



Mr. Remzi Abdullai,
General Manager of
VARDAR DOLOMIT - Gostivar

It is an honor and pleasure that, as a General Manager of Vardar Dolomit, I will have an opportunity to state my opinion for the development and the potentials of mining and metallurgy in the Republic of Macedonia in this publication.

The Republic of Macedonia is rich with mineral raw materials and they represent a quite good basis for intensification of the economic development. The legal regulations of the Republic of Macedonia created favourable business climate for entrance of foreign capital in this segment of the economy as well. The recent explorations were intensified for that purpose and they indicate that there is a solid basis for restarting the existing and opening new mines for mineral raw materials on a small space such as the Republic of Macedonia (25,713 km²), which was certainly boosted with the entrance of fresh foreign capital.

Apart from the current opportunities for building small, ecological acceptable facilities for production and processing of non-ferrous metals, there is also an opportunity for involving potential foreign investors in the implementation of profitable project, thereby providing high level of utilization of secondary metals in the base ore such as indium, gallium, cobalt, silver and gold, including their processing into products with higher level of finalization.

Primary production of ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy created basic conditions for more dynamic development of the metal processing complex as its secondary production structure. For that purpose, large metallurgic capacities for production of ferroalloys, steel sheets, welded pipes and profiles, lead and zinc, and other metals from the basic raw materials were built. The processing capacities in this industry are modernized with application of state-of-the-art technology systems manufactured and applied in the EU countries and USA.

As I have already mentioned, the ore reserves are large and very promising. The development of metallurgy was also a stimulant for opening new mines in the non-metal field for exploitation of bentonite, feldspar, gypsum, quartz, quartzite sands, opalized tuff and other non-metallic raw materials.

A great advantage in use of non-metallic mineral raw materials is their location near the surface which makes production more efficient and less expensive.

The heterogeneous geological composition and the tectonically evolution enabled the creation of number of deposits with architectural-constructive stone. Most used are marble, travertines, onyx, granites, gneiss, syenites. The tradition of using and excavation of decorative stone in those areas dates back in ancient time which can be proved by the archaeological remains and cultural monuments.

Indicator that this branch is going in upper line is the fact that over one hundred concessions are given for research and exploitation of architectonical-constructive stone, as well as for intensification of production and processing of these materials.

The growing global demand for energy is also worth mentioning. We can say that it was considered in the past that there is not a potential for energy raw materials in the Republic of Macedonia, except for the metals and non-metals, and sufficient attention for finding alternative energy sources was not paid. Now, intensive geological explorations of coal, nuclear mineral raw materials and water resources are made. Many geothermal springs, which were insufficiently used, were discovered. These sources deserve a greater attention as energy potentials and we can use the experiences of other countries for their exploitation.

Despite of the existing global crisis which affects all segments of society, we are trying to overcome the challenges and the problems by continuing with production and processing in the sphere of the metal and non-metal industry, thus maintaining the vitality of this very important economic branch.

Remzi Abdullai