



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

### **INSG OCTOBER 2019 MEETINGS**

The International Nickel Study Group (INSG) met on 21 and 22 October 2019 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 2019 and 2020**

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 half of 2019 showing that stainless steel melt shop production increased by 1.9% year-on-year to 26.119 million metric tonnes. All growth came from China P. R., whereas all other regions registered decreased output. Production is expected to expand in both 2019 and 2020. The electrification of vehicles continues to develop and will have positive effects on nickel usage, through the use of nickel sulphate in batteries.

Indonesia announced that the country will stop exporting unprocessed nickel ore from January 2020 and China will have less material available to feed its nickel pig iron (NPI) industry. As a consequence, NPI production in China is expected to decrease in 2020, after increasing during the previous three years. New NPI projects in Indonesia will continue to ramp up in 2019 and 2020.

World nickel mine production is expected to grow in 2019 but will decline in 2020 due to the Indonesia ore ban. Nevertheless, Indonesia will continue to be the world's top nickel miner due to its domestic nickel industry. There are also high pressure acid leaching (HPAL) projects underway in Indonesia and also in other parts of the world, which will have a positive impact on mine volumes.

World primary nickel production was 2.184Mt in 2018 and is forecast to reach 2.370Mt in 2019 and 2.476Mt in 2020. However, 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 2.328Mt in 2018. The INSG forecasts an increase to 2.449Mt in 2019 and 2.522Mt in 2020. The implicit market balances are deficits of 144kt in 2018, 79kt in 2019 and 47kt in 2020.

## **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”. **Ms. Lilian Liu**, Analyst, Beijing Antaike Information Co., China P. R., made a presentation on the “Preliminary Report on the INSG Nickel in Indonesia Study”.

## **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. Isidro Alcantara Jr.**, Chairman, Philippine Nickel Industry Association (PNIA), Vice Chairman, Marcventures Mining Development Corporation (MMDC), the Philippines, made a presentation on “A Roadmap for the Nickel Industry in the Philippines”. **Ms. Johnna Muinonen**, President Dumont Nickel, RNC Minerals (RNC), Canada, made a presentation on the company’s activities.

## **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. Veronique Steukers**, Director H&E Public Policy, Head of Office, Nickel Institute, made a presentation on “Current and future policy challenges and opportunities for nickel and nickel-containing products”. **Mr. Adam Panyi**, Managing Director, Rho Motion, United Kingdom, made a presentation on “Battery chemistry and the outlook for EV adoption”. **Mr. Jianbin Meng**, INSG Director of Economics and Environment presented the recently-completed Joint Study Groups’ report on “Responsible Sourcing Initiatives along the Minerals and Metals Supply Chains”.

## **Joint Study Groups Seminar “Addressing the challenge of lower ore grades and rising levels of impurities in concentrates”**

A seminar on the topic “Addressing the challenge of lower ore grades and rising levels of impurities in concentrates” to take place at the Altis Grand Hotel on 23 October will be held jointly by the International Nickel Study Group, International Lead and Zinc Study Group and International Copper Study Group on 23 October 2019.

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

The next Study Group meetings are scheduled for 20-21 April 2020 in Lisbon, Portugal, with a Joint Study Groups’ Seminar to be held on 22 April.

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).