

Mr. Kevin Rudd,
Prime Minister of Australia
postmaster@pmc.gov.au

Dear Mr. Rudd,

We refer to the reports below for your information.

Since you ignored our email below, we will upload the various reports onto our website for our global readers to judge whether our concern that important raw materials like iron ores should never be monopolised by countries like Australia and Brazil who are well end owed with them, to the detriment of the world economy as a whole.

We strongly believe that a sharing of these natural resources world-wide in accordance with time-tested economic principles aimed at maximising production and the better utilization of the world's natural resources would bring about greater justice to humankind.

Fair and equitable distribution of natural resources to nations which are not well-endowed with them would bring about a world that is a better place to live in for all.

Australia - the lucky country needs to act responsibly.

Yours respectfully,

Eddie Hwang
www.unitywa.org
10-Nov-2009.

EU steel makers oppose BHP-Rio iron ore deal

EUROPEAN steel makers have called on [European Union antitrust regulators](#) to probe BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto's iron ore joint venture in WA.

The European steel industry federation Eurofer - whose members include the world's biggest steel makers ArcelorMittal SA, ThyssenKrupp AG and Corus Group - said the joint venture isn't "much different from the effects which would have resulted" from BHP's takeover bid for Rio last year.

"The European steel industry continues to believe that [a merger of iron ore assets of this type in a world market already dominated by just three suppliers would not be in the interests of the steel industry](#), European consumers or the European economy," it said.

EU opposition to BHP's hostile \$US68 billion (\$A86.04 billion) bid for rival Rio forced it to abandon the takeover attempt last year.

The European Commission saw competition problems with the deal that they said could hike prices and reduce choice for European mineral and metals customers.

Rio also complained that the bid undervalued it.

The two miners are now planning a joint production project to pool all their iron ore assets in Western Australia, a move that could save them billions as iron ore prices slide.

Australia's BHP will also pay Rio \$US5.8 billion (\$A7.34 billion) to equalise its contribution to the joint venture.

The deal rescues Rio after it scrapped a \$US19.5 billion (\$A24.67 billion) deal with China's Chinalco over Australian fears that the deal would give a foreign company a strategic stake in one of the country's biggest industries.

Rio's balance sheet is weighed down by \$US38.7 billion (\$A48.97 billion) in debt.

Combining BHP and Rio would allow them to overtake Companhia Vale do Rio Doce of Brazil, the world's largest iron ore miner.

Japanese giant warns Rio merger could affect trade

NIPPON Steel chairman Akio Mimura is pressuring West Australian Premier Colin Barnett to block the BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto Pilbara iron ore merger, labelling mining oligopolies uncompetitive and [a form of resource imperialism](#).

He cautioned that [companies and governments should exercise discipline and uphold the principles of free and fair trade](#) to prevent the strong Japanese-Australian trade relationship from deteriorating.

His comments came as Mr Barnett met with BHP's chief executive, Marius Kloppers, and Rio Tinto CEO Tom Albanese in Perth last night to discuss the government's demands for a higher rate of royalties as part of any joint production plan.....

And in a thinly veiled threat to BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto, Akio Mimura said countries must be wary of letting major resources companies grow to a size where they could abuse their market power.....

BHP set 'China investment policy' says former Treasury official Stephen Joske

From: AAP

Thu Oct 15 07:16:00 EST 2009 Thu Oct 15 07:16:00 EST 2009

BHP Billiton unduly influenced Federal Government policies on Chinese investment in Australia, a former senior Treasury official says.

Stephen Joske, who was the government's leading China economist until July last year, told *The Age* that BHP Billiton exploited "policy dysfunction" to bend policies in its favour, in the process damaging relations between Australia and China.

Mr Joske, who joined the Economist Intelligence Unit after his Treasury stint and is based in Beijing, said: "My very strong view is that the key things that got the foreign investment problem going was government indecision and listening too much to the vested interests of BHP.

"Emails from BHP were circulating at the highest levels, copied in to ministers' offices, about all the '[China Inc](#)' stuff," he told *The Age*.

An onslaught of Chinese investment in the Australian minerals sector began when Chinalco bought a 9 per cent stake in Rio Tinto in February last year.

Chinalco this year agreed to a further \$US19 billion investment deal in iron ore production that collapsed when Rio Tinto instead joined forces with BHP Billiton.

Both investment deals affected BHP's strategy planning, the newspapers said.

The collapse of the deal and Australian government efforts to delay or amend other Chinese investments in the sector have strained relations between Canberra and Beijing.

A BHP Billiton spokesperson declined to comment.