THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF THE PHILIPPINES

By Travis Q. Lyday

The Republic of the Philippines, which is a developing democratic republic, is located just north of the equator about 1,100 kilometers (km) east of the coast of the mainland of Southeast Asia. The country is an archipelago that comprises 7,000 islands, of which fewer than 900 are inhabited by the country's 85 million people; the major islands are Luzon in the north, Visayas in the middle, and Mindanao in the south. The archipelago is within the Pacific "Rim of Fire," which is so-called because of the intense volcanic activity at the margins of the tectonic plates, and is well-known for its epithermal gold, porphyry copper-gold, and volcanic-hosted massive sulfide deposits.

In 2003, the Philippines was a significant producer of chromite, copper, gold, and nickel and had in the recent past ranked among the world's top 10 producers. Other important mineral commodities were coal, gypsum, silver, and sulfur. Significant deposits of clay, limestone, marble, phosphate, and silica also occur.

More-extensive coverage of the mineral industry of the Philippines can be found in the 2002 U.S. Geological Survey Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Area Reports—International—Asia and the Pacific.

PHILIPPINES—2003 22.1

 $\label{eq:table 1} \textbf{TABLE 1}$ PHILIPPINES: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

METALS	Commodity ²		1999	2000	2001 ^e	2002 ^e	2003 ^e
Chromium, chromits; gross weight	METALS		1///	2000	2001	2002	2003
Copper:			19.566	861	1.932 3	2.000	2.600
Mine couppur, Cu counters		 -	15,000	001	1,502	2,000	2,000
Metal: Sancher	- 11		34 600	129 768	20 322 3	18 364 ³	20 414 3
Smeller	* '		3 1,000	125,700	20,322	10,501	20,111
Refined			162,000	160 000	216 634 r, 3	137 800 r, 3	111 600 ³
Sold, mise output, Au content				ŕ			
Incident seed, seed, ended 100		kilograms					
				ŕ			
Nicker, mine output, Nicometer 18,210 23,534 33,600 8,800 9,580 3,800 1,580 3,800 1,580 3,800 1,580 3,800 1,580 3,800 1,580 3,800 1,580 3,800 1,580 3,800 1,580 3,800 1,580 3,800 1,580 3,800 1,580 3,800 1,580 3,800 1,580 3,800		isuna tons					
No. No.							
Cement, hydraulife		kilograms					
Cament, hydraulic		KIIOGIUIIIS	10,210	25,554	33,000	0,000	7,500
Rentonite		sand tone	12 566	11 050	8 653 3	9.000	8 500
Bentonite 1,844 2,800 5,128 3 5,500 5,500 Red		isana tons	12,300	11,737	0,033	2,000	0,500
No. No.			1 844	2.800	5 128 3	5.500	5 500
White 5,465 1,598 5,111 3 5,000 5,000 Other 771 800 800 800 Feldspar 16,909 3,440 33,122 3 30,000 30,000 Lime 7,829 9,000 9,000 9,000 9,000 9,000 Prite 10,265 5,650 6,000 40,000 400,000 Pyrite and pyrrhotite, including cuprous, gross weight ** 320,000 300,000			ŕ		,		· ·
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Total do. 137,000 137,000 993,400 ³ 993,000	Other	do.	10,000	10,000	10,000		225,000
	Total	do.	137,000	137,000	139,000	993,400 3	993,000

^eEstimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. ^rRevised. -- Zero.

¹Table includes data through October 1, 2004.

²Reported.

³Included "pebbles" and "soil" not further described.

⁴Excluded limestone for road construction.

⁵Included materials described as rock, crushed or broken; stones, cobbles, and boulders; rock aggregates; and broken adobe.