

## Bauxite ore resources of China – a synoptic view

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China has moderately large bauxite reserves spread over Guizhou, Shanxi, Henan, Guangxi and Yunnan provinces which together amount to 3 billion tonnes while global bauxite resources are estimated to be of the order of 55 to 75 billion tonnes. Australia, China, Brazil, Guinea, India and Jamaica are the leading countries in bauxite production. Remarkably, these countries contribute greatly to 87% to world bauxite production, the three countries - Australia, China and Brazil together contribute 69% in world production. However, the overall level of China's bauxite resources endowment is not high. As an important raw material of alumina industry low Al-Si ratio in bauxite is a bottleneck which restricts to the development of alumina industry in China. Bauxite ores in China are mostly diasporic containing limonite, halloysite, illite, pyrophyllite, chlorite and other clay minerals, desliming tests of which are carried out to gain best conditions and controlling parameter for improving the quality of bauxite. For quite sometime now, China has perforce to import good quality bauxite for meeting its domestic needs.

China has witnessed an increase of over 47% in the consumption of aluminium during the past 10 years while global demand is predicted to almost double by 2020. The consumption in Asian countries over the next 15-20 years expectedly will grow to equal that of the entire world. In order to maintain steady sources and normal alumina production, investors in China are looking for potential investment opportunities as the change in strict Indonesian export and environmental policies compelling China to rethink and search for new source.

The *Journal of Mines, Metals & Fuels* is privileged to present in this special issue on bauxite resources in Guizhou province, which has a large scale bauxite resources and minerals, with excellent ore quality and key output.

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