

The Aluminum Association

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Aluminium Industries Support Asia-Pacific Partnership Goals to Advance Clean Industrial Development

Washington, D.C. and Sydney, Australia – The aluminium industries within the six member countries of the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate have pledged to work together to achieve the partnership's objectives.

Aluminium industry representatives attending the AP6 Ministerial Meeting yesterday announced the development of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for voluntary action in the areas of cleaner air, energy conservation, recycled materials and improved industrial efficiencies. The MoU will be formally signed at an industry meeting scheduled for Beijing in early May 2006.

Australian Aluminium Council president Wayne Osborn, managing director of Alcoa World Alumina Australia, said: "The aluminium industry welcomes the Asia Pacific Partnership initiative and its objectives. We are focused on realising efficiency, technical and process management improvements across the sector."

Rio Tinto Aluminium chief executive Oscar Groeneveld said: "The Asia Pacific Partnership fits very well with the aluminium industry's global sustainability initiative and this industry accord is designed to further that broad, co-operative approach, based on sustainable development principles, which maintains economic growth while addressing key environmental issues such as climate change."

Steven J. Demetriou, Chairman and CEO of Aleris International and representative of The Aluminum Association (USA), said: "Aluminium is an industry sector that can make practical, measurable contributions to clean economic development and the reduction of greenhouse gases. We are committed to harnessing the advantages of aluminium to achieve economic and social progress as well as measurable improvement in environmental quality."

"Aluminium contributes to a sustainable future when used efficiently. Recycled aluminium, for example, saves up to 95 percent of the energy required for virgin material. Other efficiencies include energy conservation from lighter-weight aluminum-constructed consumer vehicles, and fully recyclable buildings and packaging."

The Asia-Pacific Partnership meeting brought together minister-level government and private sector officials from Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and the United States. Ministers received input from industry representatives on sustainable energy issues and technology development and deployment, and how industry and government can capture opportunities that meet the Partnership objectives.

Draft Aluminium Industry MoU Areas of Cooperation

The Aluminum Association (US), the Aluminium Association of India, the Australian Aluminium Council, the China Nonferrous Metals Industry Association, the Japan Aluminium Association and the Korea Nonferrous Metal Association have agreed to cooperate in the following areas:

1. Environmental Control Technologies and Information Exchange – including identification of key indices and areas of cooperation for climate protection relevant to the aluminium sector, emissions benchmarking efforts and identification of voluntary measures to reduce perfluorocarbon (PFC) and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
2. Energy Efficiency – including identification of voluntary measures to reduce energy consumption per unit of production, and to improve the efficiency of aluminium operations.
3. Health & Safety Education and Information – such as safety workshops, shared industry best practice guidelines and information exchange to improve workplace health & safety efforts.
4. Recycling Education & Techniques – including advanced recycling methods to save energy and reduce GHG emissions in aluminium production
5. Product Applications – including mechanisms to advance and improve packaging; light-weighting of ground, aviation and sea transport; and residential and commercial construction.
6. Measurement and Reporting (Environmental Monitoring / Production Related Statistics) – including air emissions and sustainability indices monitoring, and reporting of statistical information to address and determine progress on voluntary energy-intensity based metrics under the partnership.
7. Information Exchange - the leaders of the Aluminum Association, the Aluminium Association of India, the Australian Aluminium Council, the Japan Aluminium Association and the Korea Nonferrous Metal Association pledge to meet regularly to exchange information and monitor progress in each of the areas of cooperation. They will also report annually to their respective governments on the goals that they have set and the progress in achieving those goals.

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