

Workshop on Material Flows and Environmental Impacts behind International Trade
of Japan
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Invited speech 2:

Issues on Brazilian Iron Mining Sector

Dr. Armando Caldeira-Pires *)

In order to fulfill its commitments under the Convention on Climate Change, Brazilian Government must establish an institutional framework to perform activities in gathering and organizing existing data, information and bibliographic references from the energy and industrial sectors. As far as the iron sector is concerned, the work required the estimation of indicators and collection of data that were not available in the national scientific literature, as well as information from national private companies. This approach will allow the calculation of the industrial emissions of greenhouse gases and encourage their dissemination among the others sectors of the economic society.

An important feature lies on the characterization of the best possible information, seeking to minimize uncertainties and avoid bias. This will take into account the current stage of scientific and technological knowledge. In this context, this presentation will assess relevant information for the particular iron mining sector.

Regarding Brazilian industry, the study will depict updated figures of iron ore production, composition, and transportation, as well as main issues of R&D and economic aspects of this sector. Moreover, it will assess main environmental impacts associated with iron ore mining. Finally, Brazilian environmental legislation structure is listed, as well the main institutions involved in mining activities.

As far as this knowledge is concerned, Japanese industries have got a high share of the main Brazilian iron mining and pig iron installations impacts. Therefore, from Japanese point-of-view, the environmental accountability of these processes will be strongly pursued by Japanese firms aiming at decreasing the total environmental impact of their production processes by characterizing and diminishing the specific impact of this commodity, since Japan imports 21% of iron ore from Brazil. Japanese shareholders of Brazilian iron sector units can also gain high benefits from greenhouse gases emissions countermeasures application based on this information.

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Dept. of Mechanical Engineering
Faculty of Technology
University of Brasilia
70910-900 - Brasilia – DF
Brazil
Email: armandcp@unb.br