AMGC News

Director General’s Message

The African Minerals and Geosciences Centre (AMGC) celebrated the 40th Anniversary of its establishment during the month of September 2017. It was on 15th September 1977 the agreement was signed between the founder member states to form the Centre which was an initiative conceived by UNECA to form a collaboration of African countries for mutual benefit and economies of scale with a vision of developing the mineral resources for the benefits of their citizens. That vision is still alive which brought the Centre to its current status of a Pan-African Centre of Excellence supporting the mineral sector of the continent.

The 40th Anniversary celebration was graced by the presence of Hon. Kassim Majaliwa, the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania. This was a testimony for Tanzania’s commitment to the Centre which has been extended throughout the four decades of the Centre’s existence showing the resilience of the host country to keep the Centre alive and flourishing against all odds, while similar development Centre in different regions of the continent perished in short time. This is a highly commendable commitment for the people and government of Tanzania.

The Governing Council meeting was also held during the week the 40th Anniversary was celebrated discussing the matters of the Centre deliberating important decisions which shapes the future of the AMGC. Among the decisions of the Governing Council, the approval of the joint venture projects AMGC seeking to go into partnership with AB Minerals Company and UB-ITI Group for the establishment of a coltan processing plant and precious metals smelting and refinery plant respectively. This will improve the Centre’s sustainability as well as achievements of some of its visions supporting value addition to the mineral commodities exported from Africa with more benefits gained from its natural wealth.
Tanzania re-elected Chair of Governing Council of AMGC

Tanzania has been re-elected for the second time as chairman of the Governing Council of African Minerals and Geosciences Centre (AMGC).

The appointment was done during the council’s 37th annual meeting in Dar es Salaam. Prof. James Mdoe, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Minerals of Tanzania chaired the 37th Governing Council on behalf of the Deputy Minister for Energy and Minerals, Hon. Dr. Medard Kalemani.

The 37th Governing Council of AMGC hosted and chaired by Tanzania was preceded by a meeting of the Members of the Board of Directors (BOD) of AMGC and later followed by a meeting the Standing Committee of Officials (SCO) which comprising the permanent secretaries or officials in the ministries of mining of the AMGC member states.

At the end of the meeting, all delegates agreed on implementation of the resolutions reached during the meeting including paying membership fees in time, member states to use the services provided by Centre appropriately as well as to harmonize and concentrate on minerals value addition amongst member states.

During his closing speech on behalf of the Deputy Minister of Energy and Minerals, Prof. James Mdoe, who were the Chairman of the AMGC Governing Council, the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Energy and Minerals, Prof. James Mdoe reminded member states on the instructions made by the Prime Minister of United Republic of Tanzania, Kassim Majaliwa at opening meeting of 37th Governing Council of AMGC on 14 September 2017, the Premier asked member states to pay their annual subscription fees, to make sure the Centre is accredited, existing laboratories are properly used and marketing the Centre to other stakeholders so that they can use the services provided by the Centre.

Delegates of the 37th Governing Council from right is Mr. Nduwayo Jean Claude, Director General of Burundi Mines and Quarries Authority, Hon. Peter Teko Lokeris, Minister of State for Mineral Development, Uganda, H.E. Dr. Ahamadael Badaoui Mohamed Fakh, Ambassador of Comoros in Tanzania, Mr. Ibrahim Mohamud Mohamed, Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Mining of Kenya, H.E. Mr. Oshaik Mohamed Tahir, State Minister of Minerals of the Sudan.
Commemoration of 40th Anniversary of AMGC

The Hon. Kassim Majaliwa, the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania African Minerals was the guest of Honor to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the African Minerals and Geosciences Centre (AMGC) and opening of the 37th Governing Council Meeting on 14 September 2017.

During his speech, the Premier said that the purpose of the establishment of the Centre was to ensure that the mining sector is responsible for social and economic development as well as caring for environmental issues. The Centre, fulfilling its objectives, conducts research, train experts and it has a modern laboratory for certification and value adding on minerals. “The biggest challenge is ensuring the mineral sector contributes sufficiently to our countries’ economic development,” the Premier added

The Prime Minister commended AMGC being one of the few of institutes with modern technology that can assist in analyzing rocks and minerals contents in Africa.

The Prime Minister has also understood the challenges facing AMGC through regular reports he has been receiving including:

- nonpayment of annual subscription fee by member states;
- lack of utilization of the facilities of the Centre by member states and marketing of AMGC services in the mining industry in their countries; and
- The depreciation of existing infrastructure where some of the machines are over 20 years old and therefore needs to be replaced

The premier urged member states to continue supporting the Centre through payment of membership fees in time, provide customers and utilize the Centre so that it can achieve its goals and making them better service providers.

Hon. Kassim Majaliwa, the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, commemorating the AMGC 40th Anniversary by cutting a cake. Standing on right of the PM is Mr. Ibrahim Shaddad the Director General of AMGC, and on the left is Hon. Dr. Medard Kalemani the Deputy Minister for Energy and Mineral of Tanzania.
Events in 37th Policy Organ meetings

The Big Five (representatives of AUC, AB Minerals, DMAC, AMGC and Tanzanian Government) pushing to change the face of minerals resource development in Africa. AB Minerals Corp. has been cleared by the Governing Council (the top decision making body composed of Ministers) of the African Minerals and Geoscience Centre (AMGC) to establish the first ever Coltan Processing Plant in Africa. The AMGC is a Pan-African body that specialises in Minerals Services, Geosciences and Geological Information. The Germans through BGR recently installed an Analytical Finger Printing (AFP) Laboratory worth €2 million in the Center for the purpose of analysing the so called 'conflict free' minerals from Africa. This was meant to help sustain the flow of raw materials (Coltan) from Africa into Europe under the EU's Raw Materials Initiative RMI.

The Coltan Processing Plant, a Joint Venture between AB Minerals and AMGC will reduce the flow of raw materials and a lot more value will be captured by the Coltan producing countries in the region but more especially by the Artisanal and Small Scale Miners by supplying directly to the plant. Coltan is one of the most important minerals in the world.

The Project was also endorsed by the Tanzanian Government.
Prime Minister visit at AMGC

Hon. Kassim Majaliwa, the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania listening to Mr. Charles Buteta, the Manager for Chemical and Environmental Services while giving explanation regarding the Induced Coupled Plasma – Mass Spectroscope (ICP-MS) installed in the Analytical Finger Printing (AFP) Lab. In the photo from left is Hon. Peter Teko Lokeris, Minister of State for Minerals, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development of the Republic of Uganda, Mr. Ibrahim Shaddad, the Director General of AMGC and Hon. Dr. Medard Kalemani the Deputy Minister for Energy and Mineral of Tanzania.

The Premier looking at the handmade ceramic products from the AMGC Industrial Minerals Application department

Mr. Gawronski, Chief Technical Expert on Analytical Finger Printing from BGR explaining to the premier on the applicability of some of the mineralogical equipment in relation to the Analytical Finger Printing Lab

Ms Lilian Moshi, Manager, Mineralogy, Petrology & Gemmology Services briefing the Premier on Gemstone value addition techniques

AMGC development partner Mr. Lin Zhiyong, Chief Representative, Embassy of China in Tanzania giving a gift to AMGC Director General

Hon. Kassim Majaliwa the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania in a group picture with the 37th Governing Council delegates.
AB Minerals Corp. meets with the Board of Directors of AMGC
September 12, 2017 - AB Minerals, at the invitation of African Minerals and Geosciences Centre (AMGC) Director General, Ibrahim Shaddad, made a presentation to the Board of Directors on the proposed Joint Venture Coltan Processing plant project. The Directors noted that the project, based on a new Eco-Friendly technology for value-addition to coltan was important, and is in line with both the Tanzanian vision of value-addition to mineral resources as well as within the framework of AMV. In addition, the project will generate a number of benefits to both the country and the region, and most specifically to the AMGC including self-dependence and sustainability of AMGC, job creation of highly skilled jobs as well as promoting value-addition of coltan in the region.

20th AMGC Standing Committee of Officials
Prior to the Governing Council meeting, the Standing Committee of Officials (SCO) meeting, comprising the permanent secretaries or equivalent officers in the ministries of mining of the AMGC member states took place at AMGC in Dar es Salaam to prepare the Governing Council meeting in more technical details.
PanAfGeo Project

PanAfGeo project is a cooperation between the European geological surveys (EGS) and its counterpart in Africa, the Organisation of African Geological Surveys (OAGS), aims to further develop the capacity of the OAGS, improve national education and training systems and support the development of a comprehensive Pan-African Geological Knowledge Base. This project is organized in seven working packages to cover the following areas of geoscience knowledge requirements to accomplish its objectives.

- WP1 – Geoscientific Mapping
- WP2 – Mineral resources assessment
- WP3 – Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining
- WP4 – Environmental Management of Mines
- WP5 – Geohazards
- WP6 – Geoheritage
- WP7 – Geoinformation Management
- WP8 – Communication and Promotion

AMGC is the member of the advisory board of the project and will be hosting some of the capacity building activities of the different work packages. In October 2017, WP7 will organize the first training course at AMGC. In June 2018, WP2 will also conduct one training course at AMGC.

ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme

Launched in July 2015, the ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme implemented by UNDP is a three-year, €13.1 million capacity building initiative that aims to build the profile, and improve the management of development minerals (industrial minerals, construction materials, dimension stones, and semi-precious stones). The programme is an initiative of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States, financed by the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and implemented by UNDP.

AMGC has been identified as a core partner in this programme in the area of capacity building, and the ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme requested a proposal form AMGC, to deliver a series of regional and country level training workshops on geological data digitization techniques, field mapping, resource estimation and database management of Development Minerals. The proposed series of workshops will consist of six regional training workshops (one joint regional workshop for the ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme Focus Countries; one regional workshop each for East Africa, Central Africa and Southern Africa; and two regional workshops for West Africa) and four country-level training workshops (for Zambia, Guinea-Conakry, Uganda and Cameroon).

Training

AMGC Director General Mr. Ibrahim Shaddad (third one from the right) with technical Staff from the Sudanese Mineral Resources Company (SMRC) Sudan, who attends a training on GIS and Remote Sensing for Minerals Resources Exploration and Geological Mapping from 18 to 29 September 2017 at AMGC, Dare es Salaam, Tanzania.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ACMGC Director General Mr. Ibrahim Shaddad (third one from the right) with technical Staff from the Sudanese Mineral Resources Company (SMRC) Sudan, who attends a training on GIS and Remote Sensing for Minerals Resources Exploration and Geological Mapping from 18 to 29 September 2017 at AMGC, Dare es Salaam, Tanzania.
Opportunities

Mineral Wealth Conference 2017

The 6th Mineral Wealth Conference 2017 will be held on the 4th - 5th October 2017 at Kampala Serena Hotel under the theme:

“Minerals – “Knocking on the door to cause economic transformation in Uganda””.

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The Ninth International Conference on the Geology of Africa (ICGA 2017)

The Geology Department of Assiut University invites scientists to gather in the capital of Upper Egypt for the Ninth International Conference on the Geology of Africa (ICGA 2017).

This conference is the premier forum for the presentation of new advances and research results in the fields of theoretical, experimental, and applied geological sciences. The "ICGA" is a biennial event since 1999 has taken place eight times in Assiut, Egypt; bringing together leading researchers, scientists and engineers in the domain of interest from around the world.

The seventh Arusha Gem fair

The Ministry of Energy and Minerals in collaboration with the Tanzania Mineral Dealers Association (TAMIDA) are jointly organizing the 7th Arusha Gem Fair (AGF) scheduled to take place from 2nd to 4th May, 2018 in Arusha. The AGF brings together premier gemstone and mineral dealers from East and Central African and International Potential buyers with the aim of making Arusha a Centre for Gemstone business in Africa.

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