

SOCIETY OF MINING PROFESSORS



SOCIETÄT DER BERGBAUKUNDE

RULES AND PROCEDURES

Regional Meetings

(July 2018)

SOMP Regional Meetings - Background

The first SOMP Regional meeting was held in Thailand in 2013. Since that time, other Regional meetings have been held in other parts of Asia, southern Africa, and South America. The concept of Regional meetings grew out of the initiatives of the SOMP Capacity Building Committee who are to be congratulated on this very successful and significant ongoing initiative.

The Regional Meetings are intended to fulfil a number of important roles, consistent with the vision and mission of SOMP. Firstly, they are intended to provide a particular focus on specific local initiatives and issues in the mining education and industry development fields for the region where the meeting is held. Secondly, they can provide a more affordable opportunity for mining educational professionals in local regions to engage with other SOMP members, without having to, or being able to afford the time or cost of travelling to the annual meetings. Thirdly, in the context of capacity building, they have enabled mining educator professionals to form new networks for mutual support, encouragement and future collaboration.

SOMP Regional Meetings (SRM) - Guidelines

- Regional Meetings should not be run in parallel with other external activities (e.g. conferences, exhibitions etc.), although they can be very effectively organised to be back-to-back with other such activities.
- Duration should typically be 2–3 days
- Scheduled mine visits, normally after meeting, should be included, where possible, as options
- Regional Meeting venues should be as close as possible to accommodation – minimise transport time/needs
- Multiple accommodation options should be available within close proximity to each other
- Regional Meeting costs should be kept to a minimum with consideration given to special discounts for junior/early career members/other “in-need” members, e.g., from developing countries.
- Regional meeting proposals must be submitted to SOMP Council for approval, prior to being publicised or promoted.
- Regional meeting initiatives would normally arise through the SOMP Capacity Building Committee, but there may be some exceptions to this.
- A Regional meeting must be led by active SOMP member(s).
- The themes of the meeting must align with the overall SOMP vision and mission, as well as any current strategic initiatives. The content should be predominantly relevant to a broad base of SOMP membership, especially those from the region involved. They should not be just another mining conference.
- Program should normally include:
 - delegate registration
 - Committee meetings, where applicable
 - informal welcome reception
 - introduction session
 - welcome by senior host university representative
 - a session on local mining industry

- priority on SOMP member engagement throughout meeting, based on topics of interest (breakaway workshops, relevant topics as per SOMP committees identified)
 - opportunity for “thought leader” keynote presentations, followed by panel discussions/workshops/break-out groups
 - peer-reviewed technical paper presentations (relevant to broader SOMP membership) - optional poster presentations
 - also opportunity for mining education and other related presentations that are not peer-reviewed
 - group members photograph
 - formal dinner
- A planning and operational check-list should be based on the check-list for the SOMP Annual Meetings.