

CASM Annual General Meeting and Regional Learning Event in Peru, September 23-28, 2002

CASM's second Annual General Meeting is being held in Latin America to build on a regional tri-sector momentum, initiated by MMSD consultative and research processes related to small-scale mining last year, and a UNESCO-IDRC initiative launched this year, to develop short term and long term strategies for dealing constructively with the social, environmental and technical challenges posed by artisanal mining and for maximizing the development potential of the activity where it is being practiced. The CASM mandate is embodied in the learning event, which has two parts – the discussion forum and the workshops. The general theme is “Building Bridges” between miners, communities, government and the formal mining sector.

The discussion forum is broken into three sessions:

- A progress review of the recent Peruvian initiative to formalize artisanal mining from the perspectives of the government, the artisanal miners, the mining companies and the NGOs, with a round table on the challenges of formalization and possible next steps for moving the process forward
- A discussion of the opportunities for and constraints on national governments and on local NGOs for the delivery of technical assistance to artisanal miners and affected communities, based on a few case studies of the Peruvian experience in Madre de Dios (government) and the south (NGOs)
- A discussion of some of the linkages between artisanal mining and community development based on a review of some experiences from the region, including the ILO program on eliminating child labor in artisanal mining in Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador, the experience of criollo and indigenous communities in an artisanal mining area of Venezuela in building a common front for local community development, and the current benefits and potential future costs of artisanal gold mining as part of the livelihood strategies of communities inhabiting tropical forest areas in Suriname.

Simultaneous translation will be provided from Spanish to English.

Two parallel workshops will follow, conducted in Spanish. One on the do's and don't of mineral processing, with special reference to gold, will focus on what artisanal miners and non-technical people who work with them ought to know in order to improve gold recovery, and reduce and control the use and loss of mercury. This workshop will be conducted by Dr. Hermann Wotruba, University of Aachen, Germany. The advantages and disadvantages of different processing methods will be explained. The other will focus on overcoming personal and institutional obstacles to dialogue as a first step in building understanding between government, communities, miners, NGOs and mining companies. This workshop will be facilitated by Edgardo Garcia Llaralde, Latin America program officer of Living Earth Foundation (London) and the Latin American facilitator of the Business Partners for Development consensus building toolkit.

A parallel session on international experiences for both English and Spanish speakers will be held. This venue will provide an opportunity for the participants from outside Latin America to share some of their own experiences among themselves and with Latin American counterparts. In this case there will be simultaneous translation from English to Spanish.

Conference participants can choose to attend one of the three.

The final event will be an optional field trip to visit a mining cooperative with a community mill.

Limited funds are available to assist international participants from government, NGO, academic institutions and miners' associations from outside Peru to attend the meeting and learning event. This support will be used by the Secretariat to ensure diversity of participation from regions and stakeholder groups.

There is a nominal registration fee of \$ 10.00 US equivalent for both local and international participants.

Please refer to the program agenda and the assistance and registration request forms for more details ([click here to upload](#)).

For more information, please contact:

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