

Getting it right at the outset

Conference report: Sampling Conference 2010

by Stephanie Omizzolo, Editor, The AusIMM Bulletin

Held on 11-12 May 2010 in Perth, Western Australia, the 2010 Sampling Conference jointly organised by The AusIMM and CSIRO was a very successful event. Over 170 delegates attended and participated in the two day Conference, which brought together managers, geologists, engineers, metallurgists, grade controllers, samplers, chemists and consultants from around the world involved in all aspects of sampling mineral commodities.

The theme of this year's Conference was "Getting it right at the outset," which allowed presenters to explore best-practice sampling and sample preparation procedures, including correctly designed sampling equipment. The AusIMM CEO Michael Catchpole welcomed delegates before the Conference was officially opened by Darryl Stevens FAusIMM, CEO and Managing Director of Essa Australia Limited, the Principal Sponsor of the Conference.

High quality keynote and technical papers were presented, with topics covering topics from drill and blasthole sampling, to the state of sampling practice in the South African minerals industry and practical sampling considerations for multi-mine grade reconciliation and shiploading.

"It was great to see so many professionals from different disciplines together in one place, including the international sampling experts Francis Pittard, Dominique Francois-Bongarcon, Kim Esbensen, Dick Minnitt and Simon Dominy, sharing their knowledge and ideas on sampling techniques and procedures," said Conference Chair Ralph Holmes FAusIMM from the CSIRO Minerals Down Under Flagship. "The Conference theme was aimed

at getting sampling professionals to think about all aspects of sampling requirements from the initial design stage of sampling campaigns and equipment to the generation of representative samples fit for their intended purpose. Key messages from the Conference were the need to get management more proactively involved in ensuring good sampling practices are implemented and that data quality is maintained through ongoing precision and bias checks. "

Prior to the commencement of the Conference, and following the event, several successful workshops were held, covering good sampling practices, quality management of RC drill sampling, and grade control in underground gold operations. In addition, a well subscribed exhibition took place throughout the Conference, giving delegates the chance to network between technical sessions and learn about companies, new opportunities and new sampling technologies. The Conference Dinner held on 11 May at the Sheraton Perth Hotel was also a great success, providing a further opportunity for delegates to mingle in a relaxed atmosphere with great food and quality entertainment.

The Conference Proceedings, comprising 22 papers on various aspects of sampling, were published in both book and CD ROM formats and are now available for sale through The AusIMM Online Shop at: <http://www.ausimm.com.au/publications/publication.aspx?ID=5516>

A thank you is extended to the organising committee of the Conference comprising Dr Ralph Holmes (Chair), Jim Docherty, Dr Simon Dominy, Frank Pachioli, Antonia Riley, Geoff Robinson, Darryl Stevens,



L-R, from back row: Dick Minnitt, Kim Esbensen, Ralph Holmes, Dominique Francois-Bongracon, Simon Dominy and Francis Pittard.



L-R: Ben Ziegelaar, Francis Pittard, Darryl Stevens, Ralph Holmes, Michael Catchpole and Dick Minnitt.



Sampling 2010 delegates at the Exhibition.

Mike Stewart, and Ben Ziegelaar, as well as the Conferences & Events Department at The AusIMM, Session Chairs, authors, presenters, paper reviewers and all the Conference Sponsors and Exhibitors, in particular the principal sponsor essa. ■