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2025 European Conference Provides New Outlook

Leading zinc market analysts at the recent 2025 International Zinc Conference Europe in Lisbon forecast a short-term mixed outlook for zinc despite accelerating demand over the next three decades. The growing market for zinc in galvanized auto steel in both China and India as well overall growth and investment in India is tempered by a reverse globalization and the uncertain tariff landscape, according to analysts from McKinsey & Company, Wood Mackenzie, CRU, CHR Metals Limited, and Concord Resources Limited. IZA's Martin van Leeuwen confirmed through research produced by the Galvanized Autobody Partnership that zinc demand in auto steel through 2030 will increase by an impressive 22%.

The more than 100 conference participants also learned about sustainability advances in the zinc industry from IZA's Sabina Grund, who debuted the latest stocks and flows fact sheets created in partnership with the Fraunhofer Institute. The fact sheets, [found on IZA's circularity page](#), provide a thorough update of recycling trends both regionally and globally and indicate that China has transitioned from being the leading importer of zinc to becoming the leading exporter of processed zinc to other Asian countries.

The seventh annual conference also revealed an active year for advocacy in the European Union, with updates provided by both Eurometaux's Ainhoa González Pérez and IZA's Noömi Lombaert examining the Clean Industrial Deal, Transition Pathway for Metals, and Soil and Water Frameworks. Stay tuned for IZA's coming June Communique focused on its advocacy efforts around the world.

A record-breaking 25% of conference participants were female, and the 2025 Women in Zinc networking event was well-attended. The discussion focused on finding ways to attract more women to the zinc industry and compared how various cultures can impact the work environment. IZA thanks conference sponsors Holding KCM 2000 AD, Boliden, REAZN, Trafigura, Glencore, BMC Analysis LTD, and Metaenterprices LTD for their support.



Zochem's Shahram Mehdian and Mohit Sharma treat Sabina Grund to a tour of the Brampton plant.

Spotlight on Canada: a Sustainability Tour

Associate Director of Sustainable Development [Sabina Grund](#) represented IZA at CIM Connect 2025, the annual conference of the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM) and the starting point for Sabina's visit with IZA members and partners in Canada to discuss sustainability and new developments in the zinc industry.

Key takeaways from the conference included innovations in decarbonization as well as community and indigenous relations, and Sabina enjoyed the opportunity to meet with CIM leadership to discuss opportunities for collaboration. While at the conference, Sabina met with the team from CEZinc, Glencore's smelter in Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, Quebec.

An inspiring visit to McGill University followed the conference, and Sabina met with Professor Jeff Bergthorson's team in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. The group is researching the use of zinc as renewable fuel to store and transport energy with the goal of supplying remote places with a reliable renewable power. The technology builds on zinc's high volumetric energy density, and in a closed loop, zinc as an energy carrier reacts with supercritical water at extremely high temperature and pressure, to produce zinc oxide and release hydrogen. Safe and renewable, zinc can be transported over long distances and its energy stored for long periods of time. Read more about the McGill research [here](#).

Visiting with members is a favorite IZA activity, and Sabina greatly appreciated her visit to Brampton's Zochem plant, where she observed zinc oxide production, as well as a visit to Teck's Toronto office, where she provided updates on IZA's Life Cycle (LCA) Assessment projects, recent developments in LCA methodologies, and impact opportunities on zinc recycling rates. Meeting with experts from IZA member companies provides a unique opportunity for IZA staff to learn about their needs and the challenges they face, enabling the IZA team to tailor support projects in a more targeted and efficient manner.



Zinc Saves Kids Funds Impactful Research

Since 2010, IZA's Zinc Saves Kids program has funded critical research and clinical trials on zinc supplementation and food fortification around the world. Recently Zinc Saves Kids expanded its partnership with the International Zinc Nutrition Consultative Group (IZiNCG), a non-profit dedicated to reducing zinc deficiency, and this collaboration has led to several significant achievements.

Zinc Saves Kids contributed to research on the impact of zinc-fortified salt for women in Punjab, India, an effort also funded with a \$2.5 million grant from the Gates Foundation. The strongest correlations between the one-day weighed food records and duplicate diet composites among women of reproductive age were found for daily intakes of calcium, sodium, zinc and phytic acid. Providing inexpensive zinc dietary supplements or food fortification can save the lives of as many as 500,000 children every year and enable another 400 million children to reach their full physical and mental potential.

Thanks to the dedication of Zinc Saves Kids, IZiNCG, and other health organizations, the number of children receiving oral rehydrating salts and zinc to address acute diarrheal disease has increased ninefold, approximately 68 million rehydration and zinc treatments. With adequate zinc, children can develop strong immune systems and achieve appropriate milestones for mental and physical growth.

The challenge remains to ensure that every community can prevent zinc deficiency, and a brief on the impact of climate change on zinc deficiency was recently released. Funded by Zinc Saves Kids, the report demonstrates the need for more education and programming in support of zinc supplementation and food fortification globally. Find this brief and other updates from Zinc Saves Kids [here](#). If you are interested in donating or hosting a fundraiser on behalf of Zinc Saves Kids, please reach out to Director Eric Van Genderen at evangenderen@zinc.org.

Speaking and Writing of Zinc

GAP is going around the world – most recently to Brussels, followed by Nashville, Tennessee. [Ana Paula Domingos Cardoso](#), who manages IZA's [Galvanized Autobody Partnership](#), led both meetings to bring the latest research on galvanized steel in the automotive sector to GAP members. In Brussels and Nashville, researchers from McMaster University, University of Waterloo, CRM Group, CentraleSupélec, and The Materials Centre of Leoben presented their cutting-edge findings to GAP members. 2025 is the final year of the current three-year GAP research cycle, when GAP members learn about new technologies and processes to make autos safer and stronger. Stay tuned for the new 2026-2028 GAP Catalog, which is coming out soon.

The IZA team was pleased to participate in the recent India Lead Zinc Development Association's conference in Nagpur, India. Technology & Market Development Director [Martin van Leeuwen](#) provided a market update for zinc in galvanized auto steel, India Director [Dr. Rahul Sharma](#) discussed corrosion-resistant hot-dip galvanized rebar, and [Zinc Nutrient Initiative](#) Director [Soumitra Das](#) presented on the latest developments in zinc fertilizers.

Metals Master and IZA European Affairs Director [Howard Winbow](#) enjoyed teaching at an informative, fun, and fast-paced 2025 Metals Academy, organized by Eurometaux. More than 40 participants gathered for the four-day event to learn about the benefits of metals to society, new market technology trends and applications, and both the challenges of and innovations in decarbonization. Like his annual Metals Academy 6K run, Howard ran his events smoothly, including his introductory presentation on the new Metal Age, chairing the ESG sessions, and concluding the week with an interactive group exercise. Congrats to all the graduates, including IZA Chemical Management Officer [Emilia Hoste](#).

[Zinc Battery Initiative](#) Manager [Josef Daniel-Ivad](#) was delighted to share the advantages of zinc batteries as well as the expansion of zinc battery manufacturing with participants attending the Battery Council International's recent San Antonio conference. Josef, along with nickel-zinc battery manufacturer Michael Burz of Enzinc, explained how zinc batteries can make use of spare capacity in lead acid battery production facilities – a profitable outcome for both industries. The conference followed Josef's recent visit to Washington, DC to participate in Clean Power on The Hill, an opportunity for cleantech leaders to advocate members of the U.S. Congress for more support of renewable energy and energy storage.



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