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Brucutu: the world's biggest iron ore mine

With an investment of US\$ 1.1 bln, the project has a capacity of 30 mln tons of iron ore per year and will involve about 2,500 jobs

Companhia Vale do Rio Doce (CVRD) inaugurates Thursday (Oct 5th) the Brucutu Project, the world's biggest iron ore mine/plant complex in initial production capacity. Budgeted at about US\$1.1 billion, the project is located in the São Gonçalo do Rio Abaixo municipality, 93 km away from Belo Horizonte. The project's grandiosity can be realized in its numbers. At the peak of the works, about 26,000 people, including employees directly hired by the company and third-party employees, worked on Brucutu's deployment. As of now, the mine will have about 2,500 permanent employees.

In the project's first phase, Brucutu will produce 12.2 mln tons of iron ore per year. In the second phase, expected for 2007, production at Brucutu will reach 23 mln tons per year. In 2008, Brucutu is expected to reach its installed annual capacity of 30 mln tons of iron ore.

With reserves estimated at about 737 mln tons, Brucutu is the biggest mine in the Minas Centrais Complex, which also includes the Gongo Soco, Água Limpa, and Andrade mines. In total, 8,500 jobs were created in the region. In addition to jobs and income, CVRD's performance in the region has also contributed to several social projects being carried out.

Social and Environmental Responsibility

Companhia Vale do Rio Doce (CVRD) is committed to corporate social responsibility. Within its strategy of having environmental protection and creating conditions for the communities that neighbor its operations to have effective economic and social mobility opportunities, CVRD undertakes a series of programs to guarantee sustainable development to the areas where it performs, an effort that integrates economic, environmental, and social aspects.

Through the Vale do Rio Doce Foundation (FVRD), the company's estimated investment in social programs in the region of Minas Centrais totals 2.1 million reais.

More information



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