

2003-2004 Final Report

To the Communities and Small-Scale Mining (CASM) Secretariat regarding the
Communities and Small-Scale Mining Regional Network in China (CASM-China)



*Small China Clay (Kaolin) Mine, Shahe City, Hebei Province, China
CASM-China Case Study and County Meeting, April 10-12 2004*

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Forward

The Communities and Small-Scale Mining Regional Network in China (CASM-China) aims to bring together a wide range of people involved in artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) in China, within the context of poverty alleviation and sustainable communities. Since its inaugural meeting in Beijing from January 5-7, 2004, CASM-China has been actively working toward implementing its work plan. This final report summarizes CASM-China's activities in its inaugural year, and details the work plan and the achievements made toward successfully implementing the plan.

CASM-China Key Achievements

In September 2003, Philip Andrews-Speed, Shen Lei, and AJ Gunson submitted a proposal to CASM to found CASM-China, with the initial aim of establishing a network of ASM researchers and policy influencers in China to place ASM, in the context of sustainable communities and poverty alleviation, onto the agenda of China's central and selected regional governments.

CASM-China's initial goals were to:

- Share ideas, research plans and research output;
- Develop a wider network of ASM researchers and policy influencers in China; and
- Establish links with the international ASM community.

Upon receiving CASM's support, CASM-China began working toward these goals, with the initial step being to host CASM-China's inaugural meeting in early January 2004. The initial meeting broke new ground by bringing together a range of Chinese experts to discuss a broad scope of ASM issues from the viewpoint of sustainability and poverty reduction. During the course of the meeting 43 participants from 24 agencies met together and discussed how an effective network would be organized and what goals could be achieved in China's complex and often sensitive ASM sector. For full details of the meeting, please refer to the inaugural meeting report.

After the successful hosting of the CASM-China inaugural meeting, the following actions have been undertaken:

- **Formalization** – The China Mining Association (CMA) has agreed to host CASM-China. The CMA (www.chinamining.com.cn) is an independent organization whose members include mining industrial enterprises, regional associations, and government departments, and which has the flexibility to work with a range of actors including small-scale miners, Chinese mining companies, Chinese government ministries, and international organizations. The CMA's mandate is to act as a bridge between mining enterprises and government agencies, to assist the government to develop and enforce mining policies and regulations, to encourage technological progress, and to promote the sustainable development of China's mining industry.

- **Leadership** – Shen Lei has been appointed as a vice-director of the CMA and the Secretary of the Small-Scale Mining Committee of the CMA.
- **Website Registration** – The IP address www.casmchina.org has been registered for a period of two years.
- **Web-based Knowledge Centre** – The CASM-China Knowledge Centre now includes information on global ASM projects, conferences, and news items. ASM papers, including legal documents, have been uploaded to the website and more will be added as the website develops. CASM newsletters are translated into Chinese and shared on the website. A Chinese journal dedicated exclusively to ASM will be available electronically on the website, including all articles published since 1996.
- **Online Small-Scale Mining Forum** – An open electronic forum is now available to allow people to discuss ASM policy, legislation, health and safety, technology transfer, environmental protection and poverty-reduction. The forum currently has 10 regular users.
- **Local CASM-China Meeting** – CASM-China hosted a multi-stakeholder meeting a field survey in Shahe City, Hebei Province, on April 10-12, 2004. The survey was completed under the leadership of Director Fu Minke, Professor Li Peiji and Shen Lei. Thirteen local miners and officials participated in the meeting, where the role and function of the CASM-China was introduced and the discussion centered on how to improve cooperation between Shahe miners and officials and CASM-China. Mr. Li Yuanzhi, the director of the Bureau of Land and Mineral Administration of Shahe City, gave a detailed presentation about critical issues for ASM in Shahe. The survey group studied five ASM operations in detail, including the Dongfang iron ore mine, the Guangfeng coal mine, and the Baicuo China clay mine. Key characteristics of Shahe's ASM include: a diversified ASM industry, a well-established safety monitoring system, and clearly defined and simple mining rights. After the survey, a field survey report about ASM in Shahe was uploaded onto the CASM-China website.
- **Analysis of the Improvements in the Management of Small-Scale Coal Mines in Chongqing Municipality** – CASM-China will cooperate with the College of Economics and Business Administration, the University of Chongqing, the Chongqing Bureau of Land and Resources and the University of Dundee. The objective of the project is to document the improvements in the government's management of small-scale coal mines in Chongqing municipality between 1996 and 2004 and to explain the main causes for these improvements. The project will begin in July 2004.
- **National Sciences Fund Proposal** – CASM-China has submitted a proposal to the National Sciences Fund of China to compare and analyse ASM policy and management from several countries, to analyse past and present Chinese ASM policies, to undertake two case studies in rural China, and to develop recommendations for the regulation and management of ASM by provincial and county level governments. The proposal is for 180,000RMB (US\$ 22,000) and the

project would run from 2005-2007. The results of the submission will be known in September 2004.

- **Publications** – CASM-China has participated with the following papers:
Andrews-Speed, P., Guo Ma, Bingjia Shao and Liao Chenglin. 2004. Economic responses to the closure of small-scale coal mines in Chongqing, China. To be submitted to Resources Policy.
Gunson, A. 2004. Mercury and Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Miners in China. Masters Thesis, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver.
Gunson, A. and M. Veiga. 2004. Mercury and Artisanal Mining in China, Environmental Practice. v. 6 (2).
Shen Lei and Gunson, A. The Role of Small-Scale Mining in China's Economy. In draft.

CASM-China Future Actions

CASM-China is energetically pursuing the following actions:

- **National CASM-China Meeting** – CASM-China has initiated planning for its next national meeting.
- **Local ASM Meeting**- CASM-China will co-host with the CMA an additional pilot multi-stakeholder meeting in Lingbao City, Henan Province in July 2004.
- **Additional Projects** – CASM-China is working toward developing additional projects with both Chinese and international partners.
- **Expanding the CASM-China Network** – CASM-China is working toward increasing both the depth and width of its network in China.
- **National Policy Paper** –CASM-China is in the process of finishing a comprehensive ASM policy proposal to submit to the government of China. A summary of this policy paper has uploaded onto the website of CASM-China. At the same time, Director Fu Minke is leading a research group to modify the Law of Mineral Resources of PRC and manage to draft some new articles about ASM regulation into the above law.
- **CASM Annual Meeting** – CASM-China will send at least one delegate to the 2004 Annual Meeting and Learning Event in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Three officials from the Center for Land and Mineral Legal Affairs in Ministry of Land And Mineral Resources have expressed keen interest in attending the 2004 AGM in Sri Lanka.

Summary

CASM-China continues to make substantial progress toward meeting its goals as outlined in its 2004 Work Plan by formalizing under the CMA and building and developing its Knowledge Centre. CASM-China successfully held its inaugural meeting in January and held its first local stakeholder meeting in Shahe County in April. CASM-China is actively pursuing partnerships and projects towards achieving poverty reduction and sustainability in ASM, and is actively influencing China's ASM legislation and policy.



CASM-China with local miners and officers at Dongfang iron mine in Shahe City, April 11, 2004



CASM-China in the workshop(from left: Shen Lei, Fu Minke and Li Peiji) , April 10, 2004