



The CODE

The Newsletter of
the International Cyanide
Management Institute
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2nd Quarter 2017 Edition

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Welcome to the 2nd Quarter 2017 edition of The Code.

University of Queensland Publishes Case Study on Cyanide Code

The University of Queensland's Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining published in May a report, *Designing Sustainability Certification for Greater Impact: Case Studies*, authored by Dr. Renzo Mori Junior and Professor Saleem H. Ali. The Centre is a leading research facility committed to improving the social performance of the global resources industry. This report examined participants' perceptions regarding the impacts of two sustainability certification schemes for the mining industry -- the International Cyanide Management Code and the Responsible Jewellery Council -- obtained during two case studies.

The case study involving the Cyanide Code was done in the context of a certification audit at AngloGold Ashanti's Mineração Serra Grande in Brazil in 2015, with the authors shadowing auditors as they conducted an audit of the mining operation. The authors also interviewed company personnel, government regulators and local citizens on their perceptions of the Cyanide Code and its impacts. Amongst the key findings: 1) The Cyanide Code's clear requirements and straightforward indicators are considered key features to deliver positive impacts on the ground and increase uptake; 2) the best practices of the Cyanide Code's assurance processes, including the use of qualified auditors, its assurance protocols, a quality review process and the public availability of the certification audit results contribute to the program's credibility and its legitimacy with internal and external stakeholders; and 3) the Cyanide Code's requirements to train workers and personnel to operate cyanide facilities and respond quickly and effectively to exposures and releases of cyanide, coupled with its requirements to communicate and engage with stakeholders, were seen as important to improving stakeholder awareness, and to fostering community capacity building. The Tiffany & Co. Foundation provided funding for the research through a grant to the University of Queensland in America.

[Read the report here.](#)

Edward Bickham Elected to ICMI Board of Directors; Elisa Tonda and Dirk van Zyl Re-elected



Edward Bickham

Edward Bickham has been elected a Director of the International Cyanide Management Institute, and **Elisa Tonda** and **Dirk van Zyl** have been re-elected. All were elected to four-year terms.

Edward Bickham holds many senior advisory roles in the mining, oil and gas sectors including being a Senior Adviser to Critical Resource Ltd. He is a former Strategic Adviser to the International Council on Mining and Metals, and from 2010-14 he was Senior Adviser to the World Gold Council, advising on the development of the Conflict-Free Gold Standard. He served at Board level in the development of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative from 2005 until 2013. He is currently a member of the Steering Board for the UK National Contact Point for the OECD Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises, and since 2014 he has served as Chairman of the Institute of Business Ethics' Board of Trustees.

Mr. Bickham was Executive Vice President, External Affairs for global mining group, Anglo American plc, between 2000 and 2009. He was responsible for government relations and public policy, corporate communications, political risk, social and community development and the company's business principles. Prior to that, he was Managing Director, Public and Corporate Affairs (and later Deputy Chairman), Hill and Knowlton UK from 1993 until 2000. From 1991 to 1993 he was Special Adviser to the Foreign Secretary during the first Gulf War, the collapse of the Soviet Union and the negotiation of the Maastricht Treaty. From 1988 he was Executive Director, Corporate Communications for British Satellite Broadcasting. Between 1983 to 1988 he was Special Adviser to the Home Secretary, and to successive Secretaries of State for Northern Ireland. Mr. Bickham graduated in Law from St John's College, Oxford in 1977.

Elisa Tonda is the Head of the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Consumption and Production in Paris, France. **Dirk van Zyl** is a Professor and Chair of Mining and the Environment at the University of British Columbia's Norman B. Keevil Institute of Mining and Engineering in Vancouver, Canada.

German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources Publishes Comparative Overview of Sustainability Schemes for Mineral Resources

Germany's Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources in March 2017 published findings from a research project on sustainability certification in the mining sector. The report profiled 19 mining and metals standards and frameworks worldwide including the International Cyanide Management Code. [*Sustainability Schemes for Mineral Resources: A Comparative Overview*](#) was authored by Dr. Gudrun Franken and Karoline Kickler, both of the German institute. The aim of the multi-year "[*NamiRo*](#)" ("sustainably produced mineral resources") Project is the development of a standard system that could help harmonize existing schemes or a standard that could be considered when crafting new ones. The authors noted that information on the production and processing conditions of globally-traded mineral resources is generally not communicated in the supply chain at a time when manufacturers and end-users are seeking additional information on the sustainability aspects of production. The authors stated that companies producing mineral commodities in accord with high environmental and social standards may face a competitive disadvantage due to the extra costs they are bearing and their achievements are often not recognized by the market. The authors conclude that harmonizing standards and improving assurance mechanisms and transparency could improve credibility and uptake of substantiality schemes by the market and stakeholders. Funding for the NamiRo research came from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

Interruptions and Emergency Changes in Cyanide Supply Chains

Recent flooding in Peru interrupted the cyanide supply to some mining operations, causing changes to certified cyanide supply chains including the use of alternate truck transporters, ports and ocean carriers. ICMI thanks signatory operations and companies for keeping ICMI informed of the changing operational and supply conditions in Peru, especially with respect to changes in certified supply chains. Interruptions to certified transportation supply chains were considered in the development of the Cyanide Code, and an operation is not expected to cease if it cannot immediately contract with another certified cyanide transporter, nor is the operation necessarily in non-compliance with the Cyanide Code. If it is necessary to use additional truck transporters, ports, ocean carriers, or interim storage facilities that are not included in a certified supply chain, it is expected that reasonable measures will be taken to ensure that these additional supply chain components can safely manage cyanide. This includes use of processes such as evaluating alternative routes to ensure continued safety and environmental protection during cyanide transportation. In cases where supply has been interrupted, auditors during the next audit should consider the following factors when determining whether the mining operation was in full, substantial or non-compliance: What caused the disruption in the supply? How did the operator respond when its certified supply was disrupted? Did the operation re-establish a certified cyanide supply as soon as reasonably practical? Additional direction is presented in [ICMI's Auditor Guidance for Use of the Mining Operations Verification Protocol \(2016\)](#), within the guidance for Standard of Practice 1.1 and 2.1.

ICMI requests that consigners and mining operations continue to keep ICMI informed when using truck transporters, ports, ocean carriers and other supply chain components not currently certified or part of certified supply chains.

'Non-Toxic' Leaching Agent Found to Contain Sodium Cyanide

The Western Australia Department of Mines and Petroleum had received reports of an overseas product called "Earth Gold and Gold Dressing Agent," which was being marketed as a non-sodium cyanide way to process gold. However, after testing, the samples were found to contain 17 to 27 percent sodium cyanide, according to Manager Dangerous Goods Iain Dainty, and the Department is alerting miners about this product marketed as being non-toxic.

"There are no warnings about the hazardous nature of the product, and it is potentially being transported and handled as if it were non-hazardous," said Dainty in the [March 1, 2017 issue of Resources Safety Matters](#) (Page 45).

"In the cases that have been identified, even the material safety data sheets that came with the samples had conflicting information and stated that the product required no hazardous chemical labeling," he said. "The Department recommends that any product claiming to be a substitute for sodium cyanide should be handled as if it contains sodium cyanide until it can be verified otherwise by a reputable testing agency." He added: "If it sounds too good to be true, chances are it is."

Signatory Fees for 2018 Same as 2017

ICMI is largely sustained by the signatory fees paid annually by the Cyanide Code's participating companies. The fees are set by the organization's Board of Directors, and at its May meeting the Board decided to leave the fee rates unchanged for 2018. Consequently, for 2018 gold mining companies participating in the Cyanide Code will be assessed US\$0.042 per ounce of gold produced by cyanidation in 2017, with a minimum of US\$2,000; silver mining companies will be assessed at US\$0.042 of gold equivalent ounces produced by primary silver mines in 2017. The flat fees for signatory cyanide producers and transporters will remain at US\$6,300 and US\$1,100, respectively.

ICMI Board Visits Gold Fields' South Deep Mine



SOUTH DEEP MINE

Members of ICMI's Board and staff visited Gold Field Limited's South Deep Mine on May 19, 2017. Gold Fields has eight operating mines in Australia, Ghana, Peru and South Africa with attributable annual gold production of approximately 2.0 million ounces. South Deep in South Africa has one of the world's largest gold ore bodies. This operation was first Cyanide Code-certified in December 2008. In October 2009, Gold Fields became the first mining group registered as a signatory with the International Cyanide Management Institute to obtain Cyanide Code certification for all its eligible operations.