Securing the social licence to operate in a challenging and changing world

Environmental concerns, conflicts over land and water use, low levels of trust in companies and political institutions, heightened awareness of the rights of indigenous communities, increased scrutiny by civil society and international organisations, and greater connectedness between the opponents of mining all mean that companies can no longer afford to take for granted their ‘social licence to operate’. Leading mining companies have responded to these challenges by embracing the language of corporate social responsibility and sustainable development and by re-engineering internal management systems in an effort to improve social performance ‘on the ground’.

OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen understanding of the concept of ‘social licence’ and its importance to the global mining industry.
- Discuss the complexity of social issues faced by the industry and identify emerging trends.
- Promote SR as an integral part of strategic planning and management.
- Discuss existing experience and practice, and share leading thinking. Explore diverse and innovative ways to put research and policies into action.
- Build and strengthen networks of individuals and organisations concerned with enhancing the social performance of the mining industry.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Interested authors are invited to submit a 300-word abstract in English to srm@srmining.com. Abstracts must clearly state the objectives and describe a summary of the obtained results. Abstracts are to include a title and full details of the corresponding author.

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THEMES

- SR standards, corporate governance and management systems
- Human rights in the context of mining
- Fair labour and operating practices
- Transparent engagement with communities and other stakeholders
- Community empowerment and capacity building
- The interface between community and environmental issues
- Social investments and community development
- Dealing with community conflicts and grievances
- Indigenous peoples, Indigenous rights and mining
- Gender and mining
- Artisanal and small-scale mining
- Supply chain management
- Measuring, monitoring and reporting social performance
- Building social capacity within the mining sector.

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