

NEWS RELEASE

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BHP BILLITON SHIPS ONE BILLION TONNES OF IRON ORE TO JAPAN

BHP Billiton today celebrated the shipment of its one billionth tonne of iron ore to Japan with customers, joint venture participants and employees in Port Hedland, Western Australia.

BHP Billiton President Iron Ore Jimmy Wilson and BHP Billiton President HSE, Marketing and Technology Mike Henry were joined by joint venture participants ITOCHU Corporation (ITOCHU) and Mitsui & Co., Ltd (Mitsui) to mark the milestone in front of the *Saiko* bound for Japan.

Mr Henry acknowledged Japan's industrial transformation and the importance of two-way trade in driving economic growth.

"In the late 1960s and through the 1970s, Japan grew to become an economic powerhouse through its expertise in steel manufacturing, heavy industry, technology and electronics," he said.

"As Japan's economy grew, the iron ore we exported came back to Australia as high-quality manufactured products like motor vehicles and the rolling stock and rail equipment we rely on in the resources industry.

"Today the high-quality iron ore we export from the Pilbara is an essential ingredient for Japan's high-tech steel industry which leads the world in technology and efficiency."

Speaking at the event in Port Hedland, Mr Wilson recognised Japan's contribution to the development of the Pilbara.

"BHP Billiton shipped its first tonne of iron ore to Japan in 1966 and we are proud of the nation-building role we have helped play since that time," he said.

"We also owe much to Japan for their role in growing the iron ore industry in the Pilbara. Our joint venture participants ITOCHU and Mitsui contributed capital, and as trading companies they were a key link into Japanese markets.

"Over the past decade, we have invested US\$24 billion in Western Australia's mines, rail and port infrastructure and continue to adopt new technology to ensure our operations remain world-class.

"As we enter our next phase of growth, we are continuing to improve our productivity, optimising our installed capacity and working our assets harder and smarter to deliver on our customers' expectations."

The opening of the Jimblebar mine earlier this year has taken Western Australia Iron Ore (WAIO) capacity to in excess of 220 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) (100 per cent basis).

Longer term, a low-cost option to expand Jimblebar to 55 Mtpa and the broader debottlenecking of the supply chain is expected to underpin capital efficient growth in WAIO capacity to approximately 270 Mtpa (100 per cent basis).

“The good relationships we have between customers, employees, Indigenous land owners, ITOCHU and Mitsui have been and continue to be crucial to the success of the Western Australian business,” Mr Wilson said.

Further information on BHP Billiton can be found at: www.bhpbilliton.com

For video in English, click [here](#). For Japanese, click [here](#).

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

BHP BILLITON JAPANESE JOINT VENTURE PARTICIPANTS

BHP Billiton has three major Japanese joint venture participants (Mitsubishi, Mitsui and ITOCHU) spanning projects across four countries (Australia, Chile, Peru and Mozambique) and six commodities:

Iron ore: ITOCHU and Mitsui collectively hold 15 per cent of the Western Australia Iron Ore (WAIO) mine, rail and port infrastructure.

WAIO also has one Customer Joint Venture with JFE which is termed JW4. The JV participants are BHPB (68 per cent), JFE (20 per cent), Mitsui (5.6 per cent) and ITOCHU (6.4 per cent).

Coal: Mitsubishi holds a 50 per cent interest in the BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance, Queensland. Mitsui holds a 20 per cent interest in BHP Billiton Coal, Queensland.

Bauxite / Alumina: ITOCHU – holds a 5 per cent interest in Worsley alumina in Western Australia.

Aluminium: Mitsubishi holds a 25 per cent interest in MOZAL smelter in Mozambique near Maputo.

LNG: Mitsubishi and Mitsui jointly form MMI (16.7 per cent) which acts as the Japanese JVP for the North West Shelf project in Western Australia.

Copper: Mitsubishi holds 8 per cent of Escondida in Chile and 10 per cent of Antamina in Peru.