

## Press release

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### **Rio Tinto exports 1 billionth tonne to China**

**18 May 2011**

Rio Tinto today reached the historic milestone of exporting 1 billion tonnes of iron ore from its operations in the Pilbara, Western Australia to China.

The billionth tonne was loaded on to the vessel *Yi Da* at Rio Tinto's Cape Lambert port operations with a cargo of 205,000 wet metric tonnes of Yandicoogina fines iron ore and will be delivered to China in early June.

The very first shipment delivered by Rio Tinto to China in September 1973 was 21,812 wet metric tonnes of Hamersley lump ore on the vessel *Stolt Vista*.

Sam Walsh, Rio Tinto Chief executive, Iron ore and Australia, said this significant landmark highlights the longevity of Rio Tinto's relationship with China.

"Over the years that relationship has broadened and deepened, through our joint ventures with Baosteel and SinoSteel in the Pilbara and most recently, our partnership with Chinalco in Africa and China itself".

"No other company has exported anywhere near this amount of iron ore to China and it took 38 years for us to do so".

"Our partnership was founded on longstanding friendships and I am certain that our shared future will be just as firmly based," Mr Walsh said.

The *Yi Da* commenced loading at Cape Lambert at 13:00 on 17<sup>th</sup> May and departs for China tonight.

The 205,000 wet metric tonnes of Yandicoogina fines iron ore was sourced from Hamersley Iron's mining operations.

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## About Rio Tinto

Rio Tinto is a leading international mining group headquartered in the UK, combining Rio Tinto plc, a London and NYSE listed company, and Rio Tinto Limited, which is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange.

Rio Tinto's business is finding, mining, and processing mineral resources. Major products are aluminium, copper, diamonds, energy (coal and uranium), gold, industrial minerals (borax, titanium dioxide, salt, talc) and iron ore. Activities span the world but are strongly represented in Australia and North America with significant businesses in South America, Asia, Europe and southern Africa.

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