



August 5th, 2005

Dear CASM colleagues:

Since the Communities and Small scale Mining (CASM) initiative was first established in 2001, the Secretariat has spearheaded many achievements. Over the past four years the CASM network has grown steadily and now includes participants from all sectors and from all regions of the world. The network has also now reached the point where formal regional CASM's are developing with a focus on differing regional profiles and needs. CASM has also been recognized in several high profile international initiatives as the preferred point of reference for matters concerning the artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) sector. In addition, the annual learning events and conferences have grown from strength to strength and now represent *the* most significant event on the calendar of many of those engaged in ASM activities. Importantly these events have left legacies of greater awareness of the potential role of the ASM sector in development processes of the countries that hosted them.

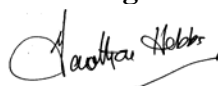
Much of this success can be attributed to the dedication, enthusiasm and skill of Jeffrey Davidson. Jeffrey has been leading the Secretariat since CASM's inception. It is, therefore, with regret that I have to inform you that on September 9th Jeffrey will be leaving the World Bank, and therefore the CASM Secretariat.

I am sure that all of you would like to join the CASM Secretariat and I in thanking Jeffrey for his hard work and commitment to making CASM a success. We would especially like to acknowledge the characteristic 'human touch' he has brought to this work. Although he is moving on to new challenges we look forward to continuing to work with him in his new capacity and to call on his ASM expertise when necessary.

With the end of one era a new one begins, and we are extremely pleased to also inform you that Gotthard Walser has agreed to assume leadership of the Secretariat, under the continuing guidance of Peter van der Veen and the Strategic Management and Advisory Group. In addition, it is a pleasure to advise you that Christopher Sheldon will also join the excellent CASM Secretariat Team of Amelia and Estelle.

Finally, I hope you will be supporting this new CASM Team at the upcoming annual event in Salvador in Brazil in September. It promises to be the best yet. Details can be found on the CASM web page.

Kind regards



Jon Hobbs
CASM Chairman