Bluestar Holds 2011 Centralized Purchase and Logistics Management Meeting

Bluestar held its 2011 centralized purchase and logistics management meeting on March 18, where President Robert Lu and COO Mark instructed the participants from purchase departments and logistics departments of Bluestar subordinates as to how to plan for this year's purchase and logistics activities and reduce costs. At the meeting, commendations were extended to companies and individuals for their outstanding performance in centralized purchase and logistics management in 2010.

Changsha Design and Research Institute Grows Stronger through Technological Innovation

China Bluestar Changsha Design and Research Institute has become a domestic technology leader and in some cases even a world leader in the development and comprehensive utilization of potassium resources by constantly meeting the market demand and pursuing technological innovation, enjoying technology leadership in the development of phosphorus resources and pyrite. It has set up a good reputation and corporate image both inside and outside the industry with outstanding achievements.

During the 10th and 11th five-year plan periods, a 1.2 million t/a potash fertilizer plant was built and commissioned using the core technology of the institute and with the help of the institute as the lead designer, marking an eye-catching achievement in exploiting salt lake resources in west China, especially the development of potassium resources in Xinjiang. As a result of this project, Lop Nur of Xinjiang has become the world's largest potassium sulfate producing area.

As a technologically innovative enterprise, the institute has long been focusing on technical innovation and commercialization of scientific payoffs, with over 50 IP patents and 10-plus commercialized scientific payoffs, including the "potash salt resource development and exploitation research project in Lop Nur" and the "Qinghai Salt Lake 1 million t/a potash salt production technology development and commercialization project". The two projects won the first and the second prizes in the national scientific and technological advancement program respectively. In addition, the institute earned a gold, a silver and a bronze medal in the national best engineering design award for three of its design products and over 20 best engineering design awards at the provincial or ministerial level. In 2010, the institute's "construction project of technical service platform for industrialization of high and new technology for the development and comprehensive utilization of potassium resources in salt lake" was included in the national torch program of 2010, a result of the institute's greater efforts in the development and comprehensive utilization of salt lake resources through innovation.

The institute plans to set aside over 5% of its business revenue as R&D funds per year to build a nationally recognized engineering technology research center specializing in the development and comprehensive utilization of potassium resources and other main chemical minerals like phosphorus, sulfur, boron and lithium as well as a mobile postdoctoral station within three or five years.

While pursuing innovation, building technology brand and improving the corporate image, the institute is actively exploring go-global strategy. With its award-winning salt lake potassium resource development and utilization technology and bore well solution mining technology, it has established partnership with relevant organizations in the US, Australia, Israel and Chile and undertook some high-profile construction projects in Turkey, Laos, Tunis and Canada. Last year, the institute undertook KP488 mine 3 million t/a potash project in Canada, the first of its kind ever undertaken by a Chinese organization in developed world.
Bluestar Showcases Technology at Exhibition

Zhang Li and Zheng Donghao

An exhibition for major scientific and technological achievements during the 11th five-year plan period took place at Beijing National Convention Center between March 7 and 14, 2011, where Bluestar (Beijing) showcased its oxygen cathode technology. At the opening ceremony held on March 8, Minister of Science and Technology Wan Gang visited Bluestar (Beijing)'s booth, where he was introduced to the aforesaid technology which he spoke highly of.

Tianjin Branch Phases out High Energy-consuming Equipment in Support of Energy Conservation

Mao Xueqiang

In recent years, a large number of motors, transformers and other obsolete, energy-consuming equipment of Bluestar Petroleum Tianjin Branch have been replaced by new-type energy-efficient equipment, resulting in electricity savings of 3.6 million kWh and steam savings of over 11,000 tons last year alone, helping the company hit the energy saving and emission reduction targets set for the 11th five-year plan period.

For a 30-year-old business, energy-consuming equipment has significant impact on the company's efforts in energy saving and emission reduction. With a total investment of over 20 million Yuan, the company replaced its obsolete equipment, thereby significantly reducing energy consumption. For example, 400 kW and 300 kW energy-consuming recycling water pumps were replaced by new-type energy-efficient pumps, resulting in 20%~30% reduction in power consumption, year-long electricity savings of 1.4 million KWh and cost savings of 840,000 Yuan.

While accelerating the phase-out, the company conducted process reengineering across the board, with significant results of energy saving and emission reduction. For example, the optimization of heavy oil cracking process led to electricity savings of 1.6 million kWh and steam savings of over 6,000 tons a year, in addition to the increased yield rate of the plant.

Shanxi Synthetic Rubber Sees Growth in both Sales Volume and Revenue in First Two Months

Shi Shaojun

Keeping in line with the instructions of ChemChina, Shanxi Synthetic Rubber Group continued its 100-day sales contest as an important measure to achieve a fresh start for the company in 2011. As of February 28, the company achieved 17.8% increase YoY in sales volume of neoprene and 36.1% increase in sales revenue of the same.

Jinan Yuxing’s 100,000 t/a Titanium White Plant Becomes Fully Operational

Ren Chun

March 15, Jinan Yuxing’s 100,000 t/a titanium white production line B generated the first batch of products, which meet the quality requirements in terms of reducing power, oil absorption and dispersion. This marked the completion of all three production lines of the project.

Compared to the production lines A and C which were earlier commissioned and reached the full-scale operation, the commissioning time of line B is two days shorter than line C and five days shorter than line A, with products containing higher reducing power, oil absorption and TiO₂ content than those of line A and line C.

March 12, young employees of Jinan Yuxing engaged in voluntary tree-planting. Photo by Yu Xuan
A Letter to My Dad

An Xinyi, Jinan Yuxing

Dear Dad:

I dreamed again last night. I dreamed that you were travel-stained when you returned home carrying your luggage. You did not even put down your luggage before coming to my bed quietly. I wanted to extend my hands to hug you but found there was nothing....

Dad, do you know the view that I most dislike watching is your back when you open the door and turn away. As I remembered in my childhood, I stood on the doorway every time when you were going to leave. Even if only blocking you for one minute, I could stay with you for one minute more. But I knew, no matter how hard I tried, I could not stop your leaving pace, so all I could do was looking forward to your return and counted the time before you were back. When you were walking out of our home, Mom and I walked to the balcony together and looked at you from the window. Mom and I would not go back into our home until you disappeared from our sight, but none of us had the heart to do our own things for a long time.

I remember that time when Mom was sick, and you were not at home. Mom stayed in bed with a high fever. I could do nothing but pour water in a cup for Mom. Tears kept spinning in my eyes. All the time, I was thinking it would be fine if Dad was there, then Dad could take care of Mom. I also remember that time when I caught a bad cold with high fever for four straight days. I did not go to school for one week. Mom stayed with me at home all that time. On the weekend, Mom found I was getting better and said she will go to the company to see if anything needed done. I did not expect that she went back home in the early afternoon. She sat there with tears dropping down from her eyes quietly. I dared not ask why. I heard Mom call an aunt later and learned that Mom was lightly blamed for neglecting work.

Dad, you began traveling a lot when I was seven years old. I clearly remember that I kept asking Mom where you were going in the first year. Mom's tears would drop down every time when she was turning round but she still kept comforting me, "Dad will be back soon." For a long time, I thought you left us because you did not love me anymore. I was a good child behaving well during that period. You did not know how I wished you could stay at home longer. However, you returned home in a hurry and left home in a hurry every time. My wishes always fell through. I kept silent every time when my classmates mentioned their dads but I wanted tell them that my Dad was great and he was different from other uncles. He kept going on business trips with no complaints in order to improve sales and our living conditions.

Dad, do you remember when you just went out for business trips, I always liked looking for white hairs on your head and tried to pull them down every time when you were back home. But now you often jokingly say that I have become unfilial because I do not pull white hair for you anymore. Dad, I wonder if you've noticed that now it's easier to just find black hair among the white ones.

Dad, I see our life has changed since you did business trips less often. I'm really grateful that you worked hard and even gave up the technical work you liked. Dad, you always give us so much but we can do little to reward you. Dad, I only want to say to you: Your daughter hopes you take care of your body when you are not home and work outside.

As time goes by, I am growing up day by day, but you are becoming older at the same time. I really wish I could go back to my childhood with its mischief and naivety and most importantly, your company.

My dear Dad, I love you!
Mozi-a Man Before His Time

Mozi, original name Mo Di, was a Chinese philosopher during the Hundred Schools of Thought period (early Warring States Period). Born in Tengzhou, Shandong Province, China, he founded the school of Mohism and argued strongly against Confucianism and Daoism. During the Warring States Period, Mohism was actively developed and practiced in many states, but fell out of favour when the legalist Qin Dynasty came to power.

Most historians believe that Mozi was a member of the lower artisan class who managed to climb his way to an official post. It is known however that his parents were not affectionate towards him and showed him very little love. Mozi was a native of the State of Lu (Today’s Tengzhou, Shandong Province), although for a time he served as a minister in the State of Song. Like Confucius, Mozi was known to have maintained a school for those who desired to become officials serving in the different ruling courts of the Warring States.

Mozi was a carpenter and was extremely skilled in creating devices, designing everything from mechanical birds to wheeled, mobile “cloud ladders” used to besiege city walls (see Lu Ban). Though he did not hold a high official position, Mozi was sought out by various rulers as an expert on fortification. He was schooled in Confucianism in his early years but he viewed Confucianism as being too fatalistic and emphasizing too much on elaborate celebrations and funerals which he felt were detrimental to the livelihood and productivity of common people. He managed to attract a large following during his lifetime which rivaled that of Confucius. His followers – mostly technicians and craftspeople – were organised in a disciplined order that studied both Mozi’s philosophical and technical writings.

According to some accounts of the popular understanding of Mozi at the time, he had been hailed by many as the greatest hero to come from Henan. His passion was said to be for the good of the people, without concern for personal gain or even his own life or death. His tireless contribution to society was praised by many, including Confucius’ disciple Mencius. Mencius wrote in Jinxin that Mozi believed in love for all mankind. As long as something benefits mankind, Mozi will pursue it even if it means hurting his head or his feet. Zhang Tai Tan said that in terms of moral virtue, even Confucius and Laozi cannot compare to Mozi.

His pacifism led Mozi to travel from one crisis zone to another throughout the ravaged landscape of the Warring States, trying to dissuade rulers from their plans of conquest. According to the chapter "Gongshu" in Mozi, he once walked for ten days to the state of Chu in order to forestall an attack on the state of Song. At the Chu court, Mozi engaged in nine simulated war games with Gongshu Ban, the chief military strategist of Chu, and overturned each one of his stratagems. When Gongshu Ban threatened him with death, Mozi informed the king that his disciples had already trained the soldiers of Song in his fortification methods, so it would be useless to kill him. The Chu king was forced to call off the war. On the way back, however, the soldiers of Song, not recognizing him, would not allow Mozi to enter their city, and he had to spend a night freezing in the rain. After this episode, he also stopped the state of Qi from attacking the state of Lu. He taught that defense of a city does not depend only on fortification, weaponry and food supply. It was also important to keep talented people close by and to put trust in them.

Though Mozi’s school faded into obscurity after the Warring States period, he was studied again two millennia after his death. As almost nobody had copied the texts during the last two thousand years, there was much difficulty in deciphering them. As a result, Mohism became the hardest philosophy within the Hundred Schools of Thoughts to study. Both the Republican revolutionaries of 1911 and the Communists saw in him a surprisingly modern thinker who was stifled early in Chinese history.