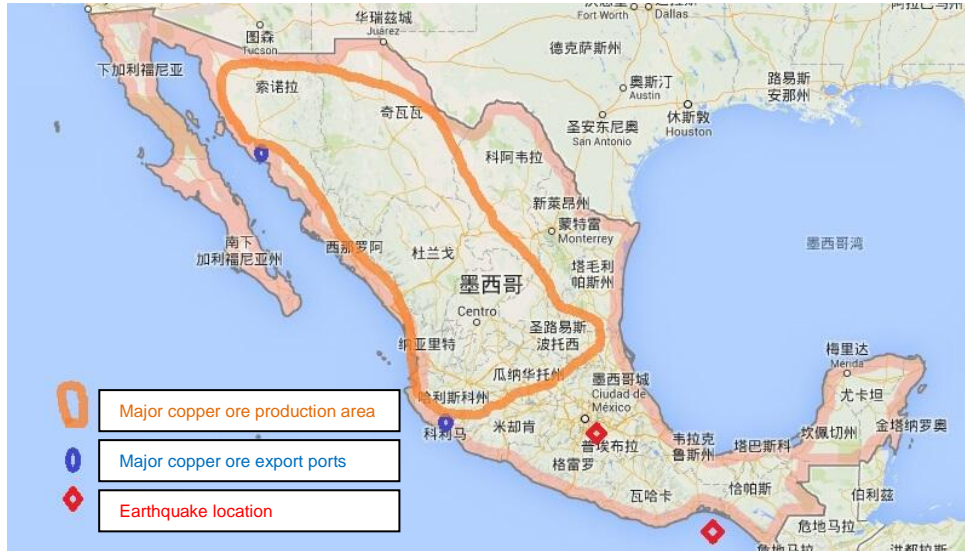


Strong earthquake exerts little effect on Mexico's copper concentrate exports to China

BEIJING (Asian Metal) 22 Sep 17 - The magnitude 8.4 earthquake occurred in the coastal and inshore area of Mexico on 8 September 2017, the most violent earthquake in Mexico since the 1985 earthquake which devitalized thousands of people. On 19 September 2017, Morelos, in Central Mexico suffered from the magnitude 7.1 earthshock. As there are no major copper mines within disaster areas during the two earthquakes this year, Mexico's copper ore production and copper concentrate exports to China undergo little impact.



Mexico's major copper ore production area, ports and earthquake location

Located in Northwest Mexico, Sierra Madre Mountains owns abundant mineral resources, and Sonora in Northwest Mexico is the largest copper ore production state whose copper output from many copper mining enterprises accounts for above 77% of the overall figure of the country, with copper concentrate produced in the local area mainly exported via Guaymas port. Many copper mines in Sinaloa, Sonora, and Chihuahua, Durango, Zacatecas and San Luis Potosi are also under operation. The copper ore output in Northern states represents 95% of the national total. Therefore, the earthquake makes little effect on production of copper mines in North Mexico.

Mexico's copper concentrate exports to China are mainly via Manzanillo port, Colima, in West Mexico, which is the hub port of the country and disposes 40% of the overall container handling capacity of Mexico, serving 15 states and connecting with over 70 international ports. The shipping schedule from Manzanillo port to Ningbo port, China is 20 days or so. As the port is beyond quake areas, Mexico's copper concentrate exports to China suffer little effect.

In addition, Mexico's copper concentrate exports to China only account for about 5% of China's overall imports of the material, so the strong earthquake exerts little influence on China's copper concentrate business.

China's copper concentrate imports from Mexico and proportion (unit: 10kt)

China's copper concentrate import channels	2015	2016	Jan-Jul 2017
Mexico	64.7	99.3	53.1
Global	1329.4	1696.3	962.6
Proportion of Mexico's copper concentrate	4.87%	5.85%	5.52%