4 Mar 2026

CMB International Global Markets | Equity Research | Sector Update

Materials

Production cut in Qatar to further increase supply risks; +ve to aluminium price

What's new? Qatalum, a 50/50 JV owned by **Horsk Hydro (NHY NO, NR)** and **Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Company (QAMC QD, NR)**, announced that it has initiated a controlled shutdown of its aluminium production since 3 Mar, due to the suspension of gas supply. The shutdown is expected to be completed by end of Mar. A full restart could take 6-12 months with no schedule on when to restart, according to the Company.

- **Analysis**: Qatalum has a nameplate capacity of aluminium of 648kt with a maximum capacity of 690kt. Qatalum was running at full utilisation in 2025 and we estimate it accounted for ~0.9% of global output. Qatalum did not mention the scale of controlled shutdown, but we assume that it could be meaningful.
- **Implication**. We believe the production cut by Qatalum, together with the ~620kt of capacity in Iran which is vulnerable to operational risks (link), will further tighten the aluminium supply in 2026E. Given the uncertainties in the Middle East, we will not be surprised to see further production cut in the region. To recap, the Middle East accounted for roughly ~9% of the world's aluminium output (73.8mt) in 2025. Meanwhile, we continue to expect slow progress of capacity construction in Indonesia. All these will offer upside potential to the aluminium price (our base-case assumption is +15% YoY this year).
- **What to do with stocks**? Amid the volatile market at the moment, we believe Chinese aluminium makers offer good resilience as a hedge against the Iran crisis. Reiterate **BUY** on **China Hongqiao (1378 HK)** and **Chuangxin Industries (2788 HK)**.

OUTPERFORM
(Maintain)

China Materials Sector

Wayne FUNG, CFA
(852) 3900 0826
waynefung@cmbi.com.hk

Jake Zhang
(852) 3900 0849
jakezhang@cmbi.com.hk

Related reports:

Potential supply disruption in the Middle East will support the aluminium price – 2 Mar 2026 (link)

Aluminium price to be fuelled by tight supply throughout 2026 – 4 Feb 2026 (link)

Chuangxin Industries (2788 HK) - Capacity growth in Saudi Arabia + superb cost advantage on low green energy cost in China - 4 Feb 2026 (link)

China Hongqiao (1378 HK) - Raising earnings and TP on higher aluminium price – 4 Feb 2026 (link)

CGN Mining (1164 HK) - Newly proposed policy in Kazakhstan: little impact on asset rights but risk to valuation – 9 Dec 2025 (link)

China Hongqiao (1378 HK) – Further re-rating is possible – 12 Nov 2025 (link)

Uranium - Tight uranium supply continues to support a multi-year upcycle; Positive on CGN Mining – 2 Oct 2025 (link)

CGN Mining (1164 HK) - Further upside driven by higher uranium price – 2 Oct 2025 (link)

China Hongqiao (1378 HK) – Lack of Interim dividends but new buyback scheme to boost confidence – 18 Aug 2025 (link)

Disclosures & Disclaimers

Analyst Certification

The research analyst who is primary responsible for the content of this research report, in whole or in part, certifies that with respect to the securities or issuer that the analyst covered in this report: (1) all of the views expressed accurately reflect his or her personal views about the subject securities or issuer; and (2) no part of his or her compensation was, is, or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific views expressed by that analyst in this report.

Besides, the analyst confirms that neither the analyst nor his/her associates (as defined in the code of conduct issued by The Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission) (1) have dealt in or traded in the stock(s) covered in this research report within 30 calendar days prior to the date of issue of this report; (2) will deal in or trade in the stock(s) covered in this research report 3 business days after the date of issue of this report; (3) serve as an officer of any of the Hong Kong listed companies covered in this report; and (4) have any financial interests in the Hong Kong listed companies covered in this report.

CMBIGM or its affiliate(s) have investment banking relationship with the issuers covered in this report in preceding 12 months.

CMBIGM Ratings

BUY	: Stock with potential return of over 15% over next 12 months
HOLD	: Stock with potential return of +15% to -10% over next 12 months
SELL	: Stock with potential loss of over 10% over next 12 months
NOT RATED	: Stock is not rated by CMBIGM
OUTPERFORM	: Industry expected to outperform the relevant broad market benchmark over next 12 months
MARKET-PERFORM	: Industry expected to perform in-line with the relevant broad market benchmark over next 12 months
UNDERPERFORM	: Industry expected to underperform the relevant broad market benchmark over next 12 months

CMB International Global Markets Limited

Address: 45/F, Champion Tower, 3 Garden Road, Hong Kong, Tel: (852) 3900 0888 Fax: (852) 3900 0800

CMB International Global Markets Limited ("CMBIGM") is a wholly owned subsidiary of CMB International Capital Corporation Limited (a wholly owned subsidiary of China Merchants Bank)

Important Disclosures

There are risks involved in transacting in any securities. The information contained in this report may not be suitable for the purposes of all investors. CMBIGM does not provide individually tailored investment advice. This report has been prepared without regard to the individual investment objectives, financial position or special requirements. Past performance has no indication of future performance, and actual events may differ materially from that which is contained in the report. The value of, and returns from, any investments are uncertain and are not guaranteed and may fluctuate as a result of their dependence on the performance of underlying assets or other variable market factors. CMBIGM recommends that investors should independently evaluate particular investments and strategies, and encourages investors to consult with a professional financial advisor in order to make their own investment decisions.

This report or any information contained herein, have been prepared by the CMBIGM, solely for the purpose of supplying information to the clients of CMBIGM or its affiliate(s) to whom it is distributed. This report is not and should not be construed as an offer or solicitation to buy or sell any security or any interest in securities or enter into any transaction. Neither CMBIGM nor any of its affiliates, shareholders, agents, consultants, directors, officers or employees shall be liable for any loss, damage or expense whatsoever, whether direct or consequential, incurred in relying on the information contained in this report. Anyone making use of the information contained in this report does so entirely at their own risk.

The information and contents contained in this report are based on the analyses and interpretations of information believed to be publicly available and reliable. CMBIGM has exerted every effort in its capacity to ensure, but not to guarantee, their accuracy, completeness, timeliness or correctness. CMBIGM provides the information, advices and forecasts on an "AS IS" basis. The information and contents are subject to change without notice. CMBIGM may issue other publications having information and/ or conclusions different from this report. These publications reflect different assumption, point-of-view and analytical methods when compiling. CMBIGM may make investment decisions or take proprietary positions that are inconsistent with the recommendations or views in this report.

CMBIGM may have a position, make markets or act as principal or engage in transactions in securities of companies referred to in this report for itself and/or on behalf of its clients from time to time. Investors should assume that CMBIGM does or seeks to have investment banking or other business relationships with the companies in this report. As a result, recipients should be aware that CMBIGM may have a conflict of interest that could affect the objectivity of this report and CMBIGM will not assume any responsibility in respect thereof. This report is for the use of intended recipients only and this publication, may not be reproduced, reprinted, sold, redistributed or published in whole or in part for any purpose without prior written consent of CMBIGM.

Additional information on recommended securities is available upon request.

For recipients of this document in the United Kingdom

This report has been provided only to persons (I)falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (as amended from time to time)("The Order") or (II) are persons falling within Article 49(2) (a) to (d) ("High Net Worth Companies, Unincorporated Associations, etc.,) of the Order, and may not be provided to any other person without the prior written consent of CMBIGM.

For recipients of this document in the United States

CMBIGM is not a registered broker-dealer in the United States. As a result, CMBIGM is not subject to U.S. rules regarding the preparation of research reports and the independence of research analysts. The research analyst who is primary responsible for the content of this research report is not registered or qualified as a research analyst with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA"). The analyst is not subject to applicable restrictions under FINRA Rules intended to ensure that the analyst is not affected by potential conflicts of interest that could bear upon the reliability of the research report. This report is intended for distribution in the United States solely to "major US institutional investors", as defined in Rule 15a-6 under the US, Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and may not be furnished to any other person in the United States. Each major US institutional investor that receives a copy of this report by its acceptance hereof represents and agrees that it shall not distribute or provide this report to any other person. Any U.S. recipient of this report wishing to effect any transaction to buy or sell securities based on the information provided in this report should do so only through a U.S.-registered broker-dealer.

For recipients of this document in Singapore

This report is distributed in Singapore by CMBI (Singapore) Pte. Limited (CMBISG) (Company Regn. No. 201731928D), an Exempt Financial Adviser as defined in the Financial Advisers Act (Cap. 110) of Singapore and regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore. CMBISG may distribute reports produced by its respective foreign entities, affiliates or other foreign research houses pursuant to an arrangement under Regulation 32C of the Financial Advisers Regulations. Where the report is distributed in Singapore to a person who is not an Accredited Investor, Expert Investor or an Institutional Investor, as defined in the Securities and Futures Act (Cap. 289) of Singapore, CMBISG accepts legal responsibility for the contents of the report to such persons only to the extent required by law. Singapore recipients should contact CMBISG at +65 6350 4400 for matters arising from, or in connection with the report.