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FOREWORD

Metallurgy (SAIMM) in conjunction with the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM), and the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM). The previous two conferences were in Calgary (2005) and Cairns (2007).

The mining ‘super cycle’ has created an enormous demand for commodities, resulting in major drives in exploration, new plant commissioning, and expansion of current plants. In addition industry has redeveloped brownfield operations and revisited known sub-marginal deposits. High non-gold metal prices provided increased feasibility as co-products and by-products.

In the light of the recent economic uncertainties and the slow down in demand for commodities, it is even more prudent for an event to provide a platform for all role players in geology, metallurgy, and mining to interact. The challenges facing the gold industry require close investigation of the key issues and the participation of all.

We are pleased to present a number of keynote speakers on topics relevant to the mining industry in general and specifically to the gold mining industry. In addition, the programme contains sessions on comminution, leaching, plant operation and optimization, downstream applications of gold, planning strategies, mining methods, and environmental and economic sustainability of mining operations. A session is devoted to mining opportunities in Africa, focusing on gold fields in Southern Africa, West and East Africa.

A number of countries are represented including Angola, Australia, Botswana, Canada, China, England, Finland, Nigeria, South Africa, Sri Lanka, United States, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The variety of keynote and conference papers as well as delegates representing a large number of countries will truly ensure an inclusive discussion of the developments and opportunities in the Gold mining industry.

Paul van der Plas
Chairman, World Gold Organising Committee
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