



## **ISSUES OF SAFETY IN OPEN-PIT IRON ORE MINES - QUO VADIS?**

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### **Introduction**

With global iron ore production scaling to new heights, thanks to spurt in global demand for steel, iron ore production touched 1520 Mt in 2007. Of this, some 96% was contributed by open pits. The Islamic Republic of Iran contributed some 21 Mt to the global production; some of the iron ore mines such as Gol-e-Gohar, Chuqart and Chadormalu in Iran belong to the world class and are destined for significant capacity expansion.

The dimensions of safety in open pit mines are, by and large, a miniscule vis-à-vis underground mining and yet workplace-related injury and death contribute to lost production and impact on employee morale and productivity. The number of fatal injuries per one million man hours worked (FIFR) in open pit mines has registered some new highs and in Indian mining sector in the recent past surprisingly the rate of fatal accidents in surface coal mines has almost become the same as belowground operations