Artisanal and small-scale mining in Ghana: Challenges and opportunities as seen from the ground

Presenter: Nina Collins
Research Analyst, Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining, SMI

Artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) occurs in over 80 countries around the globe and is an economic activity of major importance in many developing countries. While it is often undertaken informally and presents a range of negative impacts, ASM also represents significant socio-economic development potential. Increasing attention is being paid to ASM by national governments and international donors. In Ghana, approximately one million people are directly involved in ASM and a large percentage of the nation’s mineral production, including diamonds, gold, construction materials and salt, come from the activity. Ghana is often used as a prototype for legislation and initiatives in ASM but there are numerous challenges on the ground. This seminar will present some of the key findings from the author’s research with a range of stakeholders in Ghana, with a focus on the socio-economic challenges and opportunities, advances in policy and legislation, disconnect between research and practice, and the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement.

Nina Collins is a Research Analyst at CSRM working on a range of projects investigating the intersection of mining with agriculture, water, community development, Indigenous peoples, gender and human rights. She recently returned from 15 months working as a Research Officer for a local natural resource management NGO in Sekondi-Takoradi, in the Western Region of Ghana, which is a hub of both large-scale artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) activities. Her role involved engaging with numerous government, private sector and community-based stakeholders and conducting studies into ASM to improve the NGO’s knowledge of the sector and research capabilities.