

ores, copper, alumina, aluminum. It has become an important player on the London Metals Exchange, engaged in trading valued at more than U.S. \$5 billion in 1992. Copper and aluminum amount for more than 90 percent of the trading on the Shenzhen metal exchange, set up in January 1992. Since May 1992 it was surpassed in importance by the Shanghai Metals Exchange, which dominates in copper trading. Both markets are licensed to deal in copper, aluminum, nickel, lead, zinc, tin; Shenzhen can also engage in antimony trade. Twelve million tons of nonferrous metals worth \$4 billion were traded at Shanghai in the first three quarters of 1993.

The majority of nonferrous import and export trade is handled by China National Metals and Minerals Import and Export Corporation (MINMETALS) and, since 1983, by China National Nonferrous Import/Export Corporation (CNIEC), a subsidiary of China National Nonferrous Metals Industry Corp. or CNNC.

### Aluminum

In 1991, China produced 957,000 tons of aluminum, but by the year 2000, it is projected to become the world's third or fourth largest aluminum-producing nation (it is currently eighth) with production approaching two million tons. Almost a dozen new (greenfield) projects have been discussed in the past few years, including the building of four main aluminum industry bases, which are projected to produce 300,000 tons of aluminum oxide and 100,000 of electro-refined aluminum annually upon completion.

However, even if the all the currently discussed projects are implemented, China will remain a net importer of aluminium ingots, in the range of 200,000 tons or more annually, beyond the year 2000. As well, China will continue to rely on substantial quantities of alumina imports. Currently the China National Nonferrous Metals Industry Corporation (CNNC) is also exploring investment in overseas bauxite mining and aluminum smelting.