

Dear Canadian Mining Executives,

We are writing to inform you about CHINA MINING 2005, the official congress of China's Ministry of Land & Resources. The congress is supported by Natural Resources Canada in order to promote cooperation and dialogue between Canada and China's mining industries.

CHINA MINING 2005 will be held in Beijing, China from November 15 to 17. The forum is designed to include China's latest investment opportunities, regulatory environment and policy updates. CHINA MINING is a unique opportunity for industry participants to:

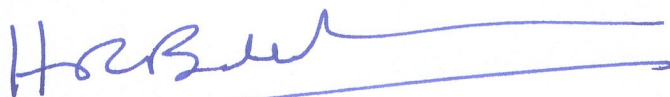
- Meet face to face with all Chinese provincial Departments of Land & Resources to discuss properties and projects throughout China;
- Hear firsthand the latest updates on foreign investment from China's national governmental bodies such as the Ministry of Land & Resources, which oversees exploration, development and mining, and the National Development and Reform Commission, which controls foreign investment and export;
- Meet and network with high level executives, decision makers and policy makers from China and abroad to explore cross-border cooperation opportunities;
- Network with international analysts, investors and stock exchanges;
- Join in one of the six mine site tours around the country organised by the China Mining Association.

Hosted by China's Ministry of Land & Resources and with the support of China's major mining associations such as China Gold Association and China Non-ferrous Metals Association, CHINA MINING represents the collective face of China's mining industry and is a key forum for any parties looking to do business in or with China's mining industry.

Last year's CHINA MINING hosted more than 1,300 delegates and this year's event will only be larger as China's mining industry continues to open to foreign direct investment. We are very pleased that Natural Resources Canada will lead both a Canadian delegation and a Canada pavilion within the exhibition to ensure Canadian companies are well represented. A number of Canadian industry associations such as PDAC (Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada) and CIM (Canadian Institute of Mining) are official partners of CHINA MINING and members of these associations will receive special discounts. Furthermore, CAMESE (Canadian Association of Mining Equipment and Services for Export) is helping to organize the Canadian pavilion.

For additional details on CHINA MINING 2005, please visit the event website www.china-mining.com or email the organizers at jan.klawitter@china-mining.com.

Yours truly,



Howard Balloch
Vice Chairman, CHINA MINING 2005
President, The Balloch Group
(Canadian Ambassador to China, 1996-2001)