

China expresses concern over India's anti-dumping probe



China has expressed serious concern over India initiating an anti-dumping probe against Chinese steel products as it sought a 'fair' and 'transparent' investigation in line with WTO rules.

China is highly concerned by Indian trade remedy measures against Chinese steel products, the Ministry of Commerce said. Excess steel production capacity is a global challenge. Countries should unite to face up to it, rather than abuse trade remedy

measures, the Ministry said in a statement, adding that China and India should properly handle trade frictions.

The ministry said it hoped the Indian government could conduct a fair and transparent investigation in line with World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules, and refrain from trade remedy measures. India launched an anti-dumping investigation in April into hot-rolled steel coils imported from China. It is the fourth such probe against China this year, state-run.

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Futures market could serve the physical market - Wang Liquan



Seeing is believing", which can't be truer with the substantial attitude change of the China Iron and Steel Association over the past couple of years to be now fully supportive of steel and iron ore futures.

It was not so long ago; actually it could even be in 2014, when some CISA officials still blamed steel and iron ore futures for bringing too much price turbulence in these two physical markets.

Therefore, it is literally an "eye-opening" experience when CISA's vice chairman Wang Liquan quoted some numbers in his PPT from Dalian Commodity Exchange and Shanghai Futures Exchange when sharing his understanding about how futures market could serve the physical market.

And, the speech was not given to a small group of people, but in the presence of over 500 steel market delegate when they attended CISA's first-ever Steel Derivatives International Conference held in Shanghai on June 23-24.

"Steel-related financial products and futures are just around us with their influence towards the steel industry ever-growing, and greater participation will only help the whole industry to restructure and advance further," Wang said.

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Baosteel and Wuhan Steel reveal mega merger plans



China's BaoSteel Group and Wuhan Iron and Steel Group, the country's No 2 and No 4 steelmakers, both state owned, announced plans to restructure their businesses without giving further details to exchange. However, the merger proposal has been approved by the state owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission as Chinese government seeks to slash overcapacity in the steel industry.

BaoSteel was the world's fifth largest steel producer last year with annual output of 34.94 million tonnes, while Wisco was the eleventh with output of 25.78 million tonnes. The merger between BaoSteel and Wuhan

Steel will see the integrated group becoming the largest steel corporation in China, taking up 7.5% of the steel market but will result in mega layoffs. Both firms are strong in the automobile and electrical steel segments. Wisco commands half of China's annual one-million-tonne market for grain oriented,

flat-rolled electrical steel, followed by BaoSteel's 30 per cent share. It ranked 500 in the Fortune Global 500 last year, with BaoSteel at 218. The two companies have been subject to wide speculation for the past year, since a BaoSteel veteran took over as Wisco chairman. Wisco's 52-year-old chairman Ma Guoqiang was elevated from president to the top job a year ago, after joining Wisco two years ago. The BaoSteel veteran was made its president in 2009.

Wisco' former chairman Deng Qilin was put under investigations by the Communist Party's Central Commission for Discipline Inspection two months after he stepped down.