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ChemChina held a meeting to review its performance in the first half of this year, on July 19, and to plan future operations companywide, with its president, Ren Jianxin, addressing an assembly of 4,388 managers from ChemChina’s main operations, SBUs and its other companies via teleconference. In the first half, in spite of a challenging business environment, ChemChina achieved total revenue of 130.8 billion yuan ($21.17 billion) and profits of 320 million, for a year-on-year revenue rise of 26.4 percent and 37.3 percent in profits, along with safer performance, greater energy savings, and fewer emissions than the same last year period.

Ren described the operational challenges for this year’s goal and emphasized the need to overcome difficulties and work to hit the second half’s target with team spirit. He also pointed to some expectations and operational priorities for the next six months, as follows:

* First, focus on management in relation to objectives, and improve performance ratings, making operations center on business growth, and management concentrate on objectives and performance ratings for a better accountability system.

* Second, investment needs to be better managed as does the business portfolio for sustainable business growth. Quality improvement and efficiency work should focus on the value chain and corporate resource allocation.

* Third, a more market-oriented approach is needed for corporate opening-up and reforms and all ChemChina companies need to address the institutional rigidity problem and operational inefficiency.

* Fourth, everything should be done to improve quality and increase efficiency by looking for more innovative approaches to cut costs and improve efficiency company wide in every part of business. The internal control system that ChemChina HQ implemented in the first half of 2014 as part of the business should be rolled out to all ChemChina companies to avoid market risks through improved controls.

Ren emphasized the fact that the daunting challenges mean that all ChemChina companies need to work harder to maintain growth and continue with corporate reforms to allow ChemChina to move up the value chain.

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ChemChina moves up the Fortune 500 scale

When the 2014 list of Fortune 500 companies was revealed recently, ChemChina came in at 276th place, as compared to 355th in 2013, for its fourth consecutive year on the list. The threshold for this year’s list was also up, by $500 million, to $23.7 billion. There are 100 Chinese companies on the list, including those of Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, putting China in the second place after the US’s 128, and narrowing the gap between the two. Of these Chinese companies, seven made the list for the first time. When the 2013 and 2014 lists are compared, we find a reshuffling worldwide, with 27 giants, such as Dell, Abbott, and Ricoh dropping off this year.

ChemChina gives corporate and individual models recognition

There was a meeting, on July 19, to give ChemChina a chance to recognize its outstanding member companies and individuals for their remarkable performance in operations, management, marketing and continued improvement over the past year, with 10 management teams and CEOs getting the ChemChina Best Business medal, 19 company heads getting the ChemChina Business Revenue medal, and 17 employees and teams, the ChemChina Management Excellence medal. The first group comes with a monetary reward of 500,000 yuan ($81,000), the second group, with 200,000 yuan, and the third, 200,000 yuan. This year saw a new category created, the Beautiful ChemChina People award, with a monetary reward of 10,000 yuan. In addition, there six ChemChina company winners, including Bluestar Dongda, of the outstanding enterprise at the 100-day marketing contest award, 118 employees getting outstanding individual at the 100-day marketing contest awards, with each getting a monetary reward of 10,000 yuan. And ChemChina gave a 10,000-yuan award to each of 15 continuous improvement promoters in recognition of their outstanding performance, while eight companies, including Harbin Petrochemical, got commendations.

Qenos gets Good Corporate Citizen of the Year recognition

Qenos, a ChemChina Bluestar company, got a best company of the year commendation, in Victoria, Australia, on July 1, at a ceremony remembering the founding of the state of Victoria, and for presenting company awards. Qenos’ CEO, Jonathan Clancy, also took on the title of CEO of the Australia, New Zealand Chemical and Plastic Industry Association. ChemChina’s president, Ren Jianxin, sent a letter of congratulations to Clancy, saying that “this recognition is a great honor for ChemChina and Qenos has long made good on ChemChina’s commitment to creating job opportunities and value for shareholders. This is also a result of the concerted efforts of all Qenos employees and I am extremely pleased with your achievements.”
The property management information system gets approval

ChemChina’s property management information system passed its acceptance check on June 11, when an in-house jury took a close look at the project which started in June 2012 for property registration, assets evaluation, property exchanges, high-value assets management, and listed company regulations. After more than a year of trials, the information system went live at the end of 2013, reaching all objectives. After its implementation, ChemChina was able to refine its business management and solidify its information system. By integrating all data from property transactions and establishing an e-file database, this system allows for more centralized data management, online retrieval, shared use and secure storage. The next step is to ensure that the data are updated in a timely manner so the system runs reliably.

Zheng Xiaowei

Summer camp dreams

Bluestar started its 25th International Summer Camp, on July 20, under the theme “Global dream, Bluestar dream, my dream”, with 22 sub-camps from across the country and more than 950 campers from various countries who will share a 20-day journey to their dreams.

ChemChina started the camp back in 1990 at the request of its president, Ren Jianxin, and since then the Summer Camp has grown from a simple company initiative with about a dozen campers to a high-profile annual event with nearly a thousand campers, embodying Bluestar culture and helping Bluestar’s people worldwide get to know more about each other. The first division of this year’s camp in Beijing has 135 campers, with 18 from Gulang county, Gansu province for whom Bluestar provides much-needed financial assistance, 46 campers from France, Australia, Norway and the UK, and campers from Jinan, Shanxi, Nanjing and Harbin and the children of Bluestar Beijing employees.

ChemChina’s vice–president, Yang Xinqiang, spoke on Ren’s behalf in welcoming the students, after which Jade Bridgeman, a camper from Australia, and Cao Binlu from Beijing Div 2 spoke on behalf of all campers, although they are from many different countries, grow as part of Bluestar’s family, and are given an opportunity to know each other, adapt to different cultures, and create a better environment. From the humble Bluestar summer camp to the grander Bluestar International Summer Camp, Bluestar culture has gone global and become an important place for Bluestar to take better care of its people.
ChemChina sees big e-commerce sales in first six months

ChemChina held a meeting, on July 15, to review its e-commerce operations in the first half of this year, where it was reported that, as of June 30, it had online sales worth 5.16 billion yuan ($835 million), from more than 400 products and services, and accounting for 4 percent of total sales in the first half. ChemChina has 31 companies offering 65 products on five e-commerce sites such as Bohai Commodity Exchange, and 74 other companies with e-commerce transactions on other sites such as Alibaba, HC360, Tmall and Wechat. Of that 5.16 billion yuan, 260 million came from Bluestar, 1.33 billion from Haohua Co, 3.33 billion from Oil & Gas Corp, 25,000 from Agrochemicals Co, 20 million from Rubber Corp, 187 million from ChemChina Chemical Equipment Corp, and 21.53 million from ChemChina Academy of Sciences. Bluestar got 482 new customers online, while Oil & Gas had 533 and Haohua nearly 150 new customers.

ChemChina holds a video conference on Wechat

ChemChina held a videoconference, on July 3, on Wechat public account management, where the group PR department reported on the latest ChemChina Wechat account and the soon-to-take-effect ChemChina Policy on the Wechat Public Platform. ChemChina’s president, Ren Jianxin, took part in the meeting and talked about the complexity and future of the Internet and about how ChemChina’s Wechat account should be used primarily as a marketing tool, with the focus on products and customers.

ChemChina opens online training session for legal affairs

ChemChina began an online training seminar for personnel in legal affairs, on June 23, to help produce more professional personnel with more than 470 people from SBUs and ChemChina companies taking part. The online training is cost effective and allows for more flexible schedules, multiple sessions and greater participation. Afterwards, the trainees get a performance rating and the SBUs are ranked according to the training effectiveness.

Li Xiaojie
Yiyang Rubber Machinery becomes largest global rubber machinery maker

A global rubber machinery report in 2013 from the European Rubber Journal witnessed three Chinese companies joining the Top 10 of its global Top 30 list, with the Yiyang Rubber Machinery Co coming in at 6th place, up from 7th in 2012, and Guilin Rubber Machinery ranking 11th. Yiyang Rubber Machinery had 1 billion yuan worth of orders for the first time this year. Over the years, it has developed more energy-saving, environmentally friendly, efficient rubber machinery products and improved its products using the latest technology for some remarkable results. Li Zhonghong

Bluestar Silicones establishes partnership with Brenntag

Bluestar Silicones International (BSI) announced its plan to work with Brenntag, a global leader in chemical distribution, as of July 1, to increase the distribution of its liquid silicones in the European market. This cooperation focuses on sales and marketing of some specialty silicone products mainly used in cosmetics. BSI CEO, Pascal Chalvon-Demersay, has explained that Brenntag is a global leader in chemical distribution so this cooperation will help Bluestar expand its marketing and bring Bluestar products to loyal Brenntag customers, who are very particular about the service level, flexibility, and distribution, which are increasingly important.
Southwest Research & Design Institute completes 973 Program project

A project that the Southwest Research & Design Institute was handling for the national 973 Program on the efficient exploitation of particular resources passed a Science and Technology Ministry basic industries division check, in Guangzhou, on June 21. This project, “basic research on the purification of calcium carbide furnace tail-gas and efficient exploitation and application of natural gas”, involved studying the catalytic deoxidization mechanism in a high-sulfur-content, CO-rich atmosphere, to solve the problem of competitive absorption and reaction of catalyst surface to oxygen and sulfur, and develop a sulfur-resistant deoxidizing catalyst, do research and design work on calcium carbide furnace tail-gas deoxidization and a pilot scale test for calcium carbide deep purification furnace technology. This project is a response to the demand for calcium carbide purification furnace technology to provide a theoretical basis and technical support for developing technology for deep purification of calcium carbide tail-gas and the recycling of CO-rich industrial waste gas in China. Wang Dajun

Liming Institute establishes new industry - academia - research alliance

The Henan provincial Science and Technology Dept recently approved a proposal by the Liming Institute for a Henan Funiushan Medicinal Materials Base and Resource Engineering Research Center at the institute’s analysis and testing center. This initiative, done in cooperation with other organizations, such as Henan University of Science and Technology, is the institute’s first form of partnership of this type involving industry, academia and private research. The institute will be responsible for the analysis and testing of Chinese herbal medicines using its tried-and-true testing team and analytic instrument. In the meantime, a proposal from the institute’s analysis and testing center’s for a public service site for R&D and testing of Chinese herbal medicines in Luoyang got the approval from Luoyang municipal science and technology bureau. Zhang Yunzhong, Liang Yajie

Zhonghao Chenguang projects get provincial appraisal

Three Zhonghao Chenguang Chemical Research Institute projects, one of which involved technology for 2,500 t/a type of PTFE dispersed concentrate industrialization, got Sichuan provincial science and technology dept approval recently, with the judges confirming that the projects are technologically advanced. Yang Xuelian

Qingdao Rubber Factory works with Beijing Research & Design Institute

The Qingdao Rubber Factory No.6 held discussions recently with the Beijing Rubber Industry Research & Design Institute on possible technology development cooperation, where both expressed their various viewpoints on possible problems in the course of cooperation then reaching an agreement on energy-saving conveyor belts, high-performance flame-retardant conveyor belts, and specialty formula R&D. The Research & Design Institute is expected to be responsible for theory and research on new materials, formulas, processes, and tooling, while the factory will work on applied research until the cooperation agreement is finalized. This will be a rewarding experience for Rubber Factory No.6 in combining business, management, and industrial experience with the Research & Design Institute’s technical expertise, and another initiative in technological capability and accelerate the commercialization of scientific developments. Jiang Jiajia
ChemChina companies made an effort during national Occupational Safety Month to conduct emergency response drills to test the feasibility and operability of their contingency plans and the ability of employees and managers in their respective emergency roles. The companies held the drills both alone and in cooperation with local organizations, focusing on subject-matter, demonstrating that, with sufficient preparations and effective implementation they can be more capable in dealing with emergencies.

The Oil & Gas (Tianjin) Petrochemical Co held a three-level emergency response drill, on July 1, for hazardous chemicals, using a simulated fire caused by a leaking pipeline at the heavy-oil catalytic plant’s fractional distillation system. The drill was completed successfully in just over 30 minutes thanks to the joint effort of the Tianjin Meteorology Bureau, Work Safety Bureau, Fire Brigade, Environmental Protection Bureau, Transport Bureau, Quality Inspection Bureau, and Traffic and Ports Bureau, as well as chemical experts and government officials. 

Photo by Mao Xueqiang

Zhenghe Petrochemical’s storage and transport dept rehearsed contingency plans, on June 5, for reducing temperature and pressure on short notice in response to a pressure rise in the spherical tank induced by high summer temperatures, for Safety Month. It did a number of fire drills and emergency rescue drills to make employees more safety-minded and able to deal with emergencies. 

Photo by Yan Xiaoqiang

Simulated first-aid drill for an industrial accident at Southwest Design & Research Institute. 

Photo by Yao Lu

Emergency rescue drill at a ChemChina tank farm. 

Photo by Li Xuri

Qingdao Anbang fire brigade cooling down the plant by flushing. 

Photo by Ma Yue
Frontline employees contribute to ChemChina Newspaper

The 500th issue of Information Morning Post Chemical Edition, the in-house newspaper of ChemChina, came off the press on June 24. Thanks to its reader-friendly nature, Chemical Edition has become a good, convenient way to connect with ChemChina people. Frontline employees of Changyi Petrochemical 3rd Division and company correspondents put their signatures on a board to celebrate the 500th issue of the newspaper and left suggestions and comments.

Memories of ChemChina’s 10th anniversary

On the eve of ChemChina’s 10th anniversary, the company passed out copies of a photo album titled “Photographic Memory” that records the company’s 10 years to workers on the shop floor as a source of inspiration for imbibing the enterprise spirit of ChemChina. In gazing through the album, ChemChina’s people could see memorable moments captured in time.

Photo by Yu Xin, Hao Minghui, Li Weiling

Huaxing Petrochemical employees with copies of Photographic Memory.

Repairmen at Xinghuo Silicone Plant share the joy of the company’s 10th birthday.

Double Happiness Tire Co employees look through the Photographic Memory.
We are Family

A glimpse of the 25th summer camp

In this colorful summer, children embraced the 25th Bluestar International Summer Camp amid ardent expectations and happiness.

Under the theme “world dreams, Bluestar dreams and my dreams”, this summer camp involved nearly 1000 campers from ten-plus countries on a wonderful journey to dreamland.
During the 20-day summer camp, children experienced what they had not experienced before: living with other peers away from home, washing clothes and making bed on their own, demanding physical exercise, first visit to museum to acquire more knowledge…. so many first-time experiences mark the beginning of dreams of children and inspire participants to pursue their dreams. Here, a string of wonderful moments of the camp events are captured to show how children of Bluestart people pursue their dreams.

Photo by Cao Lin, Chen Luxiang, Song Lianqin, Yu Xin