

A Word from the Secretary General

Dear colleagues and friends,

the last couple of weeks have been extremely busy for me as I moved from the mining university in Freiberg to Munich University, from Saxony to Bavaria! I am now Chair of the Department of Hydrogeology and Environmental Geology and in the midst of starting new projects and developing lectures for geology students of both Munich University and Munich Technical University. Though it is a very interesting position, it means that I have not been able to communicate with all of you in a timely manner. Therefore, if you are still waiting for an answer to your mail or e-mail, please accept my apologies for the delay.

Please, though, do not allow this small disruption in my life to interfere with your cooperation. We need your short announcements for these Mine Water Notes. If you are organizing a conference or workshop, or plan to do so, please send us a short description. If you find an interesting short article about mine water issues or if you want to review a book, please do so, and let others know what you think. All your inputs are welcome.

Finally, I wish you a merry Christmas, or season greetings, and a happy new year! Thanks for being with us this year and see you again next year, hopefully, in Sardinia!

Glückauf

Chris Wolkersdorfer

Mine Water

Water was legally defined as a commodity in the year 2000, which paved the way for multinational corporations to buy and manage water systems. In the meantime, industrial use of water is expected to double by 2025, according to current trends.

At a recent meeting of Natives Impacted by Mining, Dr. Glenn Miller, Director of Environmental Science and Engineering at the University of Nevada, Reno, noted that “no easy solutions” exist regarding mine water treatment issues. While the technology is evolving slowly, Miller asserts that bonding for long-term water treatment should be required of any new mine.

R. Craig Smith, Nevada State Bureau of Land Management Liaison, advocates the elimination of process fluids through evaporation rather than rinsing

of decommissioned heaps. His goal is to reach a steady zero discharge scenario in the decommissioning of heaps, while eliminating the need for millions of gallons of water to rinse heap leach ore. In a talk to Natives Impacted by Mining, Smith said the surety industry is demanding a definitive timeframe for heap decommissioning and rinsing, including phases of decommissioning when they occur, and is developing a standardized approach for bonding purposes.

Environmental and human rights NGOs have become especially adept at manipulating the fears of subsistence farmers, indigenous communities and tribes, wildlife conservationists, commercial and sports fishery groups, and even other commercial sectors, such as retail jewellers. As a result, mining project permitting can be delayed for years. Occasionally, a mining project may be stopped completely as was the case with Newmont’s Cerro Quilish project near the Yanacocha Mine, and Manhattan Minerals Tambogrande project, both in Peru.

UNESCO advocated that governments, private firms, and civil society work together in collaborative partnerships. “The focus of the emerging water culture is water sharing: Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) looks for more effective and equitable management of water through increased cooperation. Bringing together institutions dealing with surface water and aquifer resources ... and exploring alternative solutions to resolving disputes, are all part of the process.”

Like other water users, mining needs to recognize that its water issues are interrelated with the water issues of agriculture, urban communities, indigenous peoples, and other industries. Growing demand, decreasing supply, and increased competition for resources, necessitates cooperation. A corporate policy which encourages greater transparency, accountability and stakeholder involvement in a mining company’s water management strategy may help alleviate the fears of competing water interests.

While individual mining companies may have already implemented such a water management strategy, mining should also consider an industry-wide water management approach. A number of gold mining and exploration companies have already signed the International Cyanide Management Code. The code’s objective is to improve cyanide management in gold mining and assist in the protection of human health and reduction of environmental impacts. Consideration by mining and exploration companies to expand the code to address water quality and water management issues might be a logical next step. Or, perhaps an existing

mining sustainability program could be expanded to include stakeholder consultation in water quality and water management issues.

If gold mining is willing to discuss and educate stakeholders concerning mining water management issues and strategies, the sector may be rewarded with partnerships that reduce risks, improve bonding and financing, and shorten permitting delays.

modified from MineWeb.com (August 28 2006)

New Members

We welcome our following new members:

Lars Braun, Dresden, Germany
David Hancock, Charleston, USA
Katharina Küppers, Dresden, Germany
Ronald D. Lilly, Shady Springs, USA
Horst Märten, Dresden, Germany
Len Murray, Vancouver, Canada
Andrew Pearson, Solihull, United Kingdom
Stuart Rolley, Mansfield, United Kingdom
Michael Royle, Vancouver, Canada
Klaus Sommer, Dresden, Germany
William Strosnider, Norman, USA
Jürgen Zuchowski, Clausthal-Zellerfeld, Germany

We hope that our new colleagues will benefit from and contribute to the extensive mine water knowledge and expertise gathered within our group of international experts. Please use your membership number in any correspondence, especially money transfers with IMWA. You can find it easily on your journal's address label, in front of the word "GES".

Adrian Brown, Treasurer, Denver, Colorado, USA
Chris Wolkersdorfer, Secretary General, Munich, Germany

Back Issues

An overview of European mine water was provided in three of last year's issues. We received many requests for those three issues and therefore decided to put together those country studies in one electronic article. You can download it from IMWA's home page or use the following Digital Object Identifier: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10230-005-0081-3>.

Members who recently joined IMWA can find a complete index (issues 1–25) of the *International Mine Water Association Journal* and *Mine Water and the*

Environment at our web-page www.IMWA.info. Volumes 17(1), 18(1), 19(2), 20(1) and 21(1) as well as proceedings of the 7th and 8th IMWA Congresses are still available for \$ 15.00 (U.S.) a copy. Some other back-issues are available on request – copies of single pages at \$ 0.60 (U.S.) each. Please add \$ 5.00 (U.S.) for shipping/handling. You can also access the journal on line, using <http://springerlink.com>

Past IMWA issues, published before the year 2000, can be accessed with your private login and password that you received with your last membership status or by e-mail.

Chris Wolkersdorfer, Munich, Germany

Money Transfers within the European Union

During the last few years, European IMWA members have been able to pay their membership fees through IMWA's European Bank Account, based in Germany. According to new European legislation, all money transfers to European Bank Accounts within the European Union have to be made using the IBAN (International Bank Account Number) and BIC (Bank Identified Code) numbers. As of January 1st 2007, European banks will no longer accept payments without IBAN and BIC. This legislation does not apply to money transfers within single countries, which means that German IMWA members still can use the sorting code (BLZ) and bank account number.

IMWA's European bank account numbers (for payments within the European Union only) are IBAN: DE40 85080000 0784887000 and BIC (SWIFT code): DRESDEFF. These are also listed at our web site (www.IMWA.info/payments) and at the end of the annual invoices. Following these procedures and using IMWA's correct bank account numbers will help the treasurer avoid false money transfers and will save you money. Alternatively, payments can be made by credit card through eBay's PayPal Credit Card payment options, which you can find at www.IMWA.info/paypal. There is no need to have a personal PayPal account.

Furthermore, all payments should include the correct membership number. It consumes a lot of money and time by our unpaid staff to identify payments without a membership number, which you can find in your annual invoice.

Adrian Brown, Treasurer, Denver, Colorado, USA
Chris Wolkersdorfer, Secretary General, Munich, Germany

Forthcoming Events

May 15th – 17st 2007, Juneau, Alaska

Northern Latitudes Mining Reclamation Workshop
John_Clark@ak.blm.gov

May 27th – 31st 2007, Cagliari/Sardinia, Italy

IMWA Symposium 2007
www.IMWA.info; imwa2007@IMWA.info

December 2007, Bangkok, Thailand

SWEMP 2007 – 9th International Symposium on
Environmental Issues and Waste Management in
Energy and Mineral Production

May 6th – 8th 2007, Nancy, France

Post Mining 2008
PostMining2008@IMWA.info

2008, Carlsbad, Czech Republic

10th IMWA Congress
www.IMWA.info; imwa2008@IMWA.info

2011, Aachen, Germany

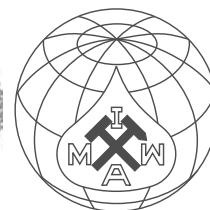
11th IMWA Congress
www.IMWA.info; imwa2011@IMWA.info

International Mine Water Symposium 2007

Cagliari, Sardinia

Italy

May 27th – 31st 2007



Organized by IMWA – International Mine Water Association in Association with University of Cagliari

Congress Theme

impact on the aqueous environment
Reclamation/remediation at abandoned mine sites
Mine water and geothermal uses
Coal mining
Mine water management and dewatering
Water engineering: groundwater and hydrogeology
Geochemical and mineralogical processes in mining environments
Biogeochemical processes in mining environments
Mining and climate change
Case studies

Conference fees

IMWA members 350 Euro (Early registration)
Non IMWA members 400 Euro (Early registration)
IMWA members 400 Euro (Late registration)
Non IMWA members 450 Euro (Late registration)
Students 100 Euro
Accompanying Persons 100 Euro

Conference fees include: the conference proceedings, coffee breaks and lunches during the conference, and welcome reception for all participants.

Two-days field trip at historical mine sites of Sardinia: 100 Euro

Information and Correspondence

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Important Dates

10th Feb 2007: submission of abstracts

10th Feb 2007: early bird registration

15th April 2007: submission of full Papers