



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

### **INSG OCTOBER 2018 MEETINGS**

The International Nickel Study Group (INSG) met on 1, 2 and 3 October 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 2017, 2018 and 2019**

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

The International Stainless Steel Forum (ISSF) has released figures for the first three months of 2018 showing that stainless steel melt shop production increased by 9.5% year-on-year (y-o-y) to 12.8 million metric tonnes, after reaching 48.1 million tonnes in 2017 (+5.8%, y-o-y). Production is forecast to continue to expand in 2018 and 2019. In 2017, Indonesia started producing stainless steel and will continue to ramp up production this year and in 2019. Nickel-containing batteries production, notably for electric vehicles, has increased and this trend is expected to continue resulting in positive effects on nickel usage.

Nickel pig iron (NPI) production in China recovered in 2017 and is projected to increase further in 2018 and 2019. In Indonesia, NPI production increased in 2017 and is also expected to continue to grow this year and in 2019, due to the ramp up of new projects. The Filipino government announced in August that 23 of 27 mines reviewed for compliance with state regulations will continue to operate.

World primary nickel production was 2.070Mt in 2017 and is projected to increase to 2.204Mt in 2018 and to 2.389Mt in 2019. 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 2.184Mt in 2017. The INSG forecasts an increase to 2.350Mt in 2018 and to 2.422Mt in 2019.

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. Adrian Gardner**, Principal Analyst, Wood Mackenzie, United States, made a presentation on “Global Nickel Outlook: Getting nervous”. **Mr. André Gilbert Latendorf**, Managing Director, Latendorf Organisational Development, Germany, made a presentation on “E-Mobility: Recent developments and outlook into the future”.

## **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.

**Ms. Alexandra Bertrand**, Market Research Manager Nickel and Manganese Divisions, Eramet, France, made a presentation on Eramet’s activities and “Nickel market outlook”. **Dr. Thomas Höhne-Sparborth**, Director of Economics & Analytics, Roskill Information Services, United Kingdom, made a presentation on “The Triple Automotive Revolution: Supply and Demand of Nickel Sulphate”. **Dr. Gerhard Pariser**, Head of Market Research, ELG Haniel GmbH, Germany, made a presentation on “Scrap: part of the raw material mix & an environmentally friendly option”.

## **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.

**Dr. Mark Mistry**, Senior Manager, Public Policy, Nickel Institute, briefed the delegates on “Socio-Economic relevance of nickel metal and its value chains”. **Mr. Joseph Pickard**, Chief Economist/Director of Commodities, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI), made a presentation on “The Impacts of Trade and Policy Disruptions on the Scrap Recycling Industry”. **Professor Gavin Mudd**, Environmental Engineering, School of Engineering, RMIT University Melbourne, Australia, presented the draft report of the Joint Study Groups’ “Mining and Smelting/Refining Waste Project”.

## **Joint Study Groups Seminar “Base Metals in India – the Next Super-Cycle?”**

A seminar on the topic “Base Metals in India – the Next Super-Cycle?” will be held jointly by the International Nickel Study Group, International Lead and Zinc Study Group and International Copper Study Group on 3 October 2018.

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

The next meetings of the Study Group will be held in Lisbon, Portugal during the week commencing 6 May 2019, with a Joint Study Groups’ Seminar to be held on 8 May.

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).