



Minerals and Metals Sector *Update*

Intergovernmental Mining Forum Works to Put Sustainable Development of Minerals and Metals on World Agenda

Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, opened the inaugural meeting of the Intergovernmental Forum for Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development held in Geneva, Switzerland, from November 7 to 9, 2005. During the meeting, Forum members agreed to continue preparations for discussions related to mining at the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development Session, to be held in 2010-11.

The Forum also agreed to pursue work on several issues affecting mining and sustainable development and made a number of recommendations for consideration by various intergovernmental agencies and governments.

Gary Nash, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Minerals and Metals Sector, was elected Chair of the Forum.

The Forum, representing 33 countries from around the world, was developed out of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. Its objective is to enhance and promote the contribution of the mining, minerals and metals sector to sustainable development.

For more information on the Forum's inaugural meeting, please see the official news release on the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development web site at www.unctad.org/Templates/webflyer.asp?docid=6510&intlItemID=1528&lang=1.

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Working With "Booming" China

The Canadian Explosives Research Laboratory (CERL), a division of MMS, has recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the China National Testing Laboratory, or Fireworks and Firecracker Inspection Centre (FFIC-HNCIQ). The MOU was developed to facilitate cooperation between both organizations who share similar responsibilities in their respective countries. Areas of intended cooperation include continued exchange of information on the Canadian testing and regulatory regime for fireworks, and visits by Chinese scientists to CERL to further understand Canadian standards and test methods. The long-term aim of the cooperation is to improve the safety and quality of Chinese fireworks submitted for authorization in Canada. Currently, approximately 25% of fireworks imported from China fail to meet Canadian standards and are not approved for sale in Canada.

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Hoist Safety Data Sheet

In the past few years, scientific and technological advances at the CANMET Mining and Mineral Sciences Laboratories (CANMET-MMSL) have led to the development, in cooperation with the *Institut de recherche Robert-Sauvé en santé et en sécurité du travail (IRSST)*, of a data sheet on the safety of hoists controlled by programmable systems. The data sheet, published by the IRSST and co-authored by CANMET-MMSL's hoist expert, Louis Germain, will be used as a prevention and reference tool for new regulations concerning Quebec's underground mines. It will also increase the productivity of this strategic piece of mining equipment and improve worker safety. The other Canadian provinces are expected to use this tool in the coming years to adjust their regulations.

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