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Progress Report - WFEO Task Force on Sustainability and Mining

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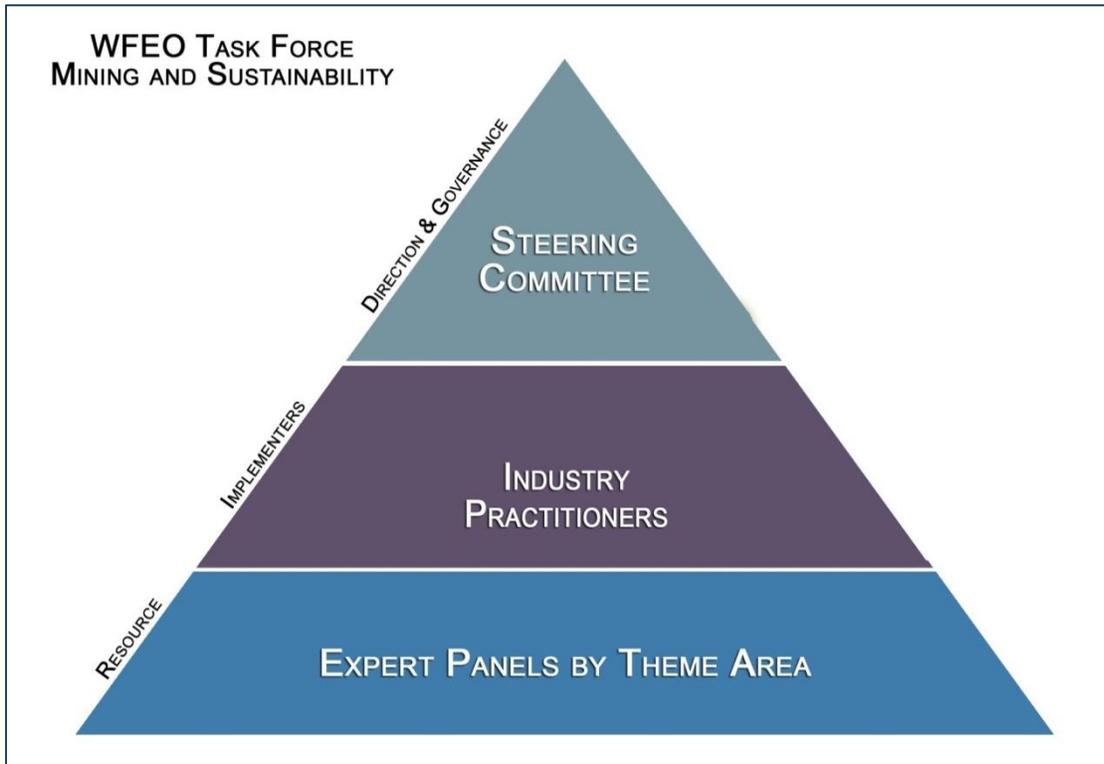
Dear Friends and Fellow Task Force Members,

It has been approximately 3 months since I took over as chair of the task force and during this time there have been several exciting developments that I would like to share with everyone.

Task Force Structure:

We are making a few small changes to the organizational structure of the task force to help support the group’s efforts as we work to fulfill our mission of increasing the contributions of the mining and the minerals industries to economic, social and environmental wellbeing through the application of engineering approaches and technologies.

The new structure is shown in the graphic below. It is similar to the previous structure but with the addition of a group that we are calling “Industry Practitioners.” Industry practitioners are individuals who are engaged in the practical application of SD practices in an operating environment. Industry



Practitioners may be consultants, persons directly employed by industry or researchers focused on applications. This new group will be comprised of existing task force members (members may sit on an expert panel as well as serve as an Industry Practitioner) and members who are new to the task force.

The Steering Committee will be structured a bit differently as well. It will be comprised of the task force chair, vice chair, a representative from each one of the 5 theme areas and a representative from the Industry Practitioners group. This new organization will be put in place by September 1, 2015. If anyone wishes to volunteer for any of these positions please contact me.

2015 Task Force Activities:

In February task force members attending the SME Annual Meeting in Denver met to organize a moderated panel for the upcoming 2015 SDIMI meeting in Vancouver. The panel will focus on the contribution of engineering to sustainable mining practices. The goal is to examine some of the key social, economic and environmental challenges that the mining industry faces along with engineering solutions to address these challenges. Specifically it will address recent mining engineering advancements that support sustainability, the role that individual engineers play in promoting sustainable mining practices, and broader industry-wide initiatives in the area of mining and sustainable development. Panelists are: Dr. Darrel Danyluk who will deliver introductory comments; Dr. Priscilla Nelson, Chair of the Mining Engineering Department at Colorado School of Mines; Dr. Elaine Dorwood-King, Executive Vice President Sustainability and External Relations at Newmont Mining Corporation; Dr. Jürgen Kretschmann, TFH Georg Agricola U of Applied Sciences; Mimi Chen, Golder Associates; and Karina Brino, Mining Association of British Columbia.

I have also made two trips to Washington D.C. to raise awareness of the task force and our mission. In March John Hayden and I met with Conservation International, Africare, IFC and World Bank. Our work was very well received. Last week I returned to Washington to attend IFC's annual 2-day Sustainability Exchange which focused on the extractives industry. While there I attended a workshop on Artisanal and small scale mining and made what I hope will turn into key contacts at the World Bank for future capacity building workshops. Again, the TF was very well received and there was much interest in our work.

The other ongoing activity for 2015 is the creation of a task force website. Between now and the end of the year we expect to have it up and running so stay tuned!

New Members:

Please welcome Jim Renner, Manager of Environmental Stewardship at Southern Ionics, to the task force. He joined us in February and has helped with planning and securing panelists for the upcoming SDIMI panel. Thank you, Jim.

Next Meeting of the Task Force:

For members traveling to Vancouver for the SDIMI conference please plan to attend our next task force meeting which will be held in conjunction with the conference. SME will also host a reception for task force members in Vancouver. I look forward to the opportunity to meet you and personally thank you

for your contributions. Details regarding the meeting and reception times and locations will be sent out in the next several weeks. For those of you not planning to be in Vancouver – I hope to meet you soon!

In the next couple of weeks you will also receive a separate communication about opportunities for participation in the new task force structure. In the meantime I want to convey my deep appreciation for all of the work that each of you has done to make the WFEO Task Force a success. It is a pleasure to serve as the chair and I am privileged to follow in Nikhil Trivedi's footsteps. He has laid a solid foundation and has given me the gift of a well-functioning and highly motivated group. Thank you for your leadership Nikhil.

Best Regards,

Jessica E. Kogel
WFEO Task Force Chair
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