

Investment opportunities in the mineral sector of Pakistan

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Pakistan is geologically a unique country where within an area of about 796,096 Sq kms almost all geotectonic zones related to plate tectonic process are developed. Precambrian shield rocks are exposed in Nager Parker area of Sindh Province, Sargodha area of Punjab Province and in Karakoram, Hindukash and Himalayan part of Pakistan. Andian type Island arc is developed in Chagai District of Balochistan and Oceanic type Island Arc in Kohistan. Cheman-Ornach-Nal transform boundary exists between Indo-Pakistan plate and Afghan Block. Ophiolitic rocks and melanges occur along western margins of the Indo Pakistan block in Lasbela-Khuzdar, Muslim Bagh-Zhob and Waziristan while deep seated thrusts known as MKT and MBT are the suture zones between Eurasian Continental Plate, Kohistan Oceanic Island arc and Indo Pakistan Continental Plate. There are vast areas in Pakistan which have geological environment favorable for the discovery of world class mineral deposits. The significant discoveries made so far include huge coal deposits in Thar coal field in Sindh, well known copper-gold potential of Chagai-Raskoh region in Balochistan, dimension stone deposits (Marble and Granite) in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), Balochistan and FATA, world class gemstone deposits i.e., emerald, ruby, tourmaline, garnets in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan. Private mining companies can invest in establishment of mechanize coal mines, commissioning of coal based power plants in Thar, Sonda Jheric and Lakhra coal fields of Sindh, mining and processing of dimension stone including marble granite and colored limestone, mining cutting polishing of gemstone in KPK, AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan and establishment of chemical industries based on value addition of rock salt.

Pakistan is very attractive to exploration/mining companies for a number of reasons encompassing presence of investment friendly National Mineral Policy and provincial mineral concession rules providing various incentives and facilitation to investors. Presence of favourable geology, cheap labour force, good climate, good infrastructure and communication network, availability of experienced geoscientists, technician and laboratories make Pakistan a favorable country for the investment. Geological data base of significant nature is also available for planning all future geological and mining activities.