

MINING CERTIFICATION EVALUATION PROJECT

THE CANARY
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BACKGROUND

This is the ninth in a series of regular updates on the Mining Certification Evaluation Project (MCEP).

The MCEP is a joint R&D exercise with participation from the mining industry, NGOs, labour, government agencies, the financial and accounting sector and research institutions. It aims to evaluate whether independent third party certification of performance can be applied to the mining sector.

PROJECT PROGRESS

At a Working Group meeting in March, it was decided that instead of three separate Working Papers, the documentation resulting from the MCEP would comprise a single, coherent Final Report. The Final Report will consist of three parts, corresponding to the three Working Papers that were originally planned

In February, a workshop was held to discuss the topic of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) & the Mining Industry. FPIC is the demonstration, on the part of affected people, of their acceptance of proposed activities. As such, it has been identified as a crucial issue for the MCEP. The results of this workshop will inform Part 1 of the Final Report of the MCEP.

In March, the first international field trial was held at the Newmont Waihi Gold mine in New Zealand. In April, the final field trial was held at Anglo American's Mineração Catalão niobium mine in Brazil. The results of these field trials, as well as the issues they raised for an international mine site certification program, will be discussed in Part 2 of the Final Report.

The Final Report is expected to be completed by the end of June. It will be available as a download from the MCEP web site.

PUBLICATIONS

The MCEP web site is online at:

<http://www.minerals.csiro.au/certification>

New downloads available at the site:

- Notes of discussions at the Workshop on Free, Prior and Informed Consent & the Mining Industry.
- Notes of discussions at Working Group meeting 11.

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CONTACT

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