

# CASE STUDY



**Name:**

Sizwe Timothy Phakathi

**Title:**

Chamber of Mines of South Africa and University of Johannesburg

**Country:**

South Africa

**IM4DC Program:**

1. Emerging Leaders in African Mining Programme (ELAM) 2014 South Africa
2. IM4DC Fellowship with UWA Centre for Safety April-May 2015
3. IM4DC Alumni Forum and Conference 2015 Australia

The main focus of the IM4DC Fellowship programme that brought Sizwe to Australia was to find ways through which his research work/data could complement the UWA Centre for Safety's large scale research project benchmarking the status of safety risks, practices and beliefs influencing operational safety performance in developing countries. The programme also focussed on developing a proposal on the safety and health challenges facing informal/artisanal coal miners in a peri-urban area of KwaZulu Natal Province, South Africa which was subsequently funded by the Australia Awards Africa.


*My immediate plan is to apply the models used by the Centre for Safety such as Fitness to Operate (FTO) and Safety Capability Model in the analysis of my rich qualitative research data from which I intend writing up papers for journal publications. I am also planning to use the model to enhance my understanding and that of my colleagues of a variety of factors influencing the occupational health and safety (OHS) performance of the South African mining sector.*

Whilst in Australia, Sizwe gave a presentation at the IM4DC Mining for Development Conference, entitled 'Transforming South Africa's culture of health and safety: The quest for Zero Harm and lasting benefits'. He also visited the Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia.

My meeting with the Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia was enlightening in that there was a plan to utilise the health and safety data submitted by mining companies to the regulator of mines department through institutions such as the Centre for Safety. This is an encouraging initiative that seeks to ensure that the mining industry of Western Australia learns from incidents for OHS improvement. South Africa can learn a lot from such an initiative as it has a similar type of system of OHS data reporting by mining companies to the regulator.



*Rock drill operators are most personnel exposed to danger in deep-level mining.*



*My work on South African mines also entails facilitating effective implementation of the South African mining industry's Culture Transformation Framework including the pillar that focuses on Workplace Diversity Management. I will learn a lot from the outcomes of the biennial Diversity Surveys of the Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia.*

Sizwe is now working on the research project on the safety challenges of informal/artisanal coal miners and is looking forward to sharing the research findings with fellow IM4DC alumni. He is also involved with the implementation of the Action Plan of the African Mining Vision as a member of the AMV Technical Working Group tasked with providing input on the development of Geological and Mineral Information Systems that will support broad-based sustainable growth and socio-economic development for the benefit of all Africans.

*It has been great being part of this initiative and makes me feel good about my contribution to the sustainable development of Africa's mineral resources sector as an alumnus of the IM4DC Emerging Leaders in African Mining (ELAM) programme. I would not have achieved all of this had it not been for the support of the IM4DC.*

*Being part of the IM4DC has really benefited my professional development in the mining industry. The insight, knowledge and experience gained from the IM4DC programmes have honed my leadership skills and assisted me to be more assertive in influencing the design and implementation of OHS initiatives aimed at saving lives of employees in the South African mining industry and Africa in general.*

*I would like to commend the IM4DC Coordinating Team for providing us with a platform to share our experiences and multiple exciting projects of the alumni that are contributing immensely to sustainable governance and development of the mining industry across the world. The quality of these projects, knowledge and experience gained is breath-taking indeed!*

*The implementation of the action plan arising from my IM4DC Fellowship will lead to a number of outcomes which will deepen my collaboration and partnership with the Centre for Safety and hopefully other research partners within Australia, Africa and across the globe. I am also planning for a longer visit to the Centre for Safety as there is no doubt that my research work and that of the Centre is mutually beneficial.*