
PREFACE

An objective of Australian Institute of Geoscientists and the Sydney Mineral Exploration Discussion Group is to provide an informative but inexpensive annual symposium on a topical subject that would benefit those connected with the mineral exploration and mining industries. Several symposia have been convened over the last few years, with great success — including “Southeast Asia”, “Resource Evaluation”, “The Mt Isa Inlier” and “South America”.

Africa was chosen as the 1997 symposium theme because of the increasing involvement by Australian companies. The awakening giant of Africa has a plethora of world-class deposits. It once held a virtual monopoly on commodities such as diamonds, platinum, chrome, manganese and cobalt, while boasting huge reserves of gold, copper, coal and heavy mineral sands (titanium minerals).

The symposium "Exploration and Mining in Africa" was held on 18 August 1997. AIG and SMEDG were very pleased with the attendance — 104 delegates — and were very appreciative of the support from exhibitors. There was much interested discussion and networking.

The countries of Africa are gradually beginning to find their feet after a long period of instability following the end of colonial rule. The more politically stable countries are beginning to look to foreign investment to provide jobs and wealth. Western nations now see that there are good investment/exploration opportunities, especially in those countries which are politically stable and adhere to International Monetary Fund requirements.

According to Dr Camillo Premoli, over 200 companies are now exploring in Africa, with an increasing number of Australian companies. Australian exploration geologists have honed their expertise in discovering blind gold orebodies in tropical and dry terrains similar to those of Africa. Several Australian companies have already been successful in making discoveries in Africa, and I am sure it won't be long before many other discoveries are announced.

This Bulletin will be extremely useful as an introduction to exploration in Africa. It contains information covering the geology and exploration potential of some areas; comments on ease of access and political stability of countries, as well as some indication of “problem” areas; sovereign risk; corruption; health risks; and logistics and infrastructure. For experts and analysts the Bulletin offers case histories and results of the application of various geophysical techniques in specific environments which, in turn, might also be applied to similar terrains in Australia.

It has been my great privilege to work with enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers on the AIG/SMEDG Committee (photograph on the next page), to whom I extend my sincere thanks. They successfully convened a Symposium comparable to any of the conferences arranged by international agencies, at a fraction of the cost.

Sincere thanks also go to the major sponsor Geoterrex, the exhibitors, the authors and Dr Richard Facer who edited this Bulletin and the extended abstracts for the Symposium.

David Timms
Convenor



AIG/SMEDG Committee — left to right: Sam Lees (venue); David Timms (registrations); Peter Lewis (abstracts and brochures); Steven Collins (exhibitors and sponsors); Roger Smyth-King (graphics); Mike Smith (exhibitors); and Kim Stanton-Cook (audio-visual). Absent: Russell Meares (speaker) and Lindsay Ingall (treasurer).

AIG / SMEDG AFRICA SYMPOSIUM

CONTENTS

Keynote Address: Ross Kennedy, *Exploration and Mining in Africa*

The following papers are in alphabetical order, by author.

Helen Anderson and Colin Nash, "*Rossing Area: Integrated lithostructural mapping of the Rossing area, Namibia, utilising remotely sensed data.*

Ian Blayden, *Ghana: A country in transition. An exploration perspective.*

Terry Burgess and Louis Rozman, *Delta in Zimbabwe, the history.*

David Farquhar-Smith, C. Ecorcheville and S. Kilty, *Geophysics, your key to success in Africa.*

Russell Hetherington, *Exploration and mining titles in Africa: an introductory review.*

Ken Maiden, *A junior exploration company in Africa.*

Rod Marston and P. Woolrich, *Discovery and Development of the Damang Gold Deposit, Ghana*

Camillo Premoli, *Africa Gold, Potential and Opportunities.*

Kevin Robinson and Howard Walker, *Investing in Africa.*

Craig Williams, Bruce. W. Nisbet, B. van der Stelt and M. N. Richards, *Zambia exploration potential for iron-oxide copper-gold deposits and a re-evaluation of the Copperbelt*