



## China unveils plans for laid off steel workers



China's ministries unveiled general plans to help people laid off from the steel and coal industries, which are in the midst of overcapacity cut. The suggestions on relocating redundant workers were jointly released by seven ministries including the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, and the National Development and Reform Commission.

According to the document in addition to the help given to redundant staff, support will be offered to firms who create new jobs by adopting the "Internet Plus" strategy, developing new industrial fields and products and expanding domestic and overseas market.

It said a back-to-work program should be created so that workers receive training and career guidance for free, and, for those who want to start their own businesses, channels that will give them access to government support.

Local authorities should also enhance trans-regional co-operation to relocate redundant workers to regions with employment opportunities.

To switch from an investment-led model to one that relies on domestic consumption, services and innovation, China is slashing industrial overcapacity, mainly in the coal and steel sectors. According to preliminary forecast by the human resources ministry, the two sectors will see a combined lay off workers totaling 1.8 million. To cushion the effect of job losses on families and society, the central government decided to allocate CNY 100 billion(USD 15.4 billion) to help the laid-off workers find new jobs. The fund can be increased if necessary and local governments handle their responsibilities accordingly.

## Asian Nation to see large job cut

Chinese authorities have said a large number of jobs will be slashed in the coal and steel industries across the Asian nation. Beijing added, the cuts would come as part of an effort to reduce pollution and overcapacity. China's Minister of Human Resources and Social Security, Yin Weimin, announced that the country needed to brace for massive job cuts in the coal and steel sectors. He said some 1.8 million workers in the industries in question were likely to be laid off over the next couple of years, but gave no exact time frame for the job losses.

Yin added that capacity cuts would lead to some small-scale layoffs later this year, but said he was confident of keeping employment more or less stable in 2016 despite downward pressure on the economy. In a bid to combat both overcapacity and pollution, China aims to remove around 500 million tons of coal production within the next three to five years

and halt approvals of all new projects.

The Asian country's cities are often hit by heavy pollution blamed on heavy industry, massive vehicle use and, above all, on coal-burning by power stations.



Nearly 300 Chinese cities failed to meet national standards for air quality in 2015 as authorities expanded the list of monitored towns to 367 from just 189 before 2015. Public discontent about the environment has grown in the world's second-largest economy, leading the government in Beijing to declare a war on pollution and vow to reduce the proportion of energy derived from fossil fuels.

## China Steel places an order with SMS Group to modernise Slab Caster

China Steel Corporation (CSC), Taiwan, has requested SMS group to revamp its Continuous Slab Caster No. 4 at the Kaohsiung location.

SMS group will be supplying a new hydraulic oscillator drive, including the pump station and the pertaining X-Pact® process control system, to replace the existing electro-mechanical drive. For the mold, SMS group is supplying new thermocouples and the technological process models. The level 2 models of the X-Pact® electrical and automation system contain Temperature Monitoring (Mold Monitoring System) and the Breakout Prediction System.

The new hydraulic oscillator drive allows setting of the variable oscillation frequency, stroke length and curve shape. The breakout prediction system enables any possible stickers to be recognized already at an early stage and preventive measures to be taken. Monitoring of the process sequence in the



mold is provided by temperature measurement via thermocouples on the mold copper plates.

SMS group's range of services also includes the project management, on-site training of the operating personnel and the commissioning supervision.

Start-up is scheduled for the end of 2016. China Steel has placed this modernization order as a follow-up to the successful implementation of the Mold Monitoring System from SMS group in Continuous Caster No. 7 in the same works.

China Steel operates Taiwan's largest integrated steel plant and produces around ten million tons of steel per year there.