

Iran copper industry keeps making significant progress



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EXCLUSIVE

Copper mining has been an important part of Iran's metal industries for many years. The country has one of the largest copper reserves in the world and has been producing copper for thousands of years. In recent years, Iran has been focused on increasing its copper production to meet the growing demand for the metal.

In the past five years, Iran has made significant progress in expanding its copper mining and production capabilities. The country's government has been investing heavily in the industry to increase output and create jobs.

One of the most significant developments in the industry was the opening of the Sarcheshmeh mine in 2017. This mine is one of the largest copper mines in the world and has the capacity to produce over 80,000 tons of copper concentrate per year. In addition to the Sarcheshmeh mine, there are several other copper mines in Iran that have been expanded or developed in recent years. These include the Sarcheshmeh expansion project, the Sungun mine, and the Meyduk mine. The government has also been working to develop new copper mines in areas with untapped reserves.

The expansion of copper mining in Iran has been driven by both domestic and international demands for the metal. Iran is one of the largest copper consumers in the Middle East and its growing population and economy have led to an increase in demand for copper products.

In addition, global demand for copper has been rising due to its use in a variety of industries, including construction, electronics, and transportation.

Despite the progress made in recent years, there are still challenges facing Iran's copper mining industry. One of the biggest challenges is the lack of modern technology and equipment in many of the country's mines. This has led to inefficiencies and higher costs for many producers. In addition, the industry has been impacted by illegal sanctions which have limited Iran's ability to sell its copper on the international market.

To address these challenges, the government has been working to attract foreign investment and expertise to the industry. In 2018, the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) signed a contract with a consortium of Chinese companies to develop a new copper mine in the country. This project is expected to increase Iran's annual copper production by 500,000 tons.

Overall, Iran's copper mining industry has made significant strides in the past five years. The country's government has invested heavily in the industry to increase output and create jobs, and there have been several major developments in the sector. However, there are still challenges facing the industry, including the need for modern technology and equipment and the impact of sanctions. Nevertheless, with continued investment and support, Iran's copper mining industry has the potential to become a major player in the global copper market.

Minister: Iran's agricultural exports to China up

Iran has seen a significant increase in agricultural exports to China, with a fivefold increase in the first 10 months of the current Iranian year (March 21, 2022-January 20, 2023), according to Iranian Agriculture Minister Javad Sadati-Nejad. Chinese President Xi Jinping has expressed a keen interest in Iranian agricultural, food, and dairy products, said Sadati-Nejad who accompanied Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi during his recent visit to Beijing, IRNA reported. During the visit, the minister signed three cooperation documents in the agriculture field with China, including two agreements related to the export of Iranian dairy products to China and one agreement on exporting apples to the country.

The boost in agricultural exports to China is a significant achievement for Iran, as the country seeks to increase its economic ties with China in the face of illegal sanctions. The move is expected to have a positive impact on Iran's economy.

Iran and China signed a 25-year cooperation agreement in March 2021, covering areas such as energy, infrastructure, and technology. The deal is worth up to \$400 billion and is expected to bolster economic ties between the two countries.

Iran has been seeking to diversify its economy and reduce its dependence on oil exports. The country has been focusing on expanding its non-oil exports, particularly in the agricultural sector.



IR

Afghanistan sets up investment consortium with firms from Russia, Iran



Afghanistan's Taliban-led administration has set up a consortium of companies, including some in Russia, Iran and Pakistan, to create an investment

plan focusing on power, mining and infrastructure, the acting commerce minister said on Wednesday.

The consortium included

14 Afghan businessmen and his ministry had signed a memorandum of understanding with the foreign companies who would send delegates to Kabul to look into projects worth up to \$1 billion, Nooruddin Azizi told Reuters.

Azizi said the administration was focused on launching several long-term business plans including the consortium and special economic zones, and that it was working on ensuring security.

"Lots of discussions on security have taken place in cabinet meetings also, commissions have been established," he said.

"The Islamic Emirate will

ensure security and will support the private sector in the security field," he said, referring to the Taliban administration.

As well as mining and power projects, he said the consortium was eyeing the possibility of building a second tunnel through the Salang pass that connects Afghanistan's north to the rest of the country, and a project to divert water from northern Panjshir Province to the capital as well as re-building the main highway connecting Kabul to western Herat Province.

The minister said the Taliban administration was planning to focus on building special economic

zones it hoped would attract foreign investment. His ministry has helped develop a plan to convert foreign bases into the zones, and a board was being set up with representatives of different ministries. He declined to elaborate while the details were finalised with other ministries and senior leadership.

Shipments of oil, gas and wheat under a major deal with Russia last year had begun arriving in Afghanistan by road and rail through Central Asia, he said, after the payments were made via banking channels despite sanctions that have limited many international payments.

Over 2,300 units start production in Iran: ISIPO

The entry of knowledge-based companies into the field of production can be effective.

Over 2,300 production units have been inaugurated in Iran since the beginning of the current Iranian year (March 21, 2022), said Head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) Ali Rasouliaan. Rasouliaan underlined the need for completing the value chain of industrial products in the country, saying that the Ministry of Industry, Mine, and Trade should pave the way for investment in the sector, IRNA reported.

The official further emphasized the necessity of technological development in the industry sector and stated: "In this regard, the entry of knowledge-based companies into the field of

production can be effective."

In line with the current Iranian year's motto, which is "Knowledge-Based and Job-Creating Production", the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade has been implementing new programs to support productive units across the country.

Providing infrastructure and incentives to small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are among the major programs that the ministry has been following in relation to industrial parks.

Rasouliaan had earlier said that over 2,023 projects related to providing infrastructure for industrial parks, including water,

electricity, and gas supply, with 60 trillion rials (more than \$132.7 million) of credit were underway in different parts of the country.

According to Rasouliaan, 2,067 idle industrial units were revived in the country's industrial parks and zones during the previous Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20, 2022).

The official noted that with the reviving of the mentioned units, job opportunities were created for over 39,000 people.

"ISIPO had put it on the agenda to revive 2,000 stagnant units inside and outside industrial parks and zones in the previous year and by the end of the



year 2,067 idle units returned to the production cycle, which provided employment for more than 39,000 people," Rasouliaan said.

The official noted that 1,433 small workshop units were also established in the mentioned year most of which were productive and knowledge-based units with high technology.

The necessary licenses were also obtained for establishing 26 new industri-

al parks and zones across the country in the previous year, he added.

He stressed that reviving idle production units is the main approach that the government is currently following in the industry sector.

The government is seriously pursuing its programs to resolve production units' problems in collaboration with the private sector; Very good planning has been done in this regard, Rasouliaan said.