



Opening address of the XV CMMI Congress

by H. Scott-Russell*

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my great pleasure on behalf of The South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and The Geological Society of South Africa to welcome you to the 15th CMMI Congress and to Southern Africa.

It is a great honour to be hosting this event and we have been looking forward to it for a long time. I am sure the technical discussions and visits will be of great value, and I am confident you will return with pleasant memories of places and people in South Africa and neighbouring countries.

The theme of this Congress, 'Resources and Technology', is appropriate for discussions on the ways and means of going forward in the minerals industry to create the employment and wealth so sorely needed in this region.

The technical programme will give mineral industry professionals from different parts of the world the opportunity to share experience and expertise for the purpose of making operations more productive, safer and environmentally acceptable to the world at large.

Delegates will be exposed to current technical developments by means of 133 papers prepared for the congress: 30 on geological subjects, 45 on mining, 29 on extractive metallurgy, and 29 in the field of metals technology.

It is interesting to note that after more than 100 years of mining in South Africa, deep-level gold mining continues to dominate the South African minerals industry—in spite of substantial contributions from platinum, diamonds, coal and a variety of other minerals. The fact that gold remains the core of the industry is reflected in the content of the papers, some 70 per cent of which deal with the South African gold mining industry.

The last decade has been difficult for the mining industry in general. Over the last six or seven years more than 140 000 gold mining jobs have been lost in South Africa. However, the mining industry has made a major contribution to the South African economy over more than a century and it is our belief that it will continue to play an important role for a long time to come.

There are many encouraging signs of the emergence of a satisfactory environment for the future development of the minerals industry—political stability and pragmatic economic policies being particularly important factors.

We have the resources, both human and natural, and we have the technology. Given the right economic and political climate, the future should be very bright indeed.

I believe this congress will do much to stimulate technical development here and abroad and that it will renew and create friendships among many people with the interests of the mineral industry at heart.

I hope you will all also enjoy this unique complex and make the most of the sporting, recreational, entertainment and game-viewing facilities during your stay here. ♦

* President 1993/1994—
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