

## Anteckningar från det andra trepartsmötet mellan EU-Japan-USA - workshop kring sällsynta jordartsmetaller 29-30 mars, 2012, Tokyo

Som en del av Tillväxtanalys löpande bevakning inom områdena hållbar utveckling och teknisk utveckling följer här anteckningar från trepartsworkshopen EU-USA-Japan om sällsynta jordartsmetaller (Rare Earth Metals – Rare Earths) som hölls i Tokyo, Japan, den 29-30 mars 2012. Rare Earths är viktiga grundmaterial för ett antal tillämpningar inom elektronik och kraftgenerering. Kinas dominans vad gäller tillgång till lätt brytbara fynd har orsakat en stor oro världen över och bland annat lett till intensifierad forskning och utveckling för att finna ersättningsmaterial.<sup>1</sup>

Det viktigaste resultatet av den slutna konferensen i Tokyo, där Tillväxtanalys tog del av en detaljerad debriefing av EUs inresta experter<sup>2</sup> är framförallt en fortsatt dialog EU-JP-US och att EU och Japan kommer att utlysa forskningsmedel gemensamt. För svensk vidräkning är det senare det direkt sett mest intressanta och kan utgöra en möjlighet för svenska forskningsaktörer att utöka samarbetet med aktörer i EU och i Japan.

Rapporten är skriven av analytiker Izumi Tanaka vid Tillväxtanalys Tokyokontor ([Izumi.tanaka@growthanalysis.se](mailto:Izumi.tanaka@growthanalysis.se)).

För fler nyheter från Tillväxtanalys utlandsverksamhet hänvisas till vår hemsida: [www.tillvaxtanalys.se/globalutblick](http://www.tillvaxtanalys.se/globalutblick). Där kan man även skriva upp sig för att få dem direkt per epost.

<sup>1</sup> Se till exempel Tillväxtanalys rapport *Det globala läget för sällsynta jordartsmetaller – en analys av utbud och efterfrågan (WP/PM 2011:09)*

<sup>2</sup> *Agendan finns tillgänglig på <http://www.nedo.go.jp/content/100482925.pdf>. Vissa delar av presentationsmaterialet finns tillgängligt om ni kontaktar Izumi Tanaka, Tokyo.*

---

### Myndigheten för tillväxtpolitiska utvärderingar och analyser

Tokyo  
Office of Science and Innovation  
Embassy of Sweden  
1-10-3-400, Roppongi  
Minato-ku  
TOKYO 106-0032  
Japan  
Tel: +81 3 5562 5030  
Fax: +81 3 5562 9090  
[info@tillvaxtanalys.se](mailto:info@tillvaxtanalys.se)  
[www.tillvaxtanalys.se](http://www.tillvaxtanalys.se)

Östersund (säte)  
Studentplan 3, 831 40 Östersund  
Besöksadress: Studentplan 3  
Tel: 010 447 44 00  
Fax: 010 447 44 01  
[info@tillvaxtanalys.se](mailto:info@tillvaxtanalys.se)  
[www.tillvaxtanalys.se](http://www.tillvaxtanalys.se)  
Org. nr 202100-6164  
Bank: Nordea Bank AB  
Kontonummer: 9960-2605053327  
Swift: NDEASESS  
IBAN: SE9395000099602605053327

Samtliga kontor  
Östersund  
Stockholm  
Brasilia  
Bryssel  
New Delhi  
Peking  
Tokyo  
Washington DC

*Summary:*

The recent development of a EU-Japan-US coalition appealing to WTO on China's export ban of rare earths clearly illustrates how access to rare earths is becoming a gradually more important issue. The coalition of the three countries is visible in another forum, namely the Trilateral EU-Japan-US Workshop on Rare Earth. The conference was established to accelerate environmentally friendly avenues to the materials, which are in the ever increasing demand for application in energy saving and renewable energy production. This document covers the workshop itself, as reported by the EU delegation to the workshop and a debriefing conducted the following day.

- No concrete outcome was presented but to continue the "tri"alogue to identify synergy between the regions for collaboration of mutual interest was the common understanding
- This forum will continue to be utilized to communicate and collaborate with entities other than EU-JP-US, including the supplier countries
- EU and Japan has bilaterally coordinated research calls to be launched July 2012
- CRM InnoNet, participated by SP and SWEREA from Sweden, was introduced as one of the successful networks within EU.

The high interest on the matter was indicated by the presence of Secretary Steven Chu, Department of Energy, US and Minister Yukio Edano, Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan. Though the appeal to WTO is an important aspect involving the three parties, it was not highlighted in this particular event. The focus of the seminar was to look for alternative solutions, as illustrated by the opening speech by an EU representative stressing the importance of the scientific dimension of the issue and how to secure access to rare earths is a matter of science and innovation.

In the discussion of rare earths, often the following three aspects are highlighted, this workshop was no exception; **Reduce** the use of rare earth in the applications, **Recycle** the material from used applications (i.e. urban mining) and **Replace** and substitute rare earth by the development of new materials providing the same or similar properties. Assessment of the material flow and to take a combined approach is essential. It is not just the technological approach or policy to support it, but diverse approaches such as policy and social aspects of waste management and recycling schemes, security of stable supply, finding environmentally friendly method of mining are all areas of concern.

The closed technical workshop identified a number of cooperation possibilities between the three parties to accelerate the process and share cost in the precompetitive area. Siemens (EU), Hitachi (JP) and GE (US) displayed their difficulties and individual company strategies to secure their supply chain in a number of critical materials. All companies now invest in research to cope with the

situation, Siemens stretching far out into the innovation of the mining and extraction equipment business itself, Hitachi calling the government for action.

Dialogue between the consumers and supplier countries such as Canada and Australia was also conducted at this event. Both countries have established a number of additional mining projects since October, when the 1st workshop took place<sup>3</sup>. Additionally, both countries have showed strong interests in environmental friendly mining and participating in the work on alternatives. The tripartite wishes to keep its doors open for collaboration with other parties, including China, which was explicitly conveyed by Vice Minister Kitagami, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan.

EU-Japan has a joint call on rare earths substitutes as agreed at the meeting last October. Calls are to be launched in July 2012 but drafts will be available mid April. 500 million Euros on each side is to be contributed to the scheme. On the Japanese side, the call will be coordinated by Japan Science and Technology Agency, JST. In general, EU has the advantage in recycling and environmental regulations while Japan has the competitive edge R&D in substitute materials and non-permanent magnets.

Critical Raw materials Innovation Network (CRM InnoNet), managed by Chemistry Innovation was presented as an example of an EU-wide initiative. SP and SWEREA are Swedish participants to this initiative.

---

<sup>3</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/research/industrial\\_technologies/pdf/japan-eu-workshop\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/industrial_technologies/pdf/japan-eu-workshop_en.pdf)