

The SDIMI Conference Series

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How it all started?

- A collaboration of Virginia Tech (USA), the University of Aachen (Germany), and the Technical University of Crete (Greece) resulted in the first conference on “**Sustainable Development Indicators in the Minerals Industry**” -- SDIMI
- The main objective of this series of conferences was (and is) to assist the global minerals industries in their transition to sustainable development.



SDIMI Evolves....

- In 2011, the conference series title was changed to “**Sustainable Development in the Minerals Industry**” to allow for a broader audience.
- The University of Queensland (AUS) and the University of British Columbia (CA) later joined the group
- SDIMI 2017 will be hosted by USTB in Beijing, China.



The First Conference

- The first conference, **SDIMI 2003**, was held in the island of Milos, Greece and attracted 200 international attendees representing industry, governmental organizations, associations, and research and academic institutions.
- More than 70 papers were presented and discussed in 2 and ½ days on Milos.

....why Milos, where is Milos?



Milos, Greece



Milos belongs to the Greek island complex of the “Cyclades” in the Aegean Sea.

Milos and its Minerals

- Milos was the result of volcanic eruptions on land and beneath the sea, an activity which continued for hundreds of thousands of years.
- The volcanic heritage of Milos consists of a broad range of minerals and rocks, such as obsidian, pumice, sulfur, alunite, kaolin, perlite, bentonite, manganese etc.
- Mining activities have been presented on Milos islands for *thousands* of years.
- Historians estimate that exploitation of obsidian took place in Milos at least since 7000 BC and Milian obsidian was found by archaeologists in Greece, Egypt and Southern Europe.
- Today, about 1.5 million tonnes of industrial minerals are loaded annually from the island (i.e., bentonite, perlite, pozzolanes).



Recent Mining Activities on Milos



The “Aggeria” bentonite mine



The old sulfur mines



The Milos Economy

- Today, the economy in Milos is based on mining and tourism, activities that go hand-in-hand.
- The community supports this fruitful and sustainable symbiosis since mining is a year-round economic activity, whereby tourism is a only seasonal activity over the summer months.
- Services (including tourism) account approximately for 55% of Milos' domestic product, while mining accounts for over 30%.
- The island's GDP per capita has been very high compared to the regional GDP per capita in Greece, as a result of the co-existence of both economic activities.
- Annual visitors (tourists) are estimated to be over 80,000 for an island of approx. 5,000 inhabitants.



Sustainable Development Practices

The Milos Conference Center (www.miloscenter.gr), housed in a fully restored old kaolin processing plant built in 1925, is a modern conference center overlooking the gulf of Milos and can hold up to 400 conference participants for each event.



Sustainable Development Practices

The Milos Mining Museum (www.milosminingmuseum.com) where the mining history and the minerals wealth of Milos is vividly showcased was inaugurated in 1998, and records about 10,000 visitors annually.



Milos was the perfect setting for the first SDIMI conference.



SDIMI continues ...

- SDIMI 2005, was held in Aachen, Germany, and was again a successful forum in convening the minerals community engaged in sustainable development, with particular emphasis on sustainability indicators, data evaluation and reporting and life-cycle assessment and product stewardship.
- SDIMI 2007 returned to Milos, Greece. The focus of the meeting was on issues of benchmarking, SD value creation, operationalization of SD, creation of knowledge hubs, modeling and fiscal issues and best practices and tools.
 - The meeting provided opportunities for presentations and panel discussions.
 - The Conference was organized in three tracks representing a variety of stakeholders, which can provide guidance and direction to the minerals community on the path to sustainable development. Panel discussions were introduced.
 - Representation of the social component of SD was definitely stronger than before.



SDIMI continues ...

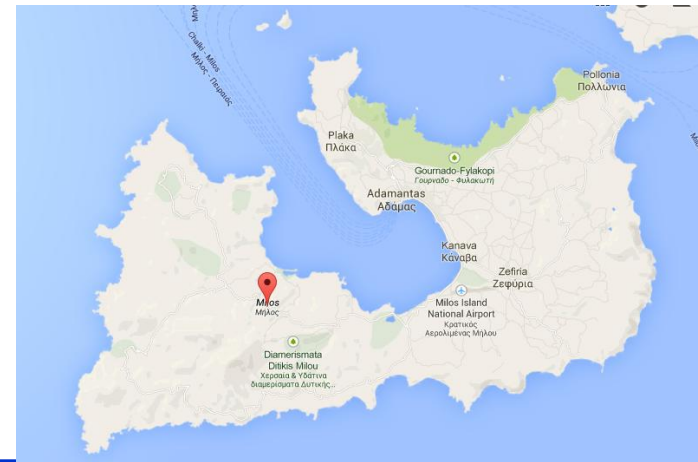
- SDIMI 2009 was held in Brisbane, Australia, 6-8 July. Themes included:
 - Frameworks and tools for integrating SD into mine and plant design,
 - Innovative methodologies for measuring SD performance at the operational, corporate and industry level,
 - Mining and minerals processing in a carbon-constrained world,
 - SD challenges in emerging mining countries,
 - Community impacts and benefits of mineral resource developments,
 - Stewardship and the management of products and wastes,
 - Cumulative impacts of intensive resource development,
 - Advances in life cycle and sustainability assessment,
 - Industrial and regional synergies,
 - Overcoming the barriers to the uptake of sustainability innovations,
 - Integration of sustainability thinking into professional education.



SDIMI continues ...

- SDIMI 2011 was held again in Aachen, Germany in the framework of the AIMS conference.
 - Organization was very successful and delegates from many countries attended the event.
 - A young professionals event attracted a lot of attention.
- SDIMI 2013 returned to Milos once more. It was the 6th International Conference on the SDIMI series and was held between 30 June and 3 July 2013. The theme of the conference was

**Milos+10: Incorporating Sustainability
into the Educational Process**

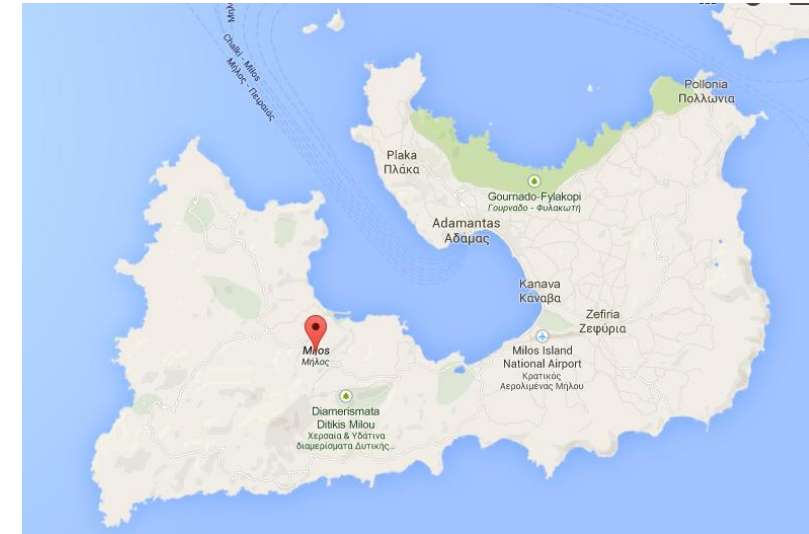


Milos ... Again....

One of the outcomes of the SDIMI 2003 conference was the adoption of the

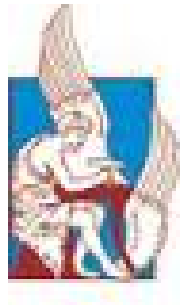
“Milos Declaration on Sustainability”

More on that in a few minutes....

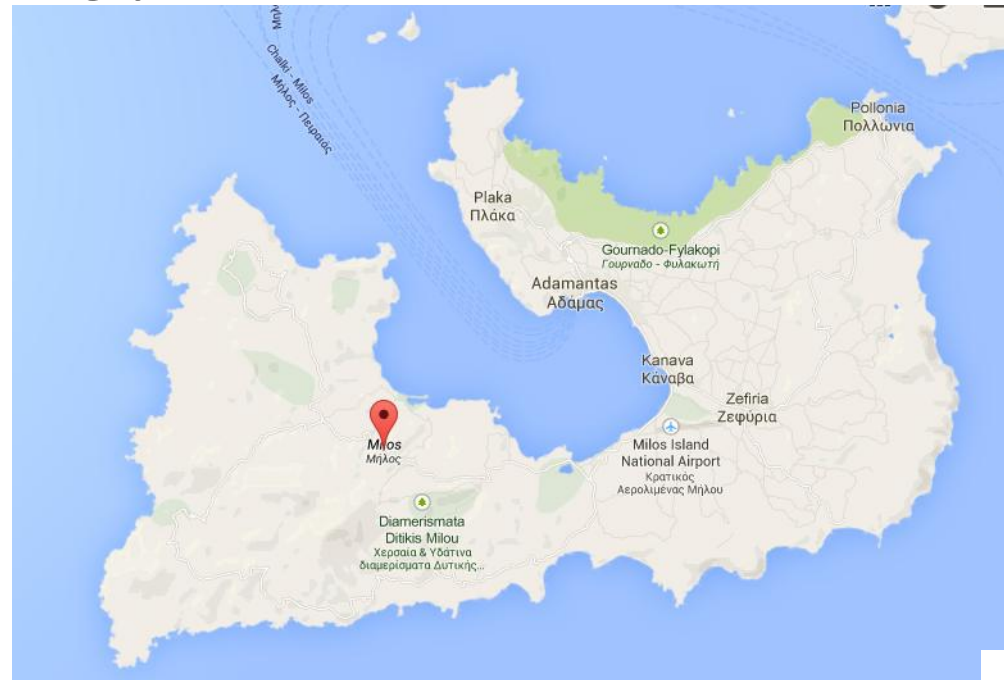


Our Vision

To make SDIMI a global forum and contribute to sustainable mining practices



Technical
University
of Crete



VirginiaTech
Invent the Future



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

