

Jacques Astier (1923–2012)

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Jacques Astier passed away in early 2012. He was one of the most enthusiastic supporters of *Mineral Economics/Raw Materials Report* already from our early days in the 1980s. We will miss his sharp analysis, long experience and vast network of contacts all over the world. Was there a steel mill he had not visited? Definitely not one in Europe at least. He made numerous study trips to both China and India and acted as a consultant and advisor in the early days, long before these countries started booming.

In late 2011, at the age of 88 (!), he sent us two articles: one full paper on the Evolution of iron ore prices and one shorter comment to developments in India. Due to mishandling by the Editors, they did not pass through our system before Jacques Astier died. The comment on India has been published elsewhere, while the full-length paper has been peer reviewed and edited. We are very happy and proud to be able to present it to our readers in spite of this delay. In this thought-provoking article, his ability to come to exiting and clear conclusions based even on limited facts is vividly demonstrated.

Magnus Ericsson
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Editor in chief

“Jacques Astier graduated in 1948 from L’École Centrale in Paris, one of the most famous of the Grande’s Écoles in France. He has been a director at L’Institut de Recherche de la Sidérurgie Française, IRSID. Since 1988 he has been an independent consultant to corporations and institutions in metallurgy, iron ore and techno-economic matters. He has served as elected administrator (Administrateur élu) of La Société de L’Industrie Minérale, SIM from 1983 – 1989. He was the president of the section for mineral processing (La section de valorisation) of SIM for the period 1963 – 1968 and he is currently honorary president of the section and received the section medal in 2002. Jacques Astier was Professor at L’Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Paris, another of the famous Grandes Écoles of France as well holding the position of President of the IMPC Council, in today’s terminology from the VIII IMPC in Leningrad in 1968 until the XV IMPC in Cannes in 1985. He published papers and reports on iron- and steelmaking, and iron ore markets.”

Professor Eric Forsberg, Luleå University of Technology, 2010.

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