It is my pleasure to invite you to SDIMI (Sustainable Development in the Minerals Industry) 2022, the 10th of a series of conferences whose objective is to assist the global mining and minerals industries in their transition to sustainable development. The conference will take place from (15-20 September 2022) in Windhoek and will run under the theme (Making Economies Great through Sustainable Mineral Development). This will be a hybrid conference entailing a real-time, face-to-face component as well as a virtual component.

We celebrate a journey that commenced in 2003 in the historic town of Milos, Greece, when the landmark MILOS DECLARATION was adopted. The MILOS DECLARATION represents a statement of our collective contribution to a sustainable future using scientific, technical, educational, and research skills and knowledge in minerals extraction and utilization that was endorsed by the leading global professional and scientific organizations and institutes representing the minerals professionals. SDIMI 2022 aims to continue with our noble journey by building on the progress we have made since 2003.
As Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), we feel privileged to take the leading role in hosting SDIMI 2022. It is a greater honour and privilege for Namibia, as a nation, to host this conference, being hosted on African soil for the first time since the inaugural conference of 2003. Therefore, this conference is certainly historic and represents a key milestone. I believe the hospitality and warmth of the Namibian people will be ideal for this upcoming conference. Indeed, Namibia remains a leading example on the African continent, in many recognized aspects.

A key challenge remains the ability of the minerals industry to meet the needs of a growing population without depriving future generations of the means to meet their own needs. We are faced with a highly consumptive population whose current needs might compromise future provisions. This is compounded by deepening environmental and social concerns, stringent supply chain procurement standards as well as public pressure and regulatory measures that have profoundly transformed the mining industry’s approach to doing business. As the intense call for sustainability comes to the fore, it can no longer be business as usual for the mining industry. It is our natural responsibility, to ensure that future generations are not deprived of much needed resources.

Namibia is a typical example in which the mining industry’s ability to co-exist with other industries as well as operate in environmentally sensitive areas has been put to the test. The country hosts several uranium mining operations within the Namib-Naukluft National Park, making the mines extremely cautious of how they carry out their operation without compromising or disrupting the ecosystem. In the same vein, Namibia’s offshore diamond industry is a leading example of how marine mining can be carried out sustainably without disrupting the marine ecosystem. Namibia is also a water and energy stressed country with some mining operations relying on desalinated water from the South Atlantic Ocean. A thriving artisanal and small-scale mining sector that requires capacity and integration into the mainstream economy also forms part of the Namibian mining industry.

It is my hope that SDIMI 2022 will provide a platform for active discussion of these multiple and complex issues, putting them into perspective within a broader context in the various thematic areas.

Papers or presentations are invited on any topic related to the conference. Extended abstracts will be peer reviewed for submission in the SAIMM Special Journal edition. Prospective authors are invited to submit titles and abstracts of their papers in English. The abstracts should be no longer than 500 words and should be submitted to:

Gugu Charlie, Conference Coordinator
Tel: +27 011 538-0238
Email: sdimi2022@saimm.co.za

KEY DATES
4 April 2022 Submission of abstracts
11 April 2022 Acceptance of abstracts
16 May 2022 Submission of extended abstracts
15-17 September 2022 Conference

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