

BACKGROUND

The Namibia University of Science and Technology's Department of Mining and Process Engineering will host the Society of Mining Professors (SOMP) 3rd Regional Conference with the theme: Building Capacity for the Mineral Industry. The Society of Mining Professors is a vibrant Society representing the global academic community and committed to making a significant contribution to the future of the minerals disciplines. The main goal of the Society is to guarantee the scientific, technical, academic and professional knowledge required to ensure a sustainable supply of minerals for mankind. The Society facilitates information exchange, research and teaching partnerships and other collaborative activities among its members.

The 3rd Regional conference gives a platform to academics, researchers, government and Minerals Industry professionals, an opportunity to interact, exchange and analyse the challenges and opportunities within the Minerals Industry. For any country to develop technologically and economically there must be a strong link between its industry, government & academic institutions. This conference will put together the role-players of the Mineral Industry from within and outside Namibia.

RATIONALE FOR SOCIETY OF MINING PROFESSORS (SOMP) REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The main aim of this conference is to facilitate information exchange. It is known that the mining industry is currently faced with big challenges ranging from the technical skills shortage, deep ore bodies, declining ore grades, challenges linked to processing ores with complex mineralogy, water quality and supply to the ever escalating energy costs and sustainability amongst others ((Musiyarira et al., 2014). To address some of these challenges there must be a strong link between its industry, government & academic institutions. This will only happen when all the role-players work together. The set-up of this conference is such that it allows the interaction between the Minerals Industry players and the academics.

CONFERENCE APPROACH

The conference will feature technical presentations from academic, government and Industry professionals on a wide range of topics. It will follow a participatory and interdisciplinary approach. While outlining the Conference programme, great emphasis is laid on participants' interaction in addition to the presentations. The conference will be structured as follows:

Features:

- Two-day technical program presenting over 16 technical papers
- Relevant discussion workshops
- Field trips and site tours
- Networking opportunities

Themes:

- Innovation in Teaching and Learning in Minerals Education
- Research and Development
- Community/Industry Engagement
- Project Based Learning

Facilitator:

The Conference is being organised by Society of Mining Professors (SOMP) in collaboration with the Department of Mining and Process Engineering (DMPE), within the School of Engineering at the Namibia University of Science and Technology. The Conference presenters are well-known and highly respected experts in their fields, and will cover a wide range of topics. Presentations will be followed by discussions.

Target Audience:

The Conference will be of benefit to the following professionals: Minerals Industry professionals, academics, non-governmental experts and government officers.

Event Management: The DMPE/SOMP

For all enquiries please contact:

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**MONDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2015
WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA**

14:00 - 16:00

City tour in the morning (optional)

18:00

Cocktail function - Welcome (Polytechnic Hotel School)

Dress code:

Smart casual

**TUESDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2015
WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA**

07:00 - 08:30

**Conference registrations +
Tea/Coffee/Snacks**

SESSION 1

OFFICIAL OPENING

08:30 - 08:45

**Welcoming remark:
Dr Harmony Musiyarira, HOD Mining
and Process Engineering / Polytechnic
of Namibia**

08:45 - 09:00

**Official welcome address:
Prof T Tjivikua, Rector Polytechnic
of Namibia**

09:00 - 10:30

Presentation

10:00 - 10:30

Coffee and snacks break

SESSION 2

11:00 - 13:00

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

13:00 - 14:00:

Lunch

