

**FUTURE DIRECTION AND CHALLENGES OF MALYSIAN RARE EARTH INDUSTRY AS A POTENTIAL GREEN ECONOMY ENGINE**



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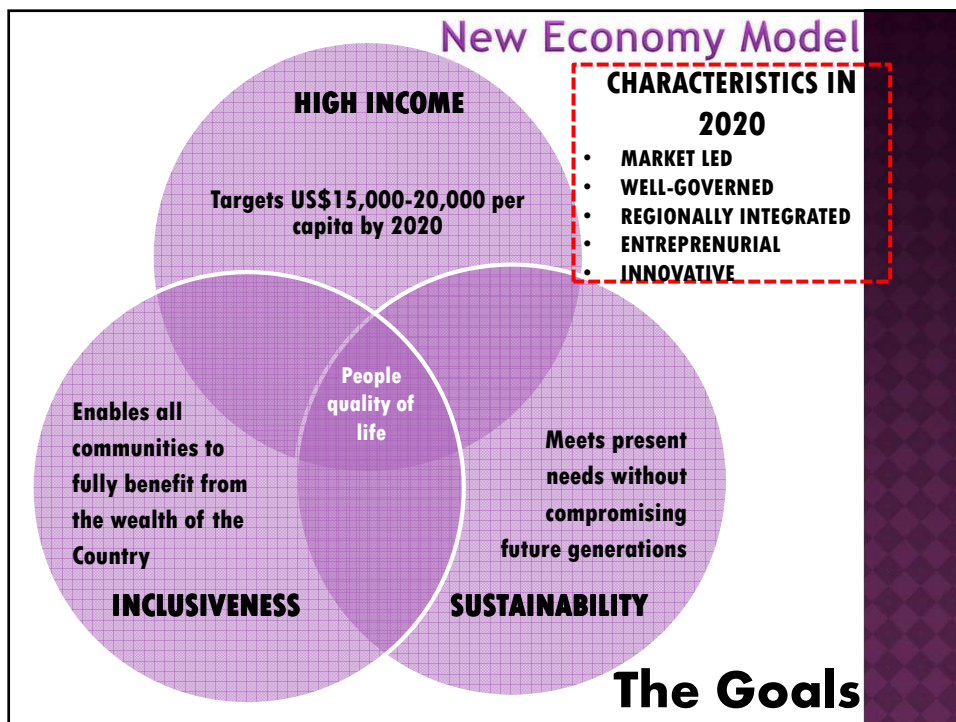
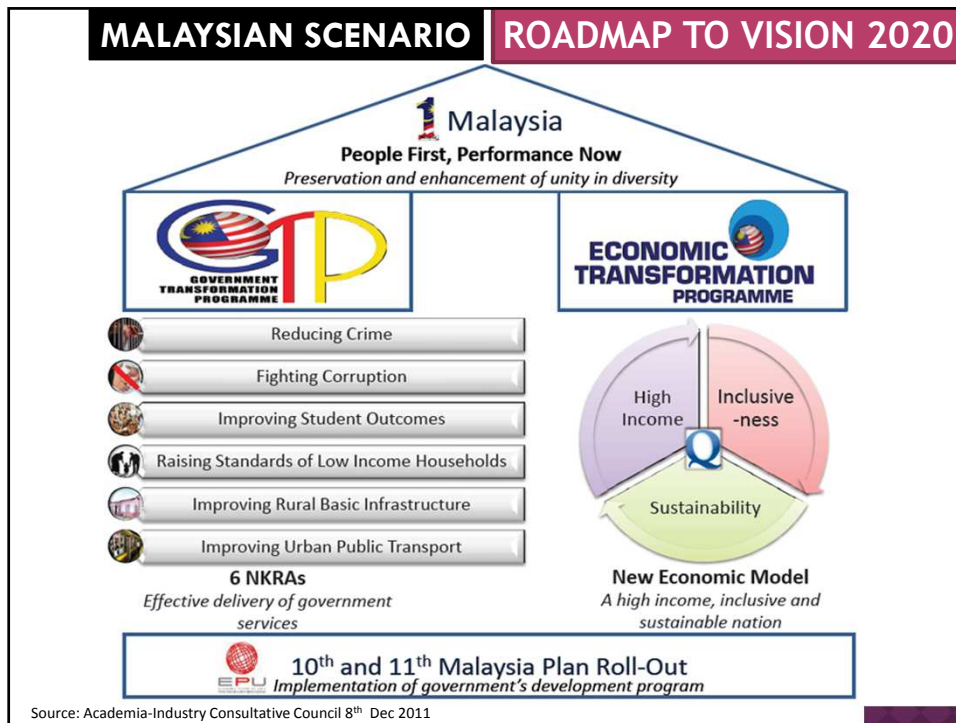
**WORLD SCENARIO**

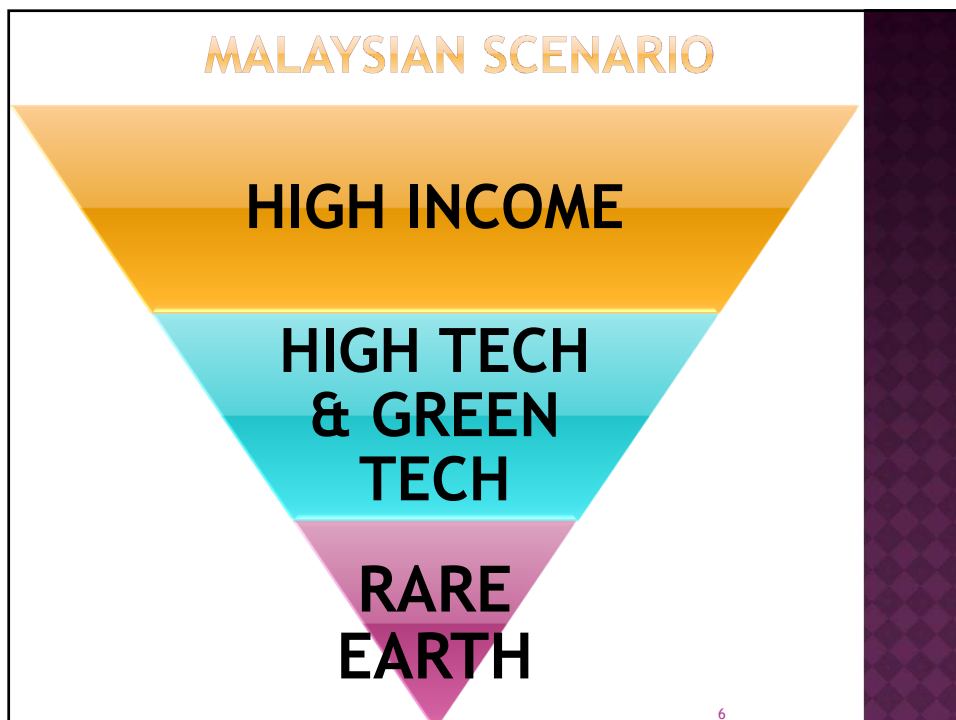
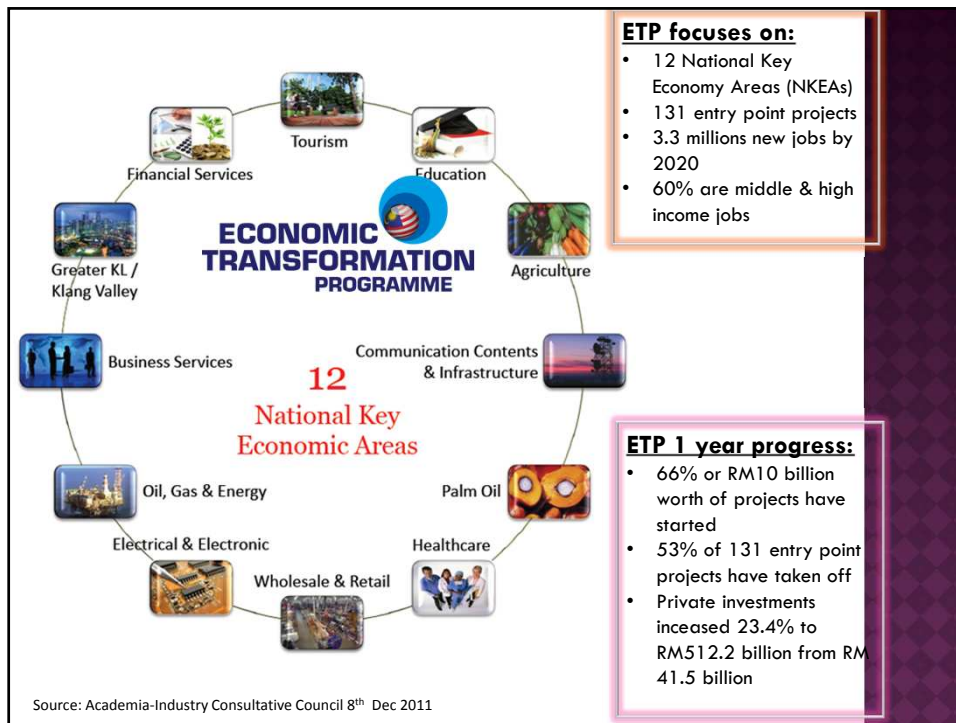


**CLIMATE CHANGE**  
THE GREAT THREAT TO LIFE AND A NEW ENERGY SOURCE

**SHORTAGE OF RESOURCES**

**FOOD & WATER**





## WHY RARE EARTH?



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## CHINA'S PROGRAM 863 (IN 1986)

- ◉ National High Technology Research and Development Program, namely Program 863
- ◉ the objective of the program is to “gain a foothold in the world arena; to strive to achieve breakthroughs in key technical fields that concern the national economic lifeline and national security; and to achieve ‘leap-frog’ development in key high-tech fields in which China enjoys relative advantages or should take strategic positions in order to provide high-tech support to fulfill strategic objectives in the implementation of the third step of China’s modernization process.”

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## RE IN PROGRAM 863

- ◉ mainly meant to narrow the gap in technology between the developed world and China, which still lags behind in technological innovation, although progress is being made.
- ◉ focuses on biotechnology, space, information, laser, automation, energy, and new materials.
- ◉ The use of rare earth elements can be found in each one of the areas in which Program 863 focuses.

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## FATHER OF CHINESE RARE EARTH CHEMISTRY



- ◉ Professor Xu Guangxian
- ◉ in 2009, at the age of 89, won the 5 million yuan (\$730,000) State Supreme Science and Technology Prize, China's = Nobel Prize.

Xu Guangxian  
Source: China Military Report

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## ABOUT RARE EARTH .....

ARE NOT REALLY RARE ;

WIDELY SPREAD THROUGH OUT THE  
EARTH'S CRUST IN SMALL  
CONCENTRATIONS;

CANNOT BE MINED ECONOMICALLY.

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## Rare Earth Elements

Rare Earth Elements consist of a group of fifteen elements known as the Lanthanides. The lanthanides are located in block 5d of the [periodic table](#) from lanthanum to lutetium

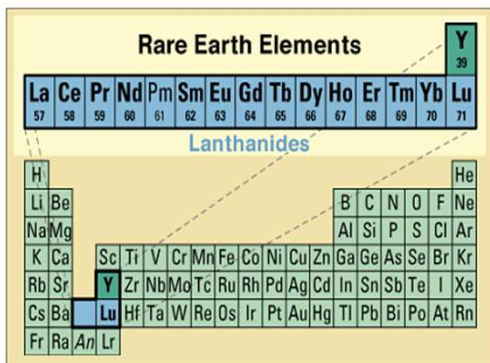
Rare Earth Elements																Y 39	
La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu			
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71			
Lanthanides																	
H															He		
Li	Be											B	C	N	O	F	Ne
Na	Mg											Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar
K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe
Cs	Ba	Lu	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn
Fr	Ra	Ac	Lr														

- Lanthanum (La)
- Cerium (Ce)
- Praseodymium (Pr)
- Neodymium (Nd)
- Samarium (Sm)
- Europium (Eu)
- Gadolinium (Gd)
- Terbium (Tb)
- Dysprosium (Dy)
- Holmium (Ho)
- Erbium (Er)
- Thulium (Th)
- Ytterbium (Yb)
- Lutetium (Lu)
- Yttrium (Y)

## Rare Earths cannot be substituted in many applications



### RARE EARTHS: LANTHANIDES PLUS YITTRIUM – UNIQUE PROPERTIES



- **Chemical**
  - Unique electron configuration
- **Catalytic**
  - Oxygen storage and release
- **Magnetic**
  - High magnetic anisotropy and large magnetic moment
- **Optical**
  - Fluorescence, high refractive index
- **Electrical**
  - High conductivity
- **Metallurgical**
  - Efficient hydrogen storage in rare earths alloys

## Rare Earths underpin new materials technology required to sustain the needs of today's society



Energy efficiency through lower consumption

Environmental protection through lower emissions

Smaller yet more powerful digital technology



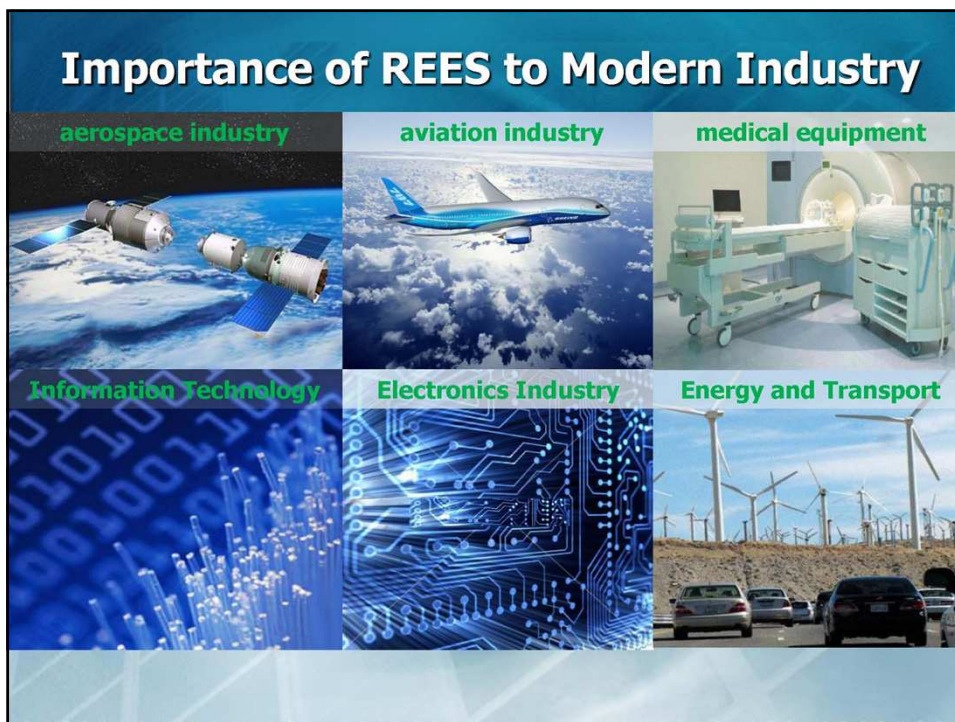
- Compact Fluorescent Lights
- Hybrid vehicle
- Weight reduction in cars



- Wind turbine
- Auto catalytic converter
- Diesel additives

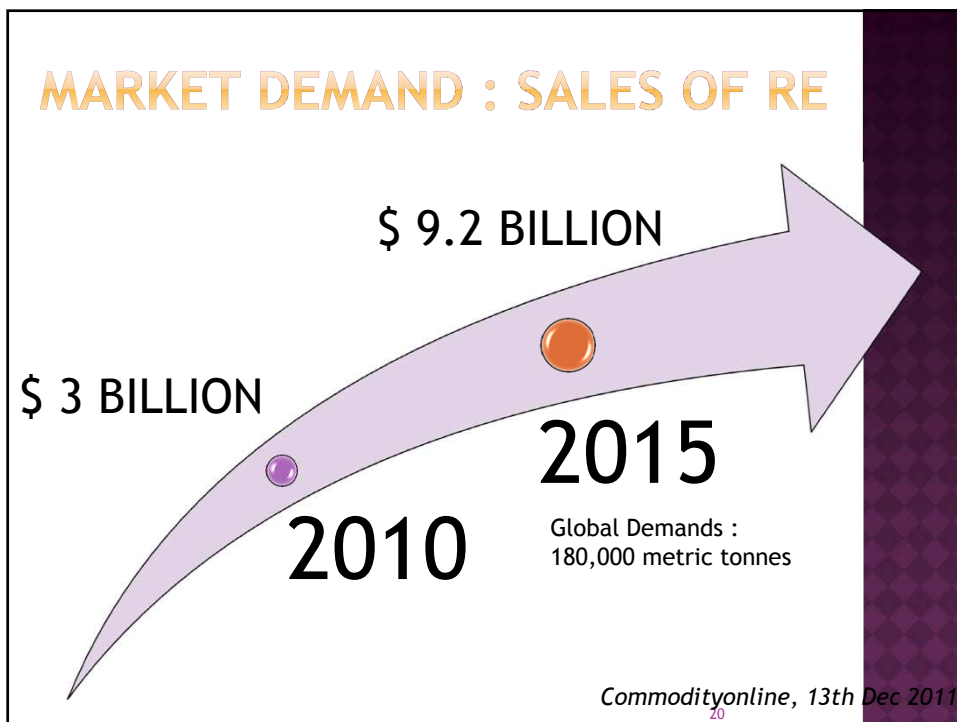


- Flat panel displays
- Disk drives
- Digital cameras









## RARE EARTH DEMAND

**1. CERIUM**  
Flat-screen displays; fiber optics  
Estimated 2015 demand in tons:  
70,200



**2. LANTHANUM**  
Oil refining; metal-hydride batteries  
for electric vehicles  
Demand: 48,500



**3. NEODYMIUM**  
Hybrid/electric vehicles; wind  
turbines  
Demand: 36,900



**4. YTTRIUM**  
Smartphones; flat-screen displays  
Demand: 14,050



**5. DYSPROSIUM**  
Magnetic resonance imaging;  
smartphones  
Demand: 2,200



**6. TERBIUM**  
Hybrid/electric vehicles; smart-  
phones; flat-screen displays  
Demand: 550



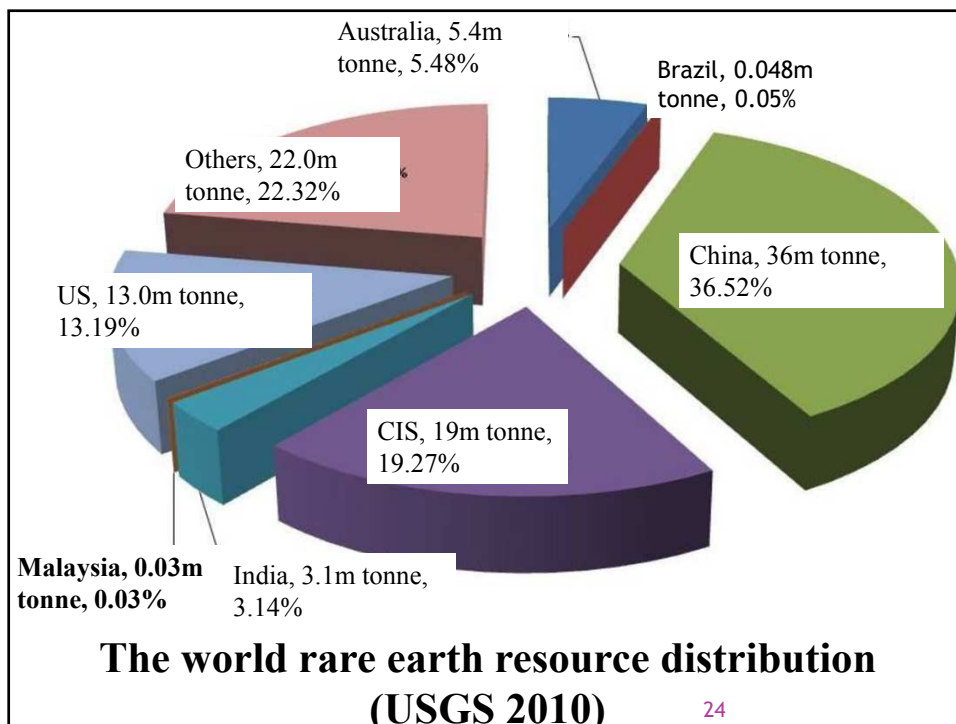
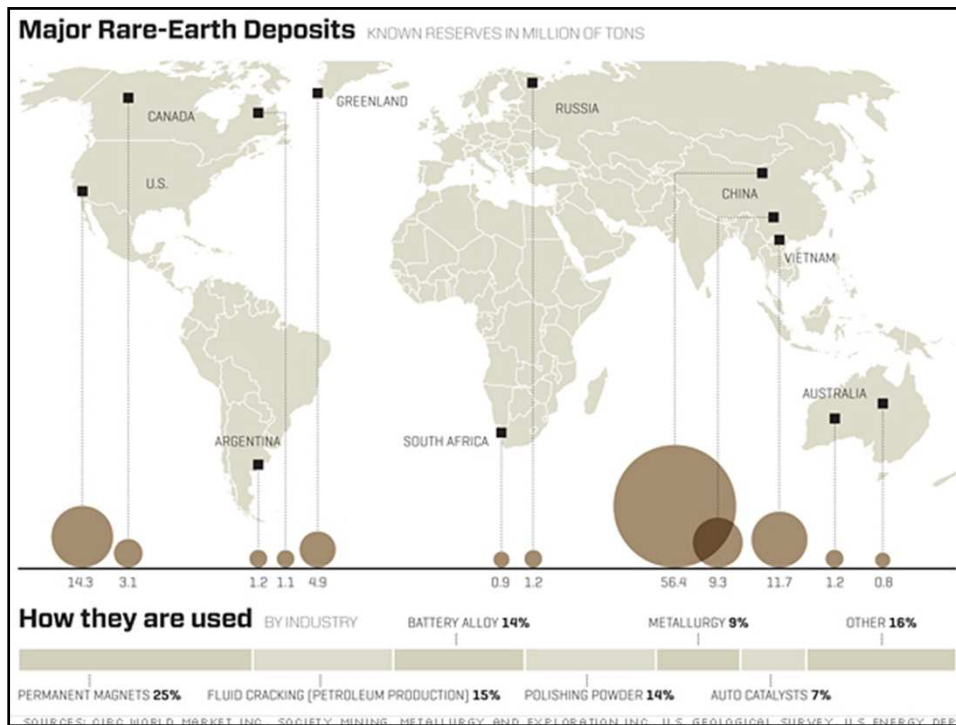
Magnets will be the growth driver for Rare Earths demand to 2014. Polishing powder demand has dropped due to activities to improve productivity



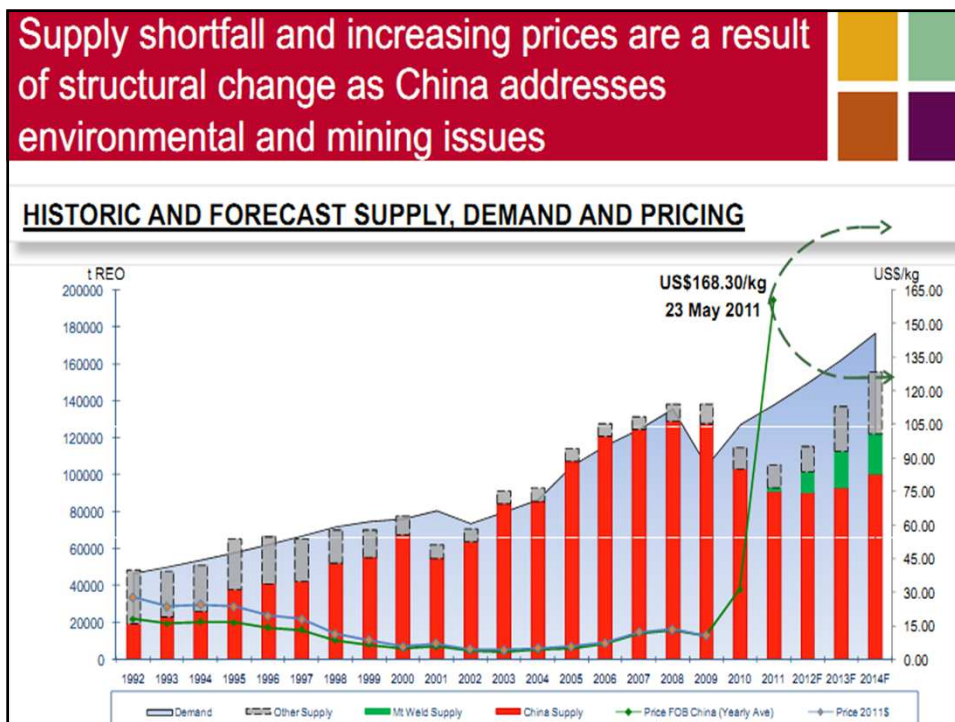
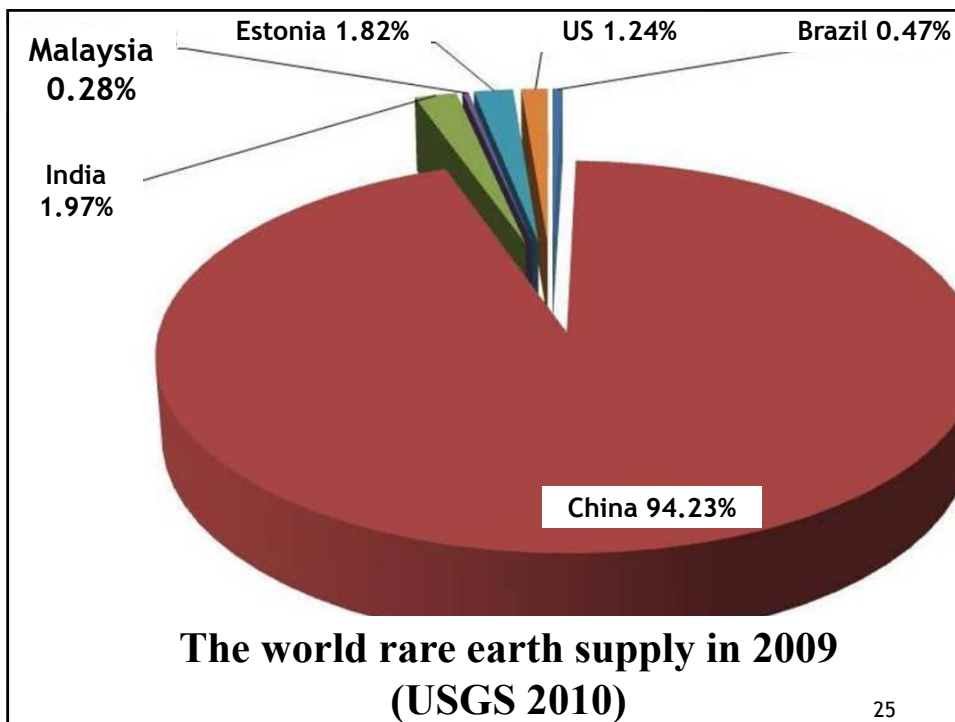
### DEMAND FORECAST BY APPLICATION

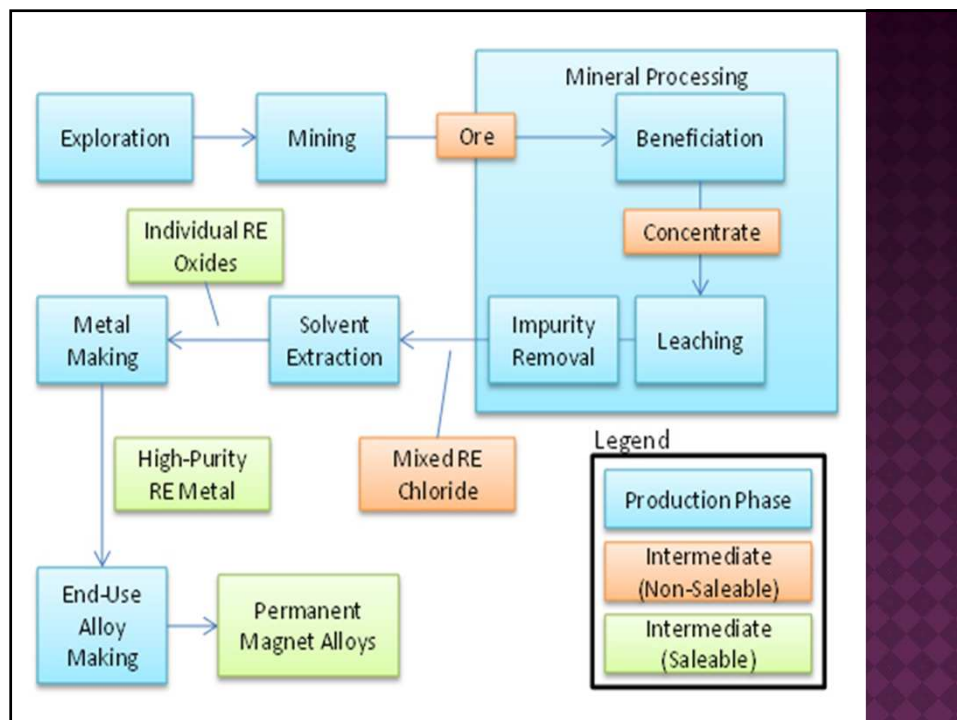
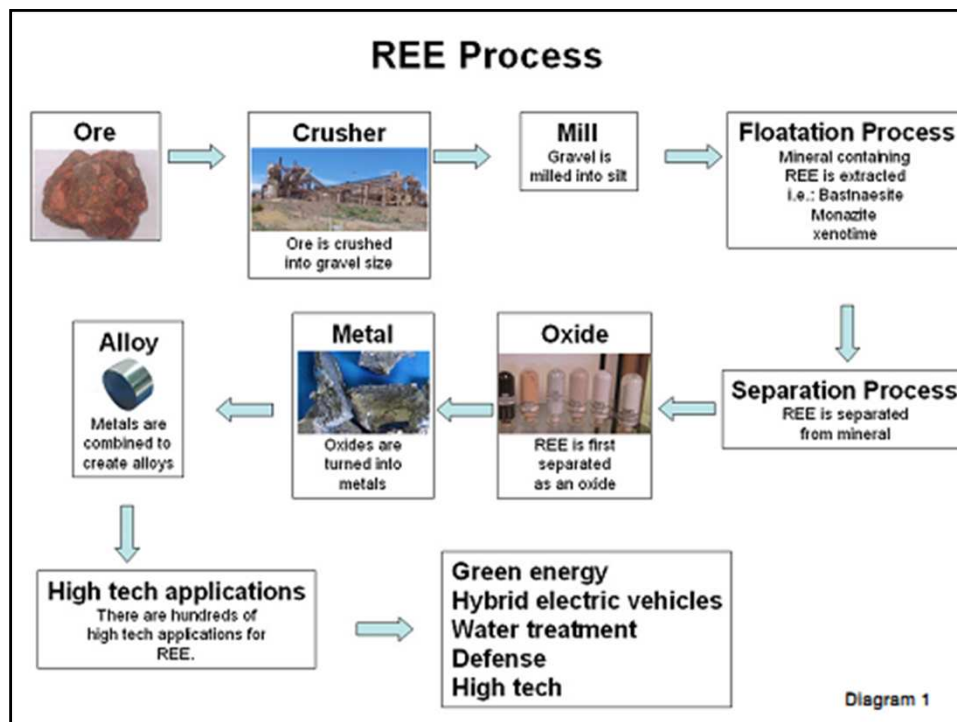
2010 Demand by Application			2014 Demand Forecast by Application		
Application	Demand (%)	Demand (t)	Application	Growth (%)	Demand (t)
• Magnets	25%	31,500	• Magnets	12%	49,600
• Battery Alloy	15%	18,600	• Battery Alloy	15%	32,500
• Metallurgy ex batt	9%	11,700	• Metallurgy ex batt	2%	12,700
• Auto catalysts	7%	9,000	• Auto catalysts	8%	12,200
• FCC	17%	21,300	• FCC	4%	24,900
• Polishing Powder	11%	14,000	• Polishing Powder	10%	20,600
• Glass Additives	6%	7,800	• Glass Additives	0%	7,800
• Phosphors	6%	7,900	• Phosphors	8%	10,800
• Others	4%	5,700	• Others	8%	6,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>127,500</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>177,200</b>











# PRODUCTION COST

USA (Molycorp) - \$1.25 / lb

CHINA - \$ 2.53 / lb

AUSTRALIA (Lynas) - \$ 4.59 / lb

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# DATA BY TECHNOLOGY METAL RESEARCH [AS OF JUNE 2013]



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## OPPORTUNITY FOR MALAYSIA

High tech companies to Malaysia

min 30,000 tons of RE deposit

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## PERSPECTIVES FROM

**AKADEMI SAINS MALAYSIA(ASM) & MAJLIS PROFESOR NEGARA (MPN)**

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## RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES

Enhance the environment, safety and health aspects of the management of industrial estates

Undertake a national exercise to map the potential rare earths alluvial and hard-rock deposits

Incentivise the upstream mining and extraction of rare earths through partnership with global enterprises

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## RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES

Incentivise investments in the downstream manufacturing of rare-earth based products

Build the key competence in human capital for the entire value chain of the rare earths business

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## RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES

Strengthen the legal and regulatory framework to enable the effective functioning of the rare earths business

Undertake a coordinated, comprehensive and continual public awareness program & community engagement

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## R&D OPPORTUNITY

### ❑ Automotive industry

- Hybrid and EV Vehicles
- Catalytic Converter
- NiH Battery
- Fuel additives

Local universities to lead!

### ❑ Superconducting magnets

### ❑ Rare Earth Recycling

### ❑ Rare Earth Processing

### ❑ Utilisation of gypsum byproducts

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## MALAYSIAN RARE EARTH R&D GROUP

### UNIVERSITIES

- UMP & UTAR (Lead), UTEM, UTP, UKM

### RESEARCH AREA

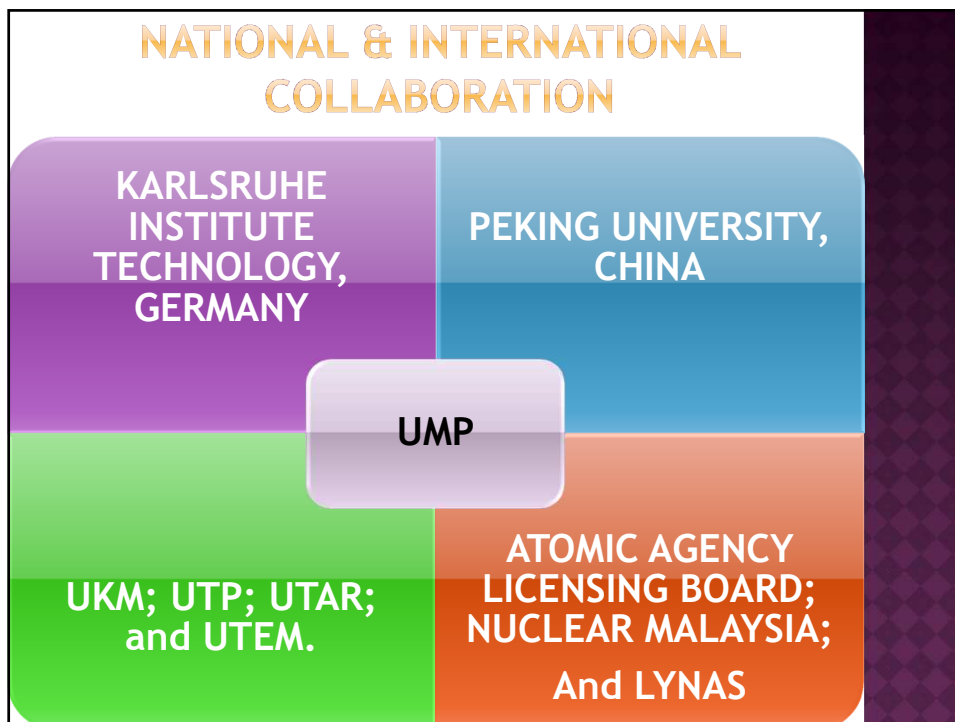
- Mining Engineering, Material Science and Engineering, Processing, Environmental & Safety, Nuclear Fuel Technology, Automotive.

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## RARE EARTH R&D AT UMP



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## REFERENCES

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THANK YOU

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