

# A revolution in mining sector of Iran

In his confidential report of August 1977 to Director of Geological Survey of Iran, Dr Etminan launched a revolution in the mining sector of Iran.

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### REPORT: GEOLOGY OF SONGUN

*An attempt in unraveling geology and history of exploration of Songun Porphyry copper deposit.*

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#### Introduction

[Following my investigations on the alteration zones in relations to granitoids in Azerbaijan, I declare for the first time that mineralization of porphyry copper style exists alongside of a deep valley adjacent to Songun village. This is in addition to skarn type mineralization that has been recognized for long time by economic geologists and exploration geologists at Songun. Based on my field and laboratory studies I have observed all necessary conditions for a hypogene copper porphyry mineralization. According to fluid inclusion studies I can unequivocally declare that the processes involved in alteration and mineralization at Songun are fully comparable with those observed in world class porphyry copper deposits such as San Manuel, Bingham and Sarcheshmeh\*.]

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These few lines are from Dr Etminan who unfortunately has not been acknowledged appropriately so far by NICICO. In his confidential report of August 1977 to Director of Geological Survey of Iran, Dr Etminan launched a revolution in the mining sector of Iran. This is despite of the harsh reproaches he received for comparing Songun with Sarcheshmeh, Bingham and San Manuel. Besides his report was overlooked at that time partly due to the revolution of 1979 that was followed by 8 years of imposed Iran-Iraq war. Finally with active follow up by deputy of city of Ahar in the Parliament and attention received by other government authorities the budget for systematic exploration at Songun was approved in 1988. Hence detailed exploration activities commenced in 1989. Consequently the small village of Songun was transformed to a major copper mine in the Himalayan belt in the northwest of Iran. And that is how Songun came into existence.

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\*Hashem Etminan, 1977. Confidential report. The discovery of Porphyry Copper-Molybdenum mineralization adjacent to Songun village in the northwest of Ahar (Eastern Azerbaijan, Iran) and a proposed program for its detailed exploration. Geological Survey of Iran, Ministry of Industries and Mines,