

CONFERENCE OF CHIEF INSPECTORS OF MINES TASMANIA, 1998 Communiqué

Chief Inspectors of Mines from all States, Northern Territory, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea met in Tasmania from 25-30 October 1998 for the annual Conference of Chief Inspectors of Mines (CCIM). Representatives from Fiji and the Solomon Islands also attended as observers. Mr Roger Mathews, Chief Inspector of Mines, South Australia, chaired the Conference.

Pre-conference

Conference sessions in Hobart were preceded by visits to the Mt Lyell, Henty and Rosebery mines on the west coast of Tasmania. These visits provided an opportunity to see the application of High Density Paste Fill (an innovative leading-edge technology for filling underground voids), tele-remote control of underground mining equipment, and advances in tailings storage in high rainfall regions.

A workshop on the Extractive Industries Training Package was held in Burnie and comprehensive presentations on developments in remote control and automation of underground mining equipment were given by equipment manufacturers in Zeehan. Members also met with Dr Tony Brown, Director, Mineral Resources Tasmania to discuss activities being addressed by ANZMEC in regard to mine safety.

National Framework for Mine Safety

CCIM members serving on ANZMEC's Mine Safety Taskforce (MST) updated the Conference on progress with the development of strategic framework documentation on mine safety. Western Australia, New South Wales and Queensland, respectively, are preparing discussion papers on the following topics:

1. roles and responsibilities of employers, employees and government;
2. health and safety legislation; and
3. health and safety performance monitoring and measures.

The structure and content of the first discussion paper was reviewed by the Conference and considerable time devoted to identifying matters to be addressed in the other papers. A schedule to complete and finalise drafts of all papers for the next meeting of the MST in mid-December 1998 was agreed. The CCIM resolved to provide all possible assistance to the MST with the development of a draft strategic management framework for consideration at the ANZMEC Ministerial meeting in July 1999.

Strategic Direction for the CCIM

Conscious of many recent developments in the functions of mines inspectorates, evolving industry and government requirements, and changing community expectations in regard to regulation and monitoring of mine safety, the CCIM has developed a vision for the Conference and updated its strategic goals.

The Conference of Chief Inspectors of Mines vision is to be recognised as the key national forum driving for excellence in safety, health and performance in the mining industry.

The Conference is committed to achieving this vision by the 2003. In order to keep its focus as sharp as possible the CCIM has identified four strategic key result areas for its activities and assessment of performance:

- ⇒ developing pro-active strategies and policies for the integration and improvement of mine safety performance and environmental management;
- ⇒ overseeing mining practices at mine sites, including procedures for dealing with optimising recovery of the total resource;
- ⇒ providing timely and high quality advice on matters referred to the CCIM by the ANZMEC Standing Committee of Officials; and
- ⇒ benchmarking mines inspectorate services to industry on behalf of government and the community.

Commitments for 1999

1. Mine Safety Taskforce activities.
2. Working groups have been convened to develop two draft National Guidelines in 1999. These will deal with:
 - Safety Management Systems; and
 - Remote Control of Underground Mining Equipment.Both Guidelines will be published as ANZMEC booklets and parts thereof incorporated in a later edition of *Safe Mining*¹.
3. Updates of sections in *Safe Mining*

Other matters

Other matters dealt with by the Conference included:

¹ *Safe Mining*: a manual detailing “Practical guidance for managing safety and health in the mining and extractive industries”, published by CCH Australia Ltd on behalf of joint venture partners ANZMEC and Minerals Council of Australia

- competency standards for operators and managers and their assessment by elements of the Extractive Industries Training Package recently endorsed by the National Training Framework Committee;
- the importance of mine audits and the need for auditing to be identified as a significant process in the National Strategic Framework being developed by the Mine Safety Taskforce;
- development of the ANZMEC/CCIM Web site page;
- approaches to enforcement, investigation and prosecution by jurisdictions; and
- significant legislative changes that will stem from *Coal Mining* and *Mining and Quarrying Safety & Health Acts* when passed in Queensland.

W J McKay
for
Mr Roger Mathews
Chair CCIM
Chief Inspector of Mines
South Australia
5 November 1998



CCIM, Hobart, 1998

Left to right: G Niumataiwalu (Fiji), P Minahan (Qld), B McKensy (NSW), G Munro (NZ), N Sneddon (NSW), G Terrey (NSW), G McLaughlan (Vic), R Mathews (SA), R Billingham (Qld), F Sears (Tas), K Hah (NT), J Mitas (Vic), W McKay

(Com) and J Torlach (WA). Absent from photo R King (Vic) and P Nanau (Solomon Islands).