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## **MERCHANT METALLICS ASSOCIATIONS TO MERGE**

**October 1<sup>st</sup> 2010** - At their Annual General Meetings held Athens on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, members of the Hot Briquetted Iron Association (HBIA) and the International Pig Iron Association (IPIA) voted in favour of establishing a new combined trade association with effect from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2011.

The new organisation will be known as the International Iron Metallics Association (IIMA) and its membership will comprise producers and traders of merchant pig iron, hot briquetted iron and direct reduced iron as well as consumers and companies associated with the ore-based metallics trade such as technology and equipment suppliers, raw material suppliers, shipping and logistics providers, consultants, etc.

One of the principal objectives of IIMA will be to promote and enhance the use of iron metallics as value-adding raw materials for iron and steel and ferrous casting production - for the benefit of all industry stakeholders.

The concept for IIMA developed from informal discussions between the presidents of the two associations that began in 2008.

“We recognized that our associations have excellent fit with their similar goals and membership structures and the desire to continue creating value for our members,” Alberto Hassan, HBIA President, said.

“Bringing together HBIA and IPIA makes good strategic sense,” Christian Hempel, IPIA President said. “Together we will be a stronger force for promoting the interests of our industries.”

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For more information about HBIA and IPIA, visit [www.hbia.org](http://www.hbia.org) and [www.pigiron.org.uk](http://www.pigiron.org.uk) or contact Frank Griscom, HBIA Executive Director at phone: +1 (704) 815-3285, fax: +1 (704) 841-4251, e-mail: [director@hbia.org](mailto:director@hbia.org) and Chris Barrington, IPIA Secretariat at phone: +44 (7932) 603163, fax: +44 (1276) 537186, e-mail: [ipia@pigiron.org.uk](mailto:ipia@pigiron.org.uk)