

## SESSION SUMMARY

### Welcome and Introduction

#### **Mr James Gilling, First Assistant Director General, AusAID**

Australia's \$5 billion foreign aid program has become a high-profile component of the Australian government's overall spending program, and as such it is important that it be possible to clearly articulate the returns that are being achieved from that spending, said the First Assistant Director General of AusAID, James Gilling.

"What that means for us in AusAID is that we have to be really very good at being able to defend what we spend," Mr Gilling said. "And the best way to do that is that we can point to results."

While it was comparatively easy to discuss success metrics such as the number of children in school, the number of women who gave birth safely, or the kilometres of road built, he said it was much harder to sell the benefits of an aid program that sought to build governance.

"And the reason for that is it often takes a long time to change the quality of governance in any country," Mr Gilling said.

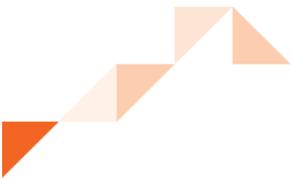
Hence he exhorted International Mining For Development Centre (IM4DC) alumni members to remember that they were an important part of the Australian aid program that represents a force for considerable change within the countries they worked in, in terms of their economic and social futures.

"Your capacity, your insights, your quality will have a big influence in how things turn out in your countries," Mr Gilling said. "It is really great for AusAID to be part of that. But it's a really hard part of the program to defend. It's not numbers that is the defence of what we are doing. It is about the impact that you people are able to have in the counties that you are working in."

Mr Gilling went on to stress the importance of creating an alumnus amongst IM4DC participants. "We need to be thinking much more progressively about how we harness the quality of the training and the relationships you have made over your full working life," he said. "And something like an alumnus is one of the ways we can do that. Training is critical, but almost more important than that are the ongoing networks that you are building now."

He urged attendees to use technology to stay in touch, and to build a habit of sharing information and ideas.

"Australia really wants to help, and I don't think there is anything better and stronger than being able to provide assistance and support to people who are literally at the



cutting edge, where key decisions are being taken,” Mr Gilling said. “I hope that you can exchange ideas here today, but also go home with the email and Skype addresses of those people whose ideas and passion you really respect, and stay in touch with those people. It is that network and group that will sustain your professional quality over the course of your life.”

Participants in the IM4DC Alumni Day were also urged to actively reach out to each other and to alumni members in order to maximise the benefits of participation.

The Institute Director of the Sustainable Minerals Initiative, Chris Moran, reminded attendees that they were just one link away from 120 post-graduate students, and subsequently thousands of professionals all over the world in the next 40 years. “You have potentially here thousands of linkages, and in the modern connected world they are yours to be had,” he said.

Mr Moran said previous participants shared his goal of wanting to change the future of how the minerals sector operated and the positive impact that can come from that. “We want to see mining changing the world as a result of what we do, but we can’t do that unless you deliver,” Mr Moran said. “It is the decisions that you make when you get into the workplace that will make the difference of whether the future is the same as it looks now, or the future is different. And you’ll find that in the network that I’ve described.”

Mr Moran stressed that establishing values and principals was essential, as this provided a platform for future dealings, and also that attendees needed to retain a sense of humility and responsibility if they were to rise into the leadership positions.

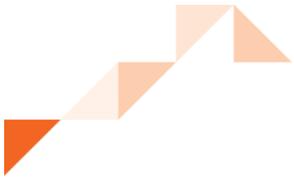
“Great leaders generally ascribe success to the teams that are around them, and tend to take the responsibility for faults to themselves,” he said. “If you find yourself looking for someone to blame, you probably just slipped out of a leader position.

“We want you to lead. We want you to change the decisions, lead and use the network of people you have to support that.”

Attendees were urged to respond to a range of questions relating to where ongoing work should be directed, such as how to overcome challenges and risks and develop better policies. A wide range of responses were collected, including the need for better communication and sharing of ideas amongst IM4DC alumni through mailing lists and online discussions.

Many of the suggestions were created for application within countries, and included finding ways to encourage illegal miners to become legal, finding ways to improve monitoring and oversight, and improving management attitudes.

Broader themes included the need for better education leading to capacity building, and overall improved communication between all parties relating to mining within countries, from ministries and miners down to the communities and mine workers. Other ideas



included development of strategies for the reduction of social conflict and development of corporate social responsibility strategies, and the creation of sound legal frameworks.