



## Malaysian Govt. to Review Three-month Ban on Bauxite Mining

The long term damage caused by unregulated bauxite mining activities can negatively impact Malaysia's tourism sector, observed Prof. Dr. Ahmad Puad Mat Som dean of Faculty of Applied Social Sciences, University Sultan Zainal Abidin (UNISZA).

"Bauxite mining has caused damages to the environment and locals especially to restaurant operators and fishermen that have affected their income and economy and has created a negative perception among tourists about Malaysia," Ahmad Puad said.

On 15 January the government had issued an order to stop all mining activities for 3 months to enable the cleaning up process to begin. However, Ahmad Puad urged the government to seriously consider the long term damage of the polluting industry on the tourism sector.



"Due to this, our tourism industry has a hard time to get repeat tourists if the issue is not solved. Based on research, there are tourists who have said they will not return to Malaysia especially to the polluted tourist sites. Tourism is very reliant on the environment. We have a symbiotic relationship with the environment. We must

take care of the environment to promote tourism," he asserted.

While saying this, Ahmad Puad also asserted that the 3 months suspension is not enough because of the severity of the damage caused and the government should take more proactive measures in order to bring the affected areas back to life.

## Australia Gain \$1.50/mt to \$204.50/mt as Longs Contract



Australian alumina daily assessment at \$204.50/mt FOB gained \$1.50/mt on January 22nd, as the market continued to gravitate from a long to a more balanced position. Global refining cuts in response to poor margins, and recent consumer restocking and dip buying has put a floor under the market.

There appears to have been a creeping up of buying inquiries in the last couple of days. In the past week, consumer and trader sources have noted that offers were harder to come by. Stockholders have said they were in no hurry to offload.

A stockholder said he was anticipating demand to pick up in coming weeks. In the meantime, there was the option of storing the

tons in China, he said. A Chinese smelter affirmed that sellers were eyeing more than \$215/mt CIF China. It was assessed that the handy size freight rate at \$8.95/mt for a 30,000 mt shipment in March from Western Australia to Lianyungang in China.

Market participants were awaiting the result of Nalco's sell tender in India. Nalco closed a sell

tender for a prompt 30,000 mt cargo for shipment in early February from Visakhapatnam port. Further to this, Nalco floated another sell tender for a second 30,000 mt parcel, for shipment between February 15 and 20, sources said.

China spot alumina price ex-works Shanxi basis has firmed Yuan 5/mt (\$0.76) to Yuan 1,625/mt (\$248/mt) full cash payment terms.

Most refiners have sold out for February now or are no longer offering, as they expect prices to edge up after the Lunar New Year holiday, a Shanxi refiner said.

Spot trade was thin ahead of the holiday, which runs from February 8-12. Buyers and sellers are both staying on the sidelines awaiting fresh direction after the holiday, sources said.

The front-month contract on the Shanghai Futures Exchange closed at Yuan 10,710/mt, down from Yuan 10,780/mt, and also from Yuan 10,990/mt a month ago.

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