

BIR CONVENTION - China needs to boost copper recycling activities - Dongying

By Martin Hayes

Shanghai 28/05/2013 - China needs to increase the recovery rate for copper-bearing waste and scrap, as it balances the twin requirements of lessening its dependance on imports, while its domestic consumption continues to rise, Guo Xun Min, executive vice-president of Chinese producer Dongying Fangyuan said.

"Renewable copper becomes popular in copper smelting enterprises with advanced production technology, high recovery rates and a good level of environmental protection," Guo said at the BIR (Bureau of International Recycling) convention here.

China has become the world's top consumer of copper to feed its growing industrialisation. The metal is used in key growth sectors of construction, cabling, plumbing and electronics. Despite government-imposed moderation in its economic expansion, domestic offtake continues to rise.

"China accounts for 40-percent of the world's consumption, but 70-percent of that copper needs to be imported," Guo added.

"We need to recover more - it is a case otherwise of resources being wasted."

Improvements in smelting technology are additionally increasing the potential for boosting recovery rates. As well, smelters using Oxygen Enriched Bottom Blowing Technology reduce energy consumption rates by around one-third.

"Re-cycled copper is gradually being used by many top enterprises," Guo said.

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