



Society of Mining Professors **Societät der Bergbaukunde** **(SOMP)**

The Sydney "Roadmap"

- A roadmap for the future of SOMP,
developed by delegates at the 20th Annual
General Meeting in Sydney in June 2009

Background



The constitution of the Society defines our objectives as follows:

The Society of Mining Professors/Societät der Bergbaukunde is designed to be a vibrant global Society, representing the majority of minerals academics.

The purpose of the Society is to:

- *promote Mining Engineering as an engineering discipline,*
- *to facilitate information exchange, research and teaching collaboration and joint action among its members.*

Additional detailed objectives



- Ensuring that university based education at the highest level in those disciplines concerned with the provision of mineral products from the crust of the earth continues to be available to those who wish to avail themselves of it.
- Ensuring that advancement, through research, of the scientific and engineering knowledge and processes in the areas of relevance to the provision of mineral products continues.
- Establishing a network of academics involved in achieving the above goals.
- Enhancing the image of the minerals-producing industries, promoting development of educational courses within these disciplines and fostering pride in the disciplines.
- Establishing and maintaining ongoing contacts with the global mineral industry players.
- Promoting co-operation in educational and research programmes and identifying co-operative research opportunities.

The future for SOMP



The 2009 meeting agreed that:

- We need to become an active, and truly international network of mining academics

Similar to the minerals industry, the education sector must go global, and SOMP is the ideal vehicle to achieve this, by

- More than just an informal network that meets once/year
- We must make strategic, global initiatives in our education sector.



The Sydney Roadmap for the future of SOMP

Introductory Decisions



- Continue to collect annual statistics on mining student intake and graduate numbers (*Action: Education C'tee*).
- Desirable to supplement above statistics with review of "graduate attributes" – what do our graduates look like, and how do they differ, across the world? (*Action: Education C'tee*).
- Useful to survey SOMP graduates (although extremely difficult) - where they work; what type of roles are they in after x years from graduation, etc). (*Action: SOMP Council*).
- Endorsement of the above additional objectives and mission for SOMP in the future



Staff Development – attracting and retaining new/young academics

(Actions: Membership Committee)

- Establishment of SOMP network/database for young/new academics – to be led by a young academic. To enable new and young staff to be identified to each other; and to be in regular informal/social contact, for support, establishment of collaboration opportunities; exchange of ideas etc.
- New/young academics to have mentor assigned – preferably within own universities and/or countries, rather than a SOMP role. Suggestion that each country assigns a senior SOMP member as mentor to develop such a program for younger academics pursuing research interests in each country; but with links back to SOMP for any common interest issues.



Staff Development (continued)

(Actions: Membership Committee)

- There may be a role for some older SOMP members to be assigned as mentors to academic leaders in developing countries, or where new mining programs are being established – may be specific to particular specialisations.
(could be allocated to a future “Capacity Building” Sub-Committee of SOMP?)



Teaching – Use of new technologies

(Actions: Education Committee)

- SOMP clearing-house for shared electronic lectures (for keynote lectures by subject-matter academic experts, or key industry presentations)
- Exchange of technology specifications/protocols for interactive lecture facilities/classrooms – to assist with future linkages of lectures around the world; and assist those establishing new facilities.



International Collaboration

(Action: SOMP Council)

- Actively facilitate development/implementation of new mining education programs in developing regions of the world. Form a “Capacity Building” Sub-Committee. Particular regions of interest might include parts of Asia, Mongolia, western Africa, etc.

- SOMP should consider a future meeting to be held in the Asian region in the near future.

- Consider potential for international collaboration in postgraduate coursework and research. Options may include:
 - joint international research supervisors;
 - capacity-building teaching programs;
 - establishment of international postgrad degree programs and collab. research projects.

Research

(Action: Research Committee)

- Develop SOMP database of research strengths (by universities and people), plus major research projects. This should include informal links for communication between researchers.
- Above database to identify areas of critical mass, in terms of people and infrastructure; and opportunities for capacity-building of collaborative research strengths – concept of SOMP international research networks in particular fields, and collab research projects.
- Database of new/young research staff and research interests.
- SOMP to conduct a study on various collaborative research models around the world.

General Issues



- SOMP to offer commentary and discussion forum on broader industry issues, e.g. climate change, CO2 sequestration etc. (*Action: SOMP Council*)
- Database of SOMP membership teaching interests (similar to research database), including gap/overlap analysis. (*Action: Education Committee*)
- Future SOMP meetings to continue practice of holding focussed workshop sessions to pursue particular initiatives, similar, but not restricted to Sydney workshop themes (*Innovations in teaching & learning; international collaboration in education; early career researchers; research partnerships*). (*Action: SOMP Council, plus future meeting hosts*)