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The SAIMM Southern African
HYDROMETALLURGY CONFERENCE 2009

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FOREWORD

For the first time a conference is being staged that covers the true diversity of the application of hydrometallurgy in Southern Africa. This conference will bring together operating hydrometallurgical facilities, research organisations, academic organisations, project companies, technology and equipment suppliers, and reagent suppliers, encompassing a wide range of commodities and unit operations.

The SAIMM Southern African Hydrometallurgy conference 2009 will cover an overview of a significant number of currently operating hydrometallurgical facilities in Southern Africa. These overviews will encompass a description of the facility, the technical challenges facing the operation, and any future process improvements, debottlenecking or expansions envisaged. The conference will highlight hydrometallurgy research being conducted by Southern African academic institutions and by mining companies. The conference will also highlight developments being undertaken by technology suppliers, equipment suppliers and reagent suppliers.

Some of the countries included are South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Some of the commodities covered will be copper, nickel, zinc, cobalt, uranium, gold and PGMs. A wide range of unit processes will be featured, including, atmospheric leaching, pressure leaching, biological leaching, precipitation, cementation, crystallization, solvent extraction, ion exchange and electrowinning.

I believe that the papers and presentations submitted for this conference will provide a valuable future reference for hydrometallurgy, thus making the work of all the contributors to this conference highly rewarding and worthwhile.

Marek Dworzanski
Chairman
Organising Committee
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