



PAULO AFONSO GOMES

BIOGRAPHY

Paulo Afonso Gomes is a well known Metallurgist in the Steel and Iron Industries, with more than 45 years dedicated to pig iron production and commercialization, plantation of Eucalyptus trees for forestation, and conversion of Eucalyptus trees into charcoal for feeding into the charcoal based blast furnaces. He has led several studies to improve the yield of conversion of wood into charcoal, increasing the pig iron production with the same forest base.

Paulo Afonso began his career in 1972, when he graduated from the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais as a Metallurgist Engineer. In December 1972, he became an Engineer at Blast Furnace of Mannesmann Co. (Seamless Steel Pipe Production), where he was working as a trainee before his graduation. In his time there, Paulo ran the largest charcoal based Blast Furnace in the world.

In 1974, Paulo moved to Cia . Ferro Brasileiro, to work at Cast Iron Pipe Producer, also as Blast Furnace (charcoal based) Engineer. Subsequently in 1975, Paulo was invited to lead the Basic Engineer of the Expansion Plan of Acesita (Steamless Steel Producer), today known as Aperam, on its entire cycle from Raw Materials Yard to Steel Shop. He was part of the team responsible for designing, building, and starting up the world's largest Blast Furnace that used wood charcoal as reductant, a record that is maintained even to this day.

In 1976, Paulo was hired as Reseacher Engineer at CETEC, to be in charge of a complete study on the fundamentals of wood charcoal production. Thereafter in 1979, Paulo moved to Sete Lagoas, MG to take up the position of Director at Sidersete, an independent pig iron company. In particular, he was responsible for the Eucalyptus plantation for charcoal production purposes.

In 1983, Paulo was invited to be the Technical Director of FTI in Lorena, SP. FTI is a research foundation involved in the Niobium production from the Electron Beams Furnace in pilot scale. The project was sponsored by the Brazilian Government and CBMM – a private Brazilian company, who became the one of the most important worldwide Niobium producers. There, he was also involved with Biotechnology for Energy Production (alcohol production from manioc and wood), Rare Metals, and Fine Chemistry.

In 1986 Paulo moved to Sao Paulo Capital, to work for Beter, a construction company. His role was to design and implement the first Pig Iron Plant in the Carajas area (Para state)— a green field project which later became Cosipar, one of the largest pig iron producers in the Northern Brazil.

In 1988, Paulo Afonso moved to Cotia Trading, a Brazilian Private Trading House, as Trader of Pig Iron, and this is where he started his career as Expert in trading and shipping of dry cargos.

In 1990 Paulo left his work in Cotia Trading to become the Commercial Director of SG Foreign Trade, a Brazilian Trading House in Belo Horizonte, which was considered the number one in Brazilian Pig Iron Export by the Brazilian Government Authority.

From 1997 to 2002, Paulo Afonso was the Commercial Director of Cosipar – the largest Pig Iron Producer in the Northern Brazil. In that time, Paulo created the CPI (Carajas Pig Iron)—a pool of 5 Pig Iron Producers—which was responsible for 100% of the sales and shipment of their worldwide pig iron production.

In 2003 Paulo was invited to be the Main Coordinator of Sindifer's logistics – a Union of Pig Iron Producers in Southern Brazil, including all producers of Minas Gerais, Espirito Santo, and Mato Grosso do Sul states.

In 2006, Paulo moved to Queiroz Galvao Group, which encompassed more than 50 companies. Here he was Executive Director and Member of the Board, until his retirement in 2016.

During his time at Queiroz Galvao Group, Paulo was Director of 7 divisions/companies of the Group: Iron (production of Pig Iron from three plants), Forestation (plantation of Eucalyptus), Charcoal (production of charcoal from company owned Group forests), Tropical Fruits (plantation of mango and grapes), Seafood (farming shrimps for export), Business Development (Cement, Energy, Wind, and Hydraulic) and Offshore Company (management of International businesses).

Paulo Afonso has participated in several symposiums, in Brazil and abroad, as author and co-author of papers.