

Web Based Review

Title: General and International Mineral Policy

Sub-title: Focus: Europe

One-sentence summary: The book discusses the development of mineral policies that is vital in creating a mineral resources strategy and ensuring mineral supply commensurate with its demand and to develop a competitive mining industry.

The Book Review:

The book titled **General and International Mineral Policy** (ISBN 978-3-211-89003-2) authored by **Günter Tiess**, published by **SpringerWien NewYork** is a unique contribution in the Mining world, in the policy framework, administrative and legal parlance. The book is the one of the pioneering works in mining and is a comprehensive book of its kind ever published and authored.

Being the most important chain in the value link of a nation's economy, minerals as raw materials play the role of building blocks. With the emergence of less developed countries in the world economy, it is assumed that the usage of raw material will be doubled by another eighteen years taking an average growth rate of four percent. It is high time that mineral policy of developed, less developed and under developed countries be reframed. At this juncture the book **General and International Mineral Policy** is topical and has made a significant contribution as to what should be a mineral policy and how the mineral policy is to be framed.

Minerals are unequally distributed worldwide and occurrences of mineral do not follow the geographical boundary of any country and no country is self-sustaining for all the minerals needed. This phenomenon has a very important bearing on the mineral market and further the supplier-country's oligopolistic structure affects the mineral market. The author has dealt with all the above important aspects that affects the mineral market.

The book is divided into eleven Chapters and has one hundred and eighty illustrated Figures and eighty-seven summarised Tables.

Chapter 1 gives a general overview of the topic and fundamentals related to the subject. Chapter 2 contains mineral consumption of Europe and also discusses on the public awareness of raw material issues. Chapter 3 focuses on raw material demand and supply in Europe. Chapter 4 outlines the basis on which the mineral policy is to be framed. It gives scientific definition and the necessity of the raw material policy. Here the objectives of the raw material policy are placed in international context. Chapter 5 contains the discussion on the basis of the outline of mineral policy given in Chapter 4 particularly focussing on member and non-member countries of European Union. Chapter 6 focuses on the European Union referring to the outline of the mineral policy given in Chapter 4. Chapter 7 suggests the option to establish a coherent European minerals policy and its strategy. Chapter 8 in conclusion emphasises upon implementation of a coherent European mineral policy. Chapter 9, 10 and 11 are the References and Appendix 1 and 2 respectively. In Appendix 1 excerpts of the

international mineral policy approaches have been cited which is a valuable compilation by the author. It leads to an insight into comparing the mineral policies of developed, less developed and under-developed countries. The author concludes the book stating that national mineral resource policies play a decisive role to develop a country's mining industry.

The book is very useful as a fundamental guide as well as a reference book that evokes the researchers to delve into pursuing research in this field. The book examines in particular the status quo of the European mineral research policy and put forward proposals for the implementation of such a policy for discussion.

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