



**INTERNATIONAL  
NICKEL STUDY GROUP**  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **INSG APRIL 2018 MEETINGS**

The International Nickel Study Group (INSG) met on 23 and 24 April 2018 in Lisbon, Portugal. More than 60 government and industry representatives from member countries, observers and several international organizations participated in the meetings.

#### **Nickel market observations for 2016, 2017 and 2018**

The government and industry participants extensively discussed current nickel market trends during the meetings.

According to the International Stainless Steel Forum (ISSF), world stainless steel melting production reached 48.1 million tonnes in 2017, representing a 5.8% growth year-on-year, but production is expected to grow at a slower rate in 2018. In 2017, Indonesia started producing stainless steel and will continue to ramp up production. Nickel-containing batteries also had a positive effect on nickel usage, and this trend is expected to continue.

Nickel pig iron (NPI) production in China declined in 2016, but recovered in 2017, and is expected to increase further in 2018 due to the increased availability of Indonesian ore. NPI production in Indonesia has continued to increase both in 2017 and 2018 due to the ramp up of new projects. In the Philippines, it was announced that the review of suspended mines had been rescheduled for conclusion prior to end of the second quarter of this year.

World primary nickel production was 1.989Mt in 2016, 2.076Mt in 2017 and is projected to increase to 2.227Mt in 2018. There is a degree of uncertainty in these figures, especially with regard to Chinese and Indonesian NPI production. The estimates do not include any adjustment factor for possible production disruptions.

World primary nickel usage was 2.033Mt in 2016 and 2.192Mt in 2017. The INSG forecasts an increase to 2.344Mt in 2018.

The INSG recognizes the significant impact of the current financial, economic and political uncertainties on commodity markets in many parts of the world and cautions that future market developments could alter the forward-looking market balance.

## **Statistics Committee**

The Statistics Committee received constructive input to its work program through a series of presentations and discussions.

**Mr. Kai Hasenclever**, Director, Economics & Statistics and Long Products, ISSF, Belgium, made a presentation on “The current situation on the global stainless steel market”. **Mr. Robin Bhar**, Head of Metals Research, Société Générale, United Kingdom, made a presentation on “Global Stainless Steel Market Drivers for Financial and Physical Markets”. **Mr. Fabien Perdu**, French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA), France, made a presentation on “Use of raw materials in batteries, foreseeable evolution of the technologies”.

## **Industry Advisory Panel**

The INSG Industry Advisory Panel, comprised of representatives from the world’s nickel producing, using and recycling industries, also provided valuable information to the Group.

**Mr. Olivier Masson**, Senior Analyst, Roskill, United Kingdom, made a presentation on “Changing Nickel & Chrome Markets”. **Mr. José Pontes**, Market Analyst, EV Volumes, Portugal, made a presentation on “Plug-in Electric Vehicles (PEV). Where we are now. Where will we be in 2025?”

## **Environmental & Economics Committee**

Discussions in the Environmental and Economics Committee covered a wide range of topics including economic issues and trends and changes in regulations on environment, health and safety relating to nickel.

**Mr. Richard Matheson**, Director, Market Development, Nickel Institute, reviewed “Nickel Market Development Initiatives”. **Ms. Nicole Kinsman**, Technical Director, International Molybdenum Association (IMO), made a presentation on “Molybdenum in stainless steel”. **Ms. Xu Aidong**, Deputy Chief Engineer, Beijing Antaike, made a presentation on “Nickel in Batteries”.

## **Joint Study Groups Seminar “The Growing Importance of Responsible Minerals and Metals Supply Chains”**

A seminar on the topic “The Growing Importance of Responsible Minerals and Metals Supply Chains” will be held jointly by the International Nickel Study Group, International Lead and Zinc Study Group and International Copper Study Group on 25 April 2018.

## **Dates of Next Meetings of INSG**

The next meetings of the Study Group will be held in Lisbon, Portugal on 1 and 2 October 2018, with a Joint Study Groups’ Seminar to be held on 3 October.

Presentations made available by speakers will be placed on the INSG website. For further information please contact the secretariat at [insg@insg.org](mailto:insg@insg.org) or visit the website [www.insg.org](http://www.insg.org).