News and Highlights

China's Newly Discovered 116 Medium-Sized or Above Mineral-Producing Areas During 2014

HAO Ziguo1,2, FEI Hongcai1,2, HAO Qingqin3 and LIU Lian1,2

1 Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, Beijing 100037, China
2 Editorial Office of Acta Geologica Sinica (English Edition), Geological Society of China, Beijing 100037, China
3 Editorial Office of Geology and Exploration, Institute of Mineral Resources Research, China Metallurgical Geology Bureau, Beijing 101300, China

On 21st July, 2015, China's Ministry of Land and Resources announced in the promotion meeting of prospecting breakthrough strategic action that China had 116 medium-sized or above newly discovered mineral-producing areas in 2014.

The newly increased reserves of oil in 2014 are 1.06 billion tons; those of conventional gas are 943.8 billion m³; coalbed methane are 60.2 billion m³; shale gas 106.8 billion m³; and all newly increased gas reserves exceed 1.1×10¹¹ billion m³. The year 2014 yielded the largest increased reserves during the recent geological periods. In addition, the newly proven coal resources/reserves are 56.1 billion tons, with a large number of large and super-large coal-producing areas discovered in Xinjiang, Inner Mongolia, Guizhou and Henan. Uranium exploration also produced new discoveries in many basins in the north of China, and the scale of the Daining uranium deposit was further extended. The newly increased iron resource/reserves are 4.3 billion tons, and the conventional iron production bases of Anben, Jidong and Panzhihua were further strengthened. The newly increased copper resources/reserves are 4.95 million tons, and the potential copper resources of the Duolong copper deposit in North Tibet are greater than 20 million tons. The newly increased Pb-Zn resources/reserves are 12.05 million tons, and the Huoshaiyuan area in Hetian of Xinjiang is expected to be a ten million-ton exploration base, which has been a great prospecting breakthrough in recent years for South Xinjiang. The newly increased gold resources/reserves are 835 tons, with the Jiaodong area extending deep for gold prospecting, ranking as the third largest gold concentration area in the world. There are great tin prospecting breakthroughs in the Da Hinggan Ling of Inner Mongolia, which extend China’s tin prospecting space. Chromite exploration achieved significant progress, with 2 million tons of resources/reserves discovered in South Luobusha; a newly discovered orebody in the Xiangkashan ore district ranks as the largest single one since the foundation of new China, and is expected to be a ten million-ton resource base. There are 0.64 million tons of newly discovered lithium oxide resources in the peripheral areas of Jiajika in Sichuan Province, which is a rare commodity worldwide and is as well China’s largest super-large rare metal deposit.

In addition, there are significant prospecting results in the deep and peripheral old mines, and an overall of 312 tons of gold, 2237 tons of silver, 1.88 million tons of copper, 3.65 million tons of Pb-Zn and 0.195 billion tons of iron ores are proven. A total of 14 ore districts, such as the Qixiaishan Pb-Zn deposit in Jiangsu, the Lala copper deposit in Sichuan and the Laowan gold deposit in Henan, have achieved great breakthroughs, with the estimated new resources/reserves reaching the large deposit scale. Overall, 39 mines have achieved important progress, and the estimated new resources/reserves have reached a medium deposit scale. The average service life of old mines has been extended more than ten years, and about 0.12 million workers have gained stable employment.

Acknowledgement

Thanks are given to Susan Turner for her improvement of English.

* Corresponding author. E-mail: haozguo@126.com

© 2015 Geological Society of China