

Chinese Geological Prospecting Gets Good Harvest, and Mineral Resources and Reserves Increase Gratifying in 2012

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On March 27, 2013, the Ministry of Land and Resources held a news conference to announce a significant achievement in Chinese geological prospecting work in 2012.

According to government/industry statistics, proved reserves of oil and natural gas have increase substantially in 2012. Newly proven national petroleum geological reserves are 15.2 million tons, a year-on-year growth of 13%, which is the tenth time of more than 1 billion tons since the founding of People's Republic of China; newly proven technically recoverable reserves are 270 million tons, a year-on-year growth of 7%. The 2012 national newly proved reserves from natural gas exploration are 961.22 billion cubic meters, a year-on-year growth of 33%, which is the highest level in our history; the new proven technically recoverable reserves are 500.8 billion cubic meters, a year-on-year growth of 36%. National natural gas production was 106.76 billion cubic meters, a year-on-year growth of 5.4%. The Ordos, Tarim and Sichuan basins are still the main producing areas of natural gas in China. In 2012, national oil production was 205 million tons, a year-on-year growth of 1%, which made a steady increase. The national coal-bed methane production was 2.57 billion cubic meters, a year-on-year growth of 24%.

In 2012, of the 15 kinds of national main solid mineral resources, coal, iron ore, copper, lead, zinc, bauxite, tungsten, tin, molybdenum, antimony, gold, silver, pyrite, phosphate, all except potassium salts, grew in varying degrees. Of the new exploration resources, coal is in the amount of 557.03 billion tons, iron ore 3.73 billion tons, copper ore 3.192 million tons, lead ore 3,387,000 tons, zinc ore 6.427 million tons, bauxite ore 2.1 tons, tungsten ore 841,000 tons, tin ore 534,000 tons, molybdenum ore 1.71 million tons, antimony ore 164,000 tons, gold ore 518.3 tons, silver ore 12,517.6 tons, pyrite ore 16,721,000 tons, and phosphate ore 960 million tons. The iron, zinc, bauxite, tungsten and tin ore resources increased significantly, of which iron and bauxite ores increased more than two-fold, tin ore had a near 100% increase, and other minerals grew more than 50%.

In 2012, there were 154 newly proven mineral deposits of large or medium size (52 large and 102 medium-sized), mainly distributed in Xinjiang, Yunnan, Shanxi, Inner Mongolia, Henan, Shandong, Guizhou and Jilin provinces. The minerals with over 10 large and medium-sized mineral ores added in 2012 are coal (53), iron ore (24), gold ore (18), molybdenum ore (18), phosphate ore (13) and zinc ore (10).

This is the harvest of carrying out the Chinese government's *Geological prospecting strategy action* in recent years, and it is significantly easing the tensions of winning the world's mineral resources.

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