The International Conference on Sustainable Development Indicators in the Mineral Industries (SDIMI 2003) and the Milos Statement

The International Conference on Sustainable Development Indicators in the Mineral Industries (SDIMI 2003) was held in the beautiful island of Milos, Greece, May 21 to 23, 2003. The objective of this international conference was to assist the mining and minerals industries in their global transition to sustainable development. The main theme of the conference was the development, monitoring and assessment of sustainable development criteria for mineral operations. Emerging technologies that can assist in the development of criteria and performance indicators were also presented. A goal of the conference was also to conclude with a consensus plan and a process, representing a variety of stakeholders, which can provide guidance to the global minerals community on the path to sustainable development. This was accomplished in a closing statement that addressed issues such as core indicators that can be held common across nations, stewardship and accountability along the supply chain, the process of monitoring and auditing, data availability and reporting, operationalization of sustainable development principles and the value of communications and trust.

SDIMI 2003 attracted almost 200 participants from 26 countries of Europe, North and South America, Asia and Africa. The papers presented at the meeting were organized in thematic units, covering the following broad subjects and areas: sustainable development criteria and concepts; applications and case studies; sustainable development applications in industrial minerals, construction materials and aggregates; technology development towards sustainable criteria; sustainability issues in rehabilitation and recycling.

SDIMI followed the 14th Annual General Meeting of the Society of Mining Professors (Societaet der Bergbaukunde), a major academic society with global representation of minerals education institutions. One of the greatest achievements of both meetings was the issue of the Milos Statement, which presents the contribution and the vision of the minerals professional, scientific and academic communities in the transition to sustainable development (seen in full at the end of this report). This statement has been endorsed by The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, The Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum, The Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration, The Society of Mining Professors (Societaet der Bergbaukunde), The South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and The Iberoamerican Association of Mining Education (Asociacion Iberoamericana de Ensenanza Superior de la Mineria). The vision of the Milos Statement is that the minerals community will contribute to a sustainable future through the use of scientific, technical, educational and research skills in minerals, metals and fuels.


For more information on the Milos Statement for Sustainable Development contact:
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