

# Sulphur World Symposium 2014

Long Beach, California, USA | April 7-9, 2014



The Sulphur Institute is proud to host the Sulphur World Symposium 2014 — an annual event that attracts sulphur industry leaders for two days of expert speakers, networking events, and industry tours. TSI's last symposium held in North America brought together senior management delegates from various aspects of the sulphur industry. TSI is projecting record-breaking attendance at this year's event in Long Beach, California, USA.

For the most up-to-date information on or to register for the Sulphur World Symposium 2014 visit:  
[www.sulphurinstitute.org/symposium14](http://www.sulphurinstitute.org/symposium14)

## Sulphuric Acid in Ore Leaching

**Richard Hands – Editor – *Sulphur Magazine***  
**BCInsight**

Leaching of base metals has been a rapidly growing segment of sulphuric acid demand over the past few years, fuelled by the industrialization of China in particular. China has seen massive new demand for copper, and copper production has seen increasing use of hydrometallurgical extraction techniques, especially in Chile, but also in the US and Peru. There are several more copper leaching projects on the horizon, although consumption is likely to be offset to a significant degree by declining production in Chile. Meanwhile, as well as some zinc leaching, there is also a considerable volume of acid destined for production of uranium for civil nuclear power. In spite of the Fukushima nuclear accident in Japan, demand for uranium continues to increase and the run-down of global nuclear stockpiles means that this additional uranium must come from mining. Uranium extraction in Kazakhstan in particular has been hungry for sulphuric acid for in-situ leaching methods.

But it is the High Pressure Acid Leaching (HPAL) of nickel which has led to the largest increase in acid demand for metal leaching over the past few years, with several large projects in Australia, Madagascar, New Guinea, New Caledonia and the Philippines. However, the nickel market is now oversupplied and the production of nickel pig iron in China on the one hand and the financial and technical difficulties experienced by some HPAL producers on the other mean that there are few new nickel leaching projects on the horizon.

