

Sustainability in aluminum production

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Abstract

Sustainability is and should be a prerequisite and criterion for any project in any field. This includes multibillion dollar industries such as bauxite mining and aluminum extraction, since the impact of these on the world's sustainable future is much greater than the impact of other industries. Environment, energy, residues and process efficiency are important factors of sustainability of mineral processes. Improving these characteristics makes these industries more sustainable. Although aluminum is tremendously used in many aspects of modern life, confusion exists in the society on the role of its mining, extraction and mineral processing technologies in terms of their impact on environment. They are perceived by the public as polluters impeding sustainable development. There are also misconceptions about the role of engineers and scientists in these fields in the development of the society. This plenary paper will give an overview of various aspects of sustainability of aluminum production from mining to extraction. It will also show the important role of engineers and scientists in the environmentally balanced development of the world and the need for recognition of these by society.

Keywords: Sustainable development of aluminum production; role of scientists and engineers in sustainability.