuesday, October 7, 2025

08:00 – 09:00 : Registration

09:00 – 09:30 : Opening Session

09:30 – 10:30 : Panel 1: CEO Summit

“Visions of Arab Steel Leaders Facing the Challenges and Opportunities of Tomorrow”

In a rapidly changing global context, the Arab steel industry stands at a strategic crossroads. Major transitions—energy, environmental, and digital—are reshaping industrial value chains, business models, and global trade balances.

As global markets close due to new tariff and environmental barriers, cost and regulatory pressures intensify, and international players increase investments in green steel, the Arab world must define its own strategic vision.

This exclusive panel, reserved for top CEOs in the Arab steel sector, aims to open a frank and forward-looking dialogue around the following key questions:

- How can Arab producers remain competitive in a fragmented and demanding world?
- How can the sector accelerate its technological, ecological, and logistical transformation?
- What role should governments and industrial policies play in defending Arab steel's strategic interests?
- What regional partnerships and alliances are needed to address shared challenges?
- What role do innovation, training, and young talent play in your plans?
- What would you say to a young engineer hesitant to join our industry?

10:30 – 11:00 : Exhibition Opening

11:00 – 11:30 : Keynote Speaker (Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin- UN Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda)

11:30 – 12:30

Panel 2: « Investments in Infrastructure and Housing and Their Role as a Key Driver of Steel Demand in Arab Countries ».

This opening session paves the way for a deeper understanding of the dynamics of steel demand in Arab markets by highlighting the scale of Arab investments in infrastructure and housing, and their

role in generating demand for finished steel products. It also examines the role of local industry in meeting this demand and the extent of reliance on imports to satisfy domestic consumption.

The session aims to provide a unified knowledge base grounded in facts, figures, and current trends, forming a common foundation that enhances the quality of discussion and analysis in the sessions that follow.

12:30 – 13:30

Panel 3: « Global Steel Overcapacity and New Protectionist Policies »

The global steel industry is experiencing ongoing imbalances, with production capacities in several regions—particularly in Asia—exceeding demand. This results in mounting price pressures, dumping practices, and a surge in trade protection measures.

In the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, many countries are working to expand their production capacities without effective regional coordination, at a time when local markets remain limited and vulnerable to competition from low-cost imports. This dual trend of domestic expansion amid external pressures heightens the risk of an unregulated regional production surplus, which threatens market balance and undermines the ability of local producers to remain viable and competitive.

In this context, this high-level session aims to raise collective awareness, open constructive regional dialogue, and present practical and actionable recommendations to ensure the sustainability and competitiveness of the sector.

13:30– 15:00 – Lunch Invitation– by Arab Iron and Steel Union

15:00 – 16:00

Panel 4: « Outlook into the New Technologies and Efficiencies in Steel »

This session will examine near and mid term technological advances and operational approaches that can raise productivity, reduce costs and carbon intensity, and improve product quality across the steel value chain.

Panelists should compare disruptive innovations (e.g., hydrogen DRI, electrification, scrap based routes) with incremental process and digital improvements (advanced process control, predictive maintenance, energy integration) and explore how these options can be deployed at commercial scale

16:00 – 16:40 : Panel 5 : Omani Ministry of Energy Presentations

16:40 – End of Day 1

19:30 – 22:00

19:30 – 22:00– Dinner Reception By Vale

We invite you to spend a special evening, an ideal opportunity to enhance cultural exchange among conference participants, in an atmosphere inspired by the rich heritage of the Sultanate of Oman.

This carefully curated evening will take you on a journey through local culture, featuring traditional cuisine, authentic music, and details that reflect the richness of Omani heritage.

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

09:00 – 09:15: Address by H.E Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion of the Sultanate of Oman.

09:15 – 09:30: Honouring of H.E the Omani Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion by the Arab Iron and Steel Union.

09:30 – 10:20:

Panel 6: « Securing Raw Material Supplies for the Arab Steel Industry – Logistical and Geopolitical Challenges Facing Middle Eastern Producers »

The Arab steel industry faces growing challenges in securing stable supplies of raw materials, particularly iron ore pellets. Producers in the Middle East rely heavily on imports from Brazil, Canada, EU, Bahrain and Oman.

Geopolitical, logistical, and economic disruptions directly impact production efficiency and costs in the region.

The panel will focus on the key risks and challenges while exploring ways to enhance resilience, regional integration, source diversification, and infrastructure development.

10:20 – 11:20

Panel 7: « Demand for DRI Technology in Light of Future Gas and Iron Ore Prices »

As global pressure to reduce carbon emissions intensifies and the shift toward more sustainable production paths accelerates, Direct Reduction Iron (DRI) technology has emerged as a key pillar in the steel industry's transformation strategies.

However, the wider adoption of this technology is not solely dependent on its technological readiness—it is heavily influenced by the future trajectory of natural gas and iron ore prices, which are the two primary inputs shaping cost structures and economic feasibility.

This session will shed light on the supply and demand dynamics of natural gas and iron ore and examine how these factors impact investment decisions in DRI pathways, particularly in emerging markets and high-production economies. The discussion will also address the challenges faced by gas-importing countries versus the opportunities available to resource-rich nations.

Does DRI technology represent a realistic and flexible option amid global market volatility?
And will future prices accelerate or slow down the adoption of this pathway?

11:50 – 12:50

Panel 8: « Tariffs in Major Steel Markets and the Role of Governments in Protecting Arab Steel Exports »

In today's global landscape, which is witnessing a resurgence of protectionist policies—particularly from major economies aiming to shield their local industries from overcapacity and foreign competition—Arab steel producers are facing increasing tariff, financial, and regulatory barriers that directly impact their exports and competitiveness.

The consequences go beyond the steel sector, affecting downstream industries such as automotive, construction, machinery, and equipment manufacturing, all of which rely heavily on steel as a fundamental input.

As Arab steel exports feel the weight of these protectionist measures, the need becomes urgent for a more proactive role from Arab governments in defending the interests of domestic producers. This includes negotiating balanced trade agreements, leveraging international legal frameworks, and supporting the sector's competitiveness.

Session Objectives: To explain the current and expected impact of these tariff measures on Arab exporting companies. To explore how Arab countries can adopt integrated strategies to safeguard their steel exports.

12:50 – 13:40

Panel 9 : « Special Arab Steel Markets»

Steel markets in some Arab countries, such as Syria, Iraq, and Yemen, are characterized by their unique economic, political, and production challenges.

Despite limited local production, these markets present promising opportunities due to the growing demand for construction materials and reconstruction needs.

The session will focus on analyzing the factors influencing the growth of these markets, from investment opportunities to stability and logistics. It will also discuss the role of regional cooperation in supporting these markets and enhancing their integration with other Arab steel-producing and exporting countries.

13:40 – 15:00 - Lunch Invitation – by Ezz Steel

Honoring Mr. Awaad Al-Khalidi, former Chairman of the Arab Iron and Steel Union

15:00 – 15:50:

Panel 10 :“The Strategic Scrap Challenge: Building a Circular Steel Economy in the Arab World”

Scrap accounts for about 40% of the raw materials used in Arab steel production, and its share is continuously increasing.

Scrap plays a pivotal role in modern steel industry strategies as a lower-emission raw material compared to traditional iron ore.

It is considered a cornerstone for building a circular economy based on recycling and waste reduction.

15:50 – 16:20

2nd Scientific Research Award – Iron and Steel Sector (Muscat 2025)

As part of its mission to support innovation in the Arab steel industry, the Arab Iron and Steel Union (AISU) is organizing the second edition of the Best Scientific Research Award, in partnership with the Association for Iron & Steel Technology (AIST).

Following the success of the first edition in Doha (2024), the Muscat 2025 edition confirms growing interest from the Arab scientific community in technological, environmental, and industrial challenges within the sector.

For this edition, nearly 30 research papers were received, submitted by researchers, engineers, and PhD candidates from universities, technical institutes, and industrial firms. After initial review, 20 papers from 10 Arab countries were selected for detailed evaluation by an international AIST scientific committee based on strict criteria: originality, scientific rigor, industrial applicability, and impact.

This initiative reflects AISU’s vision to:

- Foster innovative solutions
- Encourage scientific talent
- Build stronger links between research and the concrete needs of Arab steelmakers

Jury: In cooperation with AIST

16:20 - 16:50 – Closing Refreshments

16:50 – End of Day 2

18:00 – 20:00 :

Special Evening Organized by VALE

A special evening to close the 18th Arab Iron and Steel Summit in style:

- Guided tour of Muscat and its historical landmarks
- Visit to the city's most iconic monuments

To make the most of the delegates time in Oman, we are pleased to offer short Muscat city tours (2–3 hours) following the main session on day 2.

These curated experiences are designed to give them a glimpse into the charm and culture of the city.
