



SEAMIC News

Volume 1 No. 2

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SEAMIC's Specialities:

- Training in mineral services
- Mineral Analysis
- Mineral Applications
- Pottery and ceramic technology
- Gem identification, grading and certification
- Research and Development
- Geo-information services
- Mineral-based development
- Feasibility studies
- Environmental Impact Assessment



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Director General's Message



The financial year ending 30 June 2005 marks the end of twelve months of successful performance by SEAMIC. The provision of specialised training to geoscientists from member States at SEAMIC and in the member States, as well as the upgrading of the Geo-Information Department and the organisation of workshops on the mineral exploration and industrial minerals constituted by far the most high profile activities of the Centre during 2004/2005.

2004/2005 was indeed a very hectic year. 187 people attended training courses which were provided by SEAMIC. The training courses on gemmology organised for the 5 active member States and for the first time in Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Uganda were well appreciated by the participants. 69 high profile experts from geological surveys and governments from SEAMIC member States, other countries from our continent and from Europe, private companies, universities, financial institutions, attended the workshops which were organised by SEAMIC.

SEAMIC was involved in continental and regional initiatives and participated together with ECA, UNCTAD and CPMLP in organising a well-attended workshop on management of mineral wealth, the African Mining Network and the CASM-Africa meetings which were kindly hosted by the Ugandan Government.

SEAMIC is embarking on a new phase of its restructuring during this financial year by expanding and diversifying its activities and enhancing its capacity to assist its member States more effectively and efficiently.

SEAMIC received from the EDF a grant for the strengthening of its capacity to serve its member States better and support them in the development of their mineral sectors. This grant is being utilised partly to upgrade SEAMIC facilities in order to improve and diversify its services, and partly it is being used for capacity building and institutional strengthening in the member States through training and workshops. This project will enhance SEAMIC's capability and capacity in providing services and products to the member States. The new additions to the existing SEAMIC services to be provided to the public include an upgraded environmental laboratory to undertake environmental impact assessment studies, gemstone cutting, polishing and treatment unit and upgraded geo-information and laboratory departments.

Today SEAMIC represents a successful example of regional co-operation and it is an important player in mineral resources development in the southern and eastern Africa sub-region.

Dr. Diamantino Pedro Azevedo, Director General

SEAMIC is aiming for ISO 9001:2000

Consolidating its commitment to serve better its member States as well as the mineral sector in general, SEAMIC is in the process of achieving ISO 9001:2000.

Certification, which is expected to be acquired before the end of the year. This will enhance and strengthen the image of SEAMIC as a regional Centre of Excellence and it will be able to build the confidence of the clients in receiving the quality services they require from the Centre.

The European Union supported completion of the process for achieving ISO certification which was started in the year 2000. The process has been on going in partnership with a local certifying agency and most of the documentation works were prepared.

As part of the implementation of the ISC9001:2000 certification process the Centre's technical staff and senior management attended a training on quality management principles and internal auditing. The training was provided by the certifying agency, SGS Tanzania limited.



Awareness and Audit training for SEAMIC Senior staff by the Certifying firm



Gems and Gemmological Studies

The mission of SEAMIC is to "Promote socio-economic and environmentally responsible mineral development in Eastern and Southern Africa."

EDF Project

The European Union has granted 1.5 Million EURO to SEAMIC for strengthening its capacity to serve better its member states and support them in the development of the mineral sector.

Effectively the project activities began during the month of July 2004. The overall objective of this project is to contribute to the development of the mineral sector in the member States of SEAMIC by strengthening the regional Centre and national organisations. Activities carried out during the financial year were: procurement of equipment for Laboratory and Geo-Information departments, maintenance of equipment, training of member States and SEAMIC staff, workshop, marketing of SEAMIC and facilitation of ISO-9001:2000 Certification process.

Training courses on "Marketing of Geological and Mining Institutions, Remote Sensing for Mineral Exploration, Ore Testing and Analysis,

Geophysical Data Management, Sampling and Preparation of Geological Materials, Industrial Minerals Applications and Geochemical Data Management, were organised by SEAMIC. 57 participants from SEAMIC member States attended the training courses fully sponsored through the EDF-project. The courses were facilitated by 12 external renowned experts from CSA/BRGM, assisted by SEAMIC specialists and covered full 15 weeks.

INDUSTRIAL MINERALS WORKSHOP



A workshop on industrial minerals of member States of SEAMIC and their applications was held at the Centre from 7 to 11 March 2005.

The workshop was attended by 28 high level professionals from the member States of SEAMIC and invited participants from Kenya, South Africa and Cameroon. The workshop

leader was a renowned expert from CSA/BRGM Group.

The workshop covered definition, geology, exploration, sampling, exploitation, beneficiation, processing, marketing and application of industrial minerals in small to medium scale industries and the importance and the role of infrastructure, transport, local and international markets in the development in their respective countries.

During the workshop, participants presented papers on the current status of the industrial minerals development in their respective countries.

NEW EQUIPMENT & SOFTWARE FOR THE GEO-INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

New equipment and Software for the Geo-Information Department were procured through the EDF-project, which enabled SEAMIC to have state-of-the-art and comprehensive geo-information facilities.



Body forming and decoration in ceramic technology



SEAMIC can now provide services including: GIS and remote sensing applications and training for geology and mineral exploration, geo-spatial data basing, archiving of geo-information, production of thematic map, digitisation of geo-data and consultancy in geo-information management.

MINERAL EXPLORATION WORKSHOP

A workshop on “Mineral Exploration” was organised by SEAMIC from 2-6 May 2005. The workshop was attended by 41 high level experts from governments and geological surveys of SEAMIC member States, Kenya, Malawi and South Africa.

Representatives from the World Bank, European Geological Surveys (BGR, BGS, GTK, BRGM), private companies (Anglo-American,



Geosoft, FUGRO), Universities (Germany, Angola, Mozambique, Tanzania) attended the workshop.

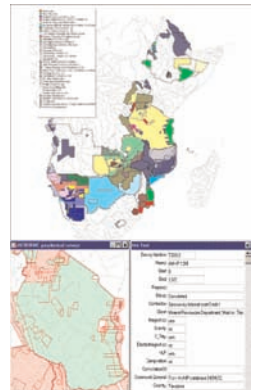
During the workshop, participants presented papers on the current status of the mineral exploration in their respective countries.

The main purpose of the workshop was to create a forum for discussion and exchange of experience among the stakeholders and formulate how best the experiences benefit the participants in their own activities in the development of the mineral exploration and its future. The workshop aims at gathering professionals in the mineral

sector in the region and interested individuals together to discuss the current exploration activities and how the future can bring new ideas about exploring and exploiting the untapped resources.

TRAINING ON GEMMOLOGY IN MEMBER STATES

SEAMIC organised one-week gemmology courses in five of its member States, namely: Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda. Such course is organised out of Tanzania for the first time by SEAMIC. In total 72 participants attended the courses.



Compilation of geo-spatial data and databasing

GIS-Africa Project

The GIS Africa network is intended to be Pan-African. Eleven countries, namely Angola, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Tanzania, and two regional centers WAEMU (Western African Economic and Monetary Union) and SEAMIC (Southern and Eastern African Mineral Center) are participate in the pilot phase of GIS Africa.

SEAMIC is participating in the coordination of the eastern and southern African group of countries. The Governing Council directed SEAMIC management to make all the efforts to have Mozambique and Uganda included in the project. As a result of the efforts, the two SEAMIC member States will participate in the remaining activities of this pilot phase of the project.

Three training workshops were carried out through the project. The training workshops include the following themes:

- Regional geology at 1:2,000,000 scale per country
- Regional earth science bibliographic database
- Regional hydrogeological maps at a national level
- Regional mineral occurrences database
- Mining observatory for sustainable development

The project assigned a permanently based expert, Dr. Phillipe Bernard to facilitate the project activities at SEAMIC as well as to assist and review the progress of the project activities in the participating countries.

The vision of SEAMIC is to be “a pioneer and leader in the provision of mineral services in eastern and southern Africa.”



Training in Geo-science data management

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Regional Initiatives

African Mining Network



The African Mining Network (AMN) meeting was held in Kampala, Uganda on 18th May 2005 in collaboration with UNCTAD and UNECA. The meeting was a follow up on the one held in 2003 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in which the African Mining Network was initiated. A proposal was prepared and one of the main objectives of AMN was to provide and disseminate information and ideas related to mining across Africa. The tasks of AMN were identified as: providing a one-stop centre for information sharing, stimulating development of local networks, training and capacity building, promoting synergies, establishing databases and networks with initiatives outside Africa.

The identified themes of AMN were; Artisan and Small Scale Mining, economic subjects, gender, geosciences, human resources, governance, laws and regulation, mining and mineral processing technology and society.

CASM-Africa

The CASM Africa meeting was held in Kampala, Uganda on 18th May 2005. It reviewed the composition of members of the CASM-Africa coordinating committee assigned in the first CASM-Africa meeting held in Colombo, 12th to 16th October 2004. Mr. U.L. Adie of Nigeria was chosen to chair the committee.

SEAMIC presented a website template designed as per the responsibility given to it to create and host CASM-Africa website. The members of the meeting were requested to forward their suggestions and comments on the website to SEAMIC to enable it to finalize and launch the website.



Coming Events

- Pottery/ceramic course for beginners 11th - 15th July 2005
- Training on Principles and application of GIS to Mineral Exploration, 11th - 15th July 2005
- Pottery/ceramic course for beginners, 15th - 19th August 2005
- Training course on basic GIS principles and use of common GIS packages, 22nd - 26th August 2005
- Gemmology Course, 29th Aug - 2nd September 2005
- Pottery/ceramic course for beginners, 5th - 9th September 2005
- Training on Principles and Applications of Remote Sensing to Geology and Mineral Exploration, 5th - 16th September 2005
- Training on SPECTRA-PLUS software and development of analytical methods for XRF, 12th - 16th September 2005
- Advanced pottery/ceramic course, 3rd - 7th October 2005
- Training on Industrial Minerals Application, R&D Project for member states, 10th - 14th October 2005
- Workshop on management of small to medium scale Industrial mineral projects, 17th - 21st October 2005
- Workshop on low cost lime in Tanzania, 20th - 21st October 2005
- Gem Cutting Training Course, 1st - 30th November 2005
- Training course on principles of GIS and development of GIS database, 7th - 25th November 2005
- Advanced pottery/ceramic course, 14th - 19th November 2005
- Gemmology Course, 21st - 25th November 2005
- Training on GIS Principles and Applications, 12th - 16th December 2005