

International Mining for Development Centre

eNews

September 2013

Message from the Director

I had the privilege to participate in the Geoscience Information in Africa (GIRAF) workshop in Accra, Ghana during September.

This five day event brought together more than 100 government and university geoscience leaders from throughout Africa, as well as users of geoscience data, such as mining and environment agencies.

The workshop included a two-day Mining and Sustainability Forum, which examined a range of issues, including building human and institutional capacities.

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Photo: Ian Satchwell, Director, IM4DC.

IM4DC OpenData now operational

Openly accessible and transparent information about geoscience support a country's government, communities and people to manage natural resources for sustainable development outcomes.

IM4DC has developed an open-access regional geoscience and geographic database, called IM4DC OpenData for West Central Africa, as part of its Action Research Program.

The purpose-built online system will provide all stakeholders with access to geodata and land information from right across West Central Africa – an area larger than Western Australia. It offers both regional and national data and over time will be linked with each country's own web-based geodatabases when these become available.

[\[Read more\]](#)

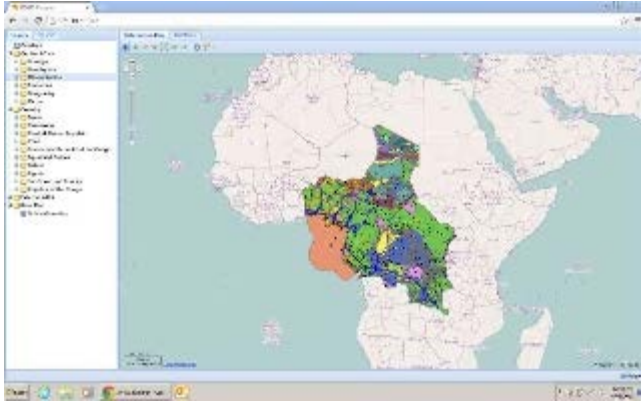


Photo: Screen shot of the IM4DC OpenData online database.

Mining and Agriculture study tour to Australia

In August, IM4DC presented a Mining and Agriculture study tour to Australia for high-level African government officials to explore the relationship between mining and agriculture in Western Australia.

The study tour focused on strengthening understanding of the frameworks governing the mining and agricultural sectors in Australia, and applying appropriate lessons and learning in their home countries. The four-day program formed part of a larger study tour organised by AusAID through its Australia-Africa Partnerships Facility (AAPF) – the Mining Governance and Africa Down Under study tour to Australia.

A total of 12 participants from five African nations – Botswana, Lesotho, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Tanzania took part in the Mining and Agriculture study tour.

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Photo: Mining and Agriculture study tour course participants at the Port of Esperance.

IM4DC to host Indonesian delegation study tour

In early October, IM4DC will host a delegation from the Indonesian Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the Indonesian Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs to Brisbane and Central Queensland for a coal and minerals study tour.

The purpose of the visit is to provide the opportunity for the delegates to update their experience of

leading practice in a number of areas related to the governance of mining activities, efficient supply chains, processing and value-adding to minerals and energy resources, and planning and infrastructure in mining regions.

The emphasis of the study tour will be on how Australian companies manage their mining and product processing and how governments manage the public's best interests with respect to value adding to coal and minerals, as well as environmental and community issues.

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Q and A with an IM4DC Distinguished Fellow

IM4DC is currently hosting Distinguished Fellow Dr Ousmane Wane, Head of the Department of Geology at The University of Sciences, Technical and Technology of Bamako (USTTB) in Mali. Dr Wane will be undertaking research with the Centre for Exploration Targeting (CET) at The University of Western Australia (UWA), Curtin University and CSIRO. USTTB trains the large majority of Malian geologists.

Dr Wane's focus is on enhancing research and training links between the universities, enhancing current approaches to analyse mineral systems in Mali, and developing a new Masters program for his university.

The IM4DC Distinguished Fellows Program involves influential stakeholders visiting Australia for extended stays to work with counterparts, undertake research and develop policy approaches. The Distinguished Fellows are high level individuals with the capacity to implement the outputs of their fellowship to bring about lasting and significant change in their home country. They will have involvement and impact across a spectrum of mining for development.

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Photo: (from left to right) Helen Langley: IM4DC Program Manager, Dr Ousmane Wane: IM4DC Distinguished Fellow, and Richard Slattery: IM4DC Deputy Director Operations and Business Development at the IM4DC Headquarters in Perth, Western Australia.

Australia Awards Alumni in Africa's Development

The 2013 Australia Awards Alumni Conference – Leading Change: Australia Awards Alumni in Africa's Development – brought together a large number of current and future leaders from across Africa to share ideas and best practices on initiatives that have successfully impacted directly on Africa's development. It was held in September in Cape Town, South Africa.

The event provided an opportunity to celebrate Alumni accomplishments to date, establish and strengthen existing alumni networks, and offer the Australian Government and Australia Awards a forum to engage further with the growing body of Alumni. It provided a forum for thoughtful discussion and the exchange of individual and organisation experiences.

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Photo: Azage Tegegne, a Senior Scientist working with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Ethiopia has received recognition from Australia's James Cook University for his outstanding contributions to agricultural research in Africa. He was one of two alumnus that was acknowledged as the Australia Awards alumnus of the year.

IM4DC co-presents GIRAF 2013 - The third Geoscience InfoRmation in Africa workshop

The Third Geoscience InforMation in Africa (GIRAF) workshop attracted more than 100 geoscientists and policy-makers from throughout Africa, as well as from Europe and Australia during September. It was presented by a collaboration of the Geological Survey Department of Ghana, Germany's BGR geoscience organisation and IM4DC.

The workshop coincided with the centennial celebrations of the Geological Survey Department of Ghana which hosted the workshop at its Seismological Observatory and Training Centre.

The main themes of the workshop were geoscience information and sustainable mining and mapping, however all contributions to geoscience information topics, in particular in Africa were welcome.

The week-long GIRAF workshop included a two-day forum in mining and sustainable development facilitated by IM4DC, which examined a range of issues, including building human and institutional capacities.

[\[Read more\]](#)



Photo: (from left to right) Tiyapo Ngwisani: Geological Survey Department of Botswana, Anna Nguno: Geological Survey of Namibia, Eunice Jackson: University of Dar es Salaam Tanzania, and Kombada Mhopjeni: Geological Survey of Namibia. Kombada Mhopjeni completed a Masters degree in geoscience at the UWA Centre for Exploration Targeting (CET), supported by an Australia Africa Awards Scholarship.

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