

BIR announces date of first Global Recycling Day

BIR World Recycling Convention & Exhibition in Hong Kong (22-24 May 2017)

Recycling "is an untold story" and so the first-ever BIR-organised Global Recycling Day will provide a major opportunity to tell the public, governments and policy-makers about the crucial role played by the recycling industry in "creating a clean and sustainable environment for us all and for future generations", according to BIR World President Ranjit Baxi of UK-based J&H Sales International.

Mr Baxi chose the second meeting of the World Council of Recycling Associations, held at the BIR World Recycling Convention & Exhibition in Hong Kong, to announce that the inaugural Global Recycling Day would be taking place on March 18, 2018, thus coinciding with the 70th anniversary of BIR's formation. The intention was to co-ordinate pro-recycling initiatives across perhaps 50 or more countries, he said.

"Recycling doesn't begin and end in the USA or in Europe; its story needs to be told all around the world," the speaker declared. He urged all members and national associations not only to consider ways of promoting Global Recycling Day in their own countries but also to seek out partners to support the growth of what would be an annual celebration of the social, economic and environmental positives delivered by recycling.

Between now and next March, BIR would be launching various initiatives and calls to action, as well as approaching a host of potential partners, in order to help build towards the first Global Recycling Day. Information on latest developments will appear on the dedicated Global Recycling Day website.

A succession of high-ranking officials from member organisations of the World Council attended the meeting in Hong Kong and offered their heartfelt praise for the Global Recycling Day initiative. Brian Shine, Chair-Elect of the US Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, hailed it as "a big step in promoting the industry's image" while Salam Sharif, President

of the Bureau of Middle East Recycling and Chairman of BIR's Ambassadors Committee, welcomed the opportunity it would provide to send out a "loud and clear" message about the recycling industry's environmental contribution. He went on to suggest that recyclers around the world should sign off all their emails with a note underlining their personal commitment to the March 18 initiative - an "excellent" promotional idea, said Mr Baxi.

As part of its mission to promote research that generates hard data in support of the recycling industry's contribution, the World Council would be looking to commission separate studies on recycling's economic and social benefits, Mr Baxi revealed. The new body, which he again described as "the United Nations of Recycling", would also be approaching the Chinese government for a dialogue to clarify the practical implications for recyclables trading of its National Sword import control initiative.

Free and fair trade must remain "core principle"

One of the main challenges currently facing the global recycling industry is "the increasing burden of legislative controls that does not help in the promotion of a smooth and efficient system of waste collection, segregation and transportation of recyclables," BIR World President has insisted. "Facilitation of free and fair trade must therefore remain the core principle of our industry. BIR is continuously working with its global partners in promoting free and fair trade

of recyclables with minimum regulatory controls."

In noting that 57 member companies and national federations had joined BIR in the last 12 months, Mr Baxi insisted that the world body would continue to prioritise the development of new business opportunities for all of its members, such as through finding new convention locations to help them develop fresh contacts. In this context, he pointed out that the next BIR convention and exhibition on October 13-16 2017 would be held in India for the first time. The venue would be the Taj Palace Hotel in New Delhi, where one of the meeting days would be devoted to a debate on recycling in India, he noted.

The Annual General Assembly was followed by a keynote presentation from BIR's own International Trade Council Chairman Michael Lion of Hong Kong-based Everwell Resources Ltd. Promising random recollections from 50 years as "a rebellious recycler", his selection of sometimes mischievous anecdotes reflected the breadth of his metals industry knowledge and also the far-reaching changes that have transformed the recycling sector, most notably in terms of business communications. "The hardware has changed," he mused, "but the way we conduct our industry and our values are really unchanged."

Non-Ferrous Metals Division: China planning "very severe" scrap import approach

China's reform of its scrap import regime will have potentially far-reaching consequences for the non-ferrous metals sector, the Non-Ferrous Metals divisional meeting was warned by Ma Hongchang, BIR's advisor on the country's policy and regulatory developments. It was even possible, he told delegates, that the Chinese government would go as far as to ban imports of certain items of mixed metal scrap.

The Chinese authorities have not yet issued timetables for import bans or details of the categories of scrap to be affected. However, it was Mr Ma's understanding that copper and aluminium scrap are also to be discussed and would then be subjected to a "tough" review to determine whether imports could continue.

The speaker urged overseas suppliers to the Chinese market to "pay attention" to the country's scrap import policy trends

and to adjust their business models accordingly, urging them to strive at all times to comply with China's environmental protection policies, regulations and standards.

In the context of Mr Ma's comments about Chinese imports, re-elected BIR Non-Ferrous Metals Division President David Chiao of Uni-All Group warned of "very severe weather coming towards us".

Guest speaker Hong Yang of Minmetals, a company which handles 80,000 to 100,000 tonnes of non-ferrous scrap per annum, indicated to the same meeting that China's domestic supply of copper scrap had now overtaken imports and that this trend could be expected to continue. "Scrap imports are declining all the time," he said, adding that domestic scrap was expected to increase by 17% this year alone.

However, Mr Hong emphasised that China was still the world's leading buyer of copper scrap on the international market. Imports were "likely to continue to play an important role" as government

data indicated that the country would require an annual total of 4.4m tonnes of copper scrap from all sources by 2020, he said during a panel discussion moderated by Paul Coyte of Hayes Metals, New Zealand.

Copper scrap imports from Western Europe and the USA were on the decline whereas Asian countries were increasing their share of total shipments to China. And the market was consolidating around importers and enterprises with sound environmental protection practices and more sophisticated processing, Mr Hong observed.

China also constituted a huge player in the secondary aluminium market and a major consumer of imported Zorba, delegates to the BIR Non-Ferrous Metals Division meeting were told by Masao Montani of Daiki Aluminium Industry Co Ltd, Japan's largest secondary aluminium smelter with affiliated companies in Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. His presentation touched on Daiki's decision to more than triple

the capacity of its smelter in Indonesia to 15,000 tonnes per year, to be fed by Zorba imported from Europe and the USA. India was another Asian market in which Daiki would consider staking an interest, he added.

The final guest speaker, John Browning of Hong Kong-based boutique futures broker Bands Financial, argued that, in 2016, base metal prices had embarked on "a long-term cyclical upturn" that could run for "five to 10 years". The speed of the uptrend was being constrained at present by China's desire for stability ahead of its leadership transition in November this year, beyond which there was likely to be "considerable focus on infrastructure building".

In a review of global markets based on the latest BIR Non-Ferrous Metals World Mirror, divisional board member Graeme Cameron of Sims Metal Management Asia highlighted that the government of India was also showing commitment to the fast-tracking of mega infrastructure projects.

Verflechtungen des chinesischen Staates führen zu massiven Marktverzerrungen

Neue Studie belegt unfairen Wettbewerb

2. Mai 2017 – Massive staatliche Eingriffe kennzeichnen die chinesische Volkswirtschaft insgesamt und die chinesische Nichteisen-Metallindustrie im Besonderen. Eine Studie von THINK!DESK China Research & Consulting im Auftrag der Wirtschaftsvereinigung Metalle (WVMetalle) belegt erstmals das genaue Ausmaß dieser Marktverzerrungen für die Metalle Aluminium, Blei, Kupfer, Magnesium, Nickel, Wolfram und Zinn.

Die Studie zeigt, dass 65 untersuchte chinesische Unternehmen der NE-Metallindustrie im Zeitraum zwischen 2010 und 2016 über 7,3 Mrd. Euro an Subventionen in Form von betriebsfremdem Einkommen und passiven Rechnungsabgrenzungsposten erhielten. Insgesamt wurden im Untersuchungszeitraum über 4.000 individuelle Subventionen an die 65 Unternehmen ausbezahlt.

Der Autor der Studie, Professor Dr. Markus Taube, erläutert: „Die NE-Metallindustrie ist ein zentrales Element chinesischer Planungsinitiativen wie der Strategic Emerging Industry Initiative und dem Made in China 2025 Plan. In zahlreichen Schlüsselindustrien strebt China an, Weltmarktführer zu werden.“ Um die chinesische Zulieferindustrie wettbewerbsfähig zu machen, greift China konsequent bei den Produktionsfaktoren Arbeit, Boden,

Kapital und Rohstoffe in den Markt ein. Die hierdurch hervorgerufenen Preisverzerrungen ziehen sich durch die gesamte Wertschöpfungskette und führen auch auf den Endproduktmärkten zu „fälschen“ Preisen. Damit werden die europäischen Unternehmen, die unter marktwirtschaftlichen Bedingungen produzieren, immer stärker unter Druck gesetzt.

Für Franziska Erdle, Hauptgeschäftsführerin der WVMetalle, steht fest: „Europa braucht eine mittel- und langfristige Strategie zum Erhalt der industriellen Wertschöpfungsketten. Solange China durch staatliche Subventionen unfair in den internationalen Wettbewerb eingreift, benötigt die europäische Industrie einen adäquaten Schutzmechanismus.“ Dazu gehört, dass die durch die Studie neu gewonnenen Erkenntnisse im Rahmen der Reform der europäischen Antidumping-Verordnung in den Marktverzerrungsbericht zu China mit einfließen. Nach den Vorstellungen der EU-Kommission soll die Einleitung von Antidumping (AD)-Verfahren künftig an einen solchen Marktverzerrungsbericht gebunden sein. Aus Sicht der WVMetalle muss dabei vor allem sichergestellt sein, dass die Berechnung von Antidumping-Zöllen auf internationalen Benchmarks basiert, nicht auf marktverzerrten chinesischen Preisen.