



SEAMIC News

Volume 2 No. 1

January 2006

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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ISO9001:2000 CERTIFIED BY



Director General's Message



During the financial year 2005/2006, SEAMIC was fully engaged with the implementation of the activities stated in its Strategic Business Plan and in the Annual Work Programme.

One of the main objectives was to achieve the ISO certification. The Centre was in November 2005 assessed and certified after meeting the requirements of the ISO 9001:2000 in respect of laboratory services, research and development collection, processing and dissemination of geo-information, specialised training and production of ceramics.

The proposed Environmental Laboratory was established and commissioned. This facility will now be used to contribute to the development of a network and information exchange system on environment that can offer governments, private companies and other stakeholders in the region a reliable instrument for EIA-studies preparations and validation. The laboratory will be useful also for the promotion of the use of sound environmental technology practices, training and analytical services.

The establishment of the gem cutting unit which is part of the Gem Centre was initiated through the acquisition of the first set of lapidary equipment and the training of SEAMIC and member States' technicians. More gemmological and lapidary equipment is being procured and before the end of 2006 a well equipped and modern Gem Centre with capable specialists will be available at SEAMIC. This Gem Centre is intended to contribute to bridging the technological gap and to promote the development of gem cutting and processing industries in the region.

The provision of specialised training to technicians from the member States and some other countries from the region continued to be by far the highest profile activities of the Centre. Indeed, during the financial year SEAMIC has been able to organise several short training courses and workshops on EIA, industrial minerals, sampling of gold and other precious metals, geo-information and gemmology. For the first time SEAMIC organised gemstones cutting training courses. Through the EU founded project SEAMIC sponsored the participation of officials from SEAMIC member states and from Kenya in the above indicated activities and have engaged also experts from BGS to conduct in conjunction with its own specialists part of the above referred sessions.

The Centre is actively involved in continental initiatives as for example the SIG-Afrique project which is financed by the French Government, and whose pilot phase has already been completed successfully. SEAMIC together with UNECA and UNCTAD is involved in organizing a workshop on "Integrated Resources Planning: Fostering Minerals Clusters", to be held in Maputo, Mozambique during the month of April 2006. Officials from SEAMIC member States will be fully sponsored by our Institution to attend the gathering.

To conclude this busy year, and as a follow up to the workshop on "Mineral Exploration in Eastern and Southern Africa: Status and Future Trends" which was organised last year, SEAMIC will, during the month of May 2006, organize a workshop on "Management of Geological Surveys: Mandate and Financing". This workshop will be held in Dar es Salaam during SEAMIC's Policy Organ meetings and will be attended by the Heads of the Geological Surveys of SEAMIC member States and other countries in the region. The main objectives of this workshop are to develop a common platform and to further strengthen the links among Geological Survey organisations.

SEAMIC, a pioneering institution, is earning its place as a strategic component of Africa's system of support to the mining sector!

Dr. Diamantino Pedro Azevedo, Director General

SEAMIC is certified for ISO 9001:2000

The Southern and Eastern African Mineral Centre (SEAMIC) is ISO 9001:2000 certified. The certification ceremony was held on the 29th November, 2005 at SEAMIC offices, in the outskirts of the city of Dar Es Salaam and was officiated by the Hon. Minister for Science, Technology and Higher Education of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. Pius Ng'wandu. The event was also witnessed by the Chairman of the Board of Directors of SEAMIC, Mr. Ketema Tadesse, Mr. Antonio Pedro of UNECA the former Director General of SEAMIC, Dr. Diamantino Pedro Azevedo, the current Director General, invitees from France, Denmark, West Africa, from the member countries and local institutions.

ISO 9001:2000 is a standard developed to enable organizations to implement and operate effective Quality Management Systems. The standard is set by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and specifies minimum requirements in terms of systems that have to be set up by an organization or company in order to ensure customer satisfaction.

The ISO 9001:2000 standard is based on eight management principles namely: customer focus, leadership, involvement of people, process approach, system approach to management, continual improvement, fact based decision-making and mutually beneficial supplier relationship.

The Centre was assessed and certified after meeting the requirements of the ISO 9001:2000 in respect of Laboratory services, research and development, collection, processing and dissemination of geo-information, specialized training and production of ceramics.

SGS International (Société Générale de Surveillance) awarded the Centre with certificate number ZA05/0344.0 whose validity is from 15th November 2005 to 15 November 2008.



Hon. Dr. Pius Ng'wandu, the Minister for Science, Technology and Higher Education of the United Republic of Tanzania, hands over the ISO 9001:2000 certificate to Dr. Diamantino Pedro Azevedo, the Director General of SEAMIC



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 EDF supported project continued for the second year with activities of strengthening SEAMIC facilities and capacity building for member states. The activities include procurement of new laboratory equipments for improving SEAMIC services provision, and capacity building through training for the member states.

Capacity Building for Member States

The following training courses, financed by the EDF project, were conducted at SEAMIC:

- A training on Introduction to ARC GIS, was conducted for one week in August 2005 for five participants from the member States. The training included the Arc GIS system for GIS

applications and its use in geological applications and was conducted by SEAMIC staff.

- Another training course which was organised through the project in the Geo-information department was on GIS Database Development. The train-

- The Industrial Minerals Application section together with the other sections carried out a two weeks applied R&D on the analysis of industrial minerals available



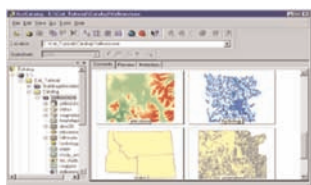
in the member States. Participants attended the training were from Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya. The training was carried in October 2005.

Strengthening SEAMIC Capacity

Ms. Lilian Moshi, the Mineralogist in the Mineralogy, Petrology and Gemmology section completed her MSc study in UK on Environmental Mineralogy and returned back and resumed her duties in October 2005



ing, which lasted for three weeks in October, was attended by 9 participants from the member States. The GIS expert recruited from BGS conducted the training which included topics covering Access Database for GIS Application; Geo-database in Arc GIS and development of geological database.



Body forming and decoration in ceramic technology

New website for SEAMIC was designed and launched as part of improving SEAMIC's promotional capability over the internet.



The first lapidary training was conducted, in November 2005, by a gem cutting expert from Switzerland. This training was conducted to create a pool of trainers at the Mineralogy, Petrology and Gemmology sec-

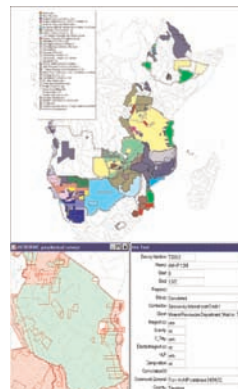


Five SEAMIC staff attended the training.

The XRF software SPECTRA-PLUS training was held in October for SEAMIC staff by an expert from Germany. The Chief Chemist and the Chemist attended the training. Analytical programmes were developed for use with this new software.

Part of the procurement of the laboratory equipment through the EDF project was on progress with the conclusion of the contract with the suppliers for the delivery and installation of ICP-AES analytical instrument, Advanced Mercury Analyser and the General purpose laboratory equipment. Both the ICP-AES and the Advanced Mercury Analyser were received at the Centre. December 2005. Official receipt and installation of the equipment will be carried in January 2006 in the presence of the procurement expert.

The delivery of the General Purpose Laboratory Equipment is expected in January 2006.



Compilation of geo-spatial data and databasing

SEAMIC's Gem Centre

The long awaited establishment of a complete Gem centre for the provision of gemstone services have been partially realised.



Through the support of the European Union the first set of equipment for gem cutting unit have been installed and commissioned. The initial activities of the gem cutting unit was internal capacity building for the service provision (trainers) team in the section. A gem cutting expert was recruited from Switzerland to train the trainers team on:

- gem cutting techniques (faceting, cabochone cutting and free form cutting)
- maintenance of cutting tools and equipment

On its completion, the Gem



Centre will provide a range of services including training on gum cutting and reaserch on gem enahncement. Other services which are already started by the Gem Centre are training on gemmology, gemstone identification and certification, and diamond grading.

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

GIS-Africa Project



The GIS Africa Project activities continued with the training/workshop on Hydrogeology being held in November 2005 and the group attended the training included participants from Angola, Ethiopia, Kenya,

Madagascar, Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda. This was the last training/workshop to be held in the pilot phase. The updating of the data and preparation of the geological maps will continue in the respective geological surveys for upgrading the database and providing updated information to the public.

SEAMIC hosted the final meeting of the GIS-Africa project pilot phase on 29th and 30th November 2005. All GIS-Africa project shareholders from Western and Eastern Africa participating countries namely: Angola, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali,

Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda attended the meeting. The hosting Institutions, SEAMIC and EUMOA were also represented in the meeting.

The French Government was represented by officials from the Ministry of International Co-operation, the Coordinator of the project (CIFEG) and the operator of the project (BRGM).



Training in Geo-science data management

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Workshop on Management of Geological Surveys: Mandate and Financing - 8th to 9th May 2006

The Geological Survey Organisations are government agencies responsible for the acquisition, preparation, enhancement and dissemination of all basic geological and related information to the public. Most of the countries in the world have these institutions established and mandated to the described purpose. The Geological Surveys also assist the governments as technical advisors to the earth resources related issues, such as: development and exploitation of resources, risk management, environment management, and land use planning.

In Africa most of the countries have operating Geological Surveys established in different forms and authorities. From the 70's to early 90's most of the geological surveys were the mineral exploration agencies of the government doing all the exploration work up to detail stages. Considerable number of mining developments were attributed to the contribution of the geological surveys' exploration programmes and detailed studies.

The changes happened in most African countries in the 90's affected the geological survey organisations in the continent. These institutions were being considered as less relevant by the policy makers since the exploration and development activities were believed to be fully carried out by the private sector, which is actually concentrated in the few areas that were mapped by the geological surveys.

However, the reality in most African countries is that they are under explored and basic geological information is scarce and/or not up-to-date. The private sector's involvement in generating basic information is very limited and considered non profitable, as a result, the geological surveys are still the sole generator of the basic geo-information infrastructure and advisors to the governments on the earth resources the countries are endowed with.

The Southern and Eastern African Mineral Centre (SEAMIC), an intergovernmental mineral services provider is organising a workshop on 8 – 9 May 2006, to discuss the mandates and financing of the geological surveys, with particular emphasis on geological surveys in eastern and southern Africa.

Objectives

The aim of the workshop is to create a forum of interaction of geological infrastructure development stakeholders to discuss the mandates of the geological survey organisations and what the public should expect from their activities.

The workshop will discuss on, among other things:

- Current status of the geological surveys in Africa;
- How their relevance can be improved and have impact on decision makers;
- Lessons to be learned from surveys in other continents; and
- Capacity building efforts in the geological surveys.

Coming Events

- Gem Cutting, polishing and treatment, 9th - 27th January 2006
- Geophysical and Geochemical Data Processing, 16th - 20th January 2006
- Geological Map Making, 6th - 10th February 2006
- Computer Applications in Mineral Processing Operations, 6th - 10th February 2006
- Pottery/Ceramics for Beginners, 20th - 24th February 2006
- Environmental Impact Assessment Studies, 20th - 24th February 2006
- Pottery/Ceramics for Beginners, 6th - 10th March 2006
- GIS Data Standards and Web Mapping, 6th - 17th March 2006
- Gemmology, 20th - 24th March 2006
- Sampling and Preparation of Geological Materials, 20th - 31st March 2006
- Advanced pottery/ceramic course, 3rd - 7th April 2006
- Sampling and Analysis of Gold and Other Precious Metals, 3rd - 7th April 2006
- Application of Remote Sensing in Geology and Mineral Exploration, 24th - 28th April 2006
- Gem Cutting, 1st - 21st April 2006
- Pottery/Ceramics for Beginners, 8th - 12th May 2006
- GIS Principles and Applications, 15th - 19th May 2006
- Management of Geological Surveys: Mandate and Financing, 8th - 9th May 2006
- Modern Laboratory Management Methods, 15th - 19th May 2006
- Geophysical and Geochemical Data Processing, 5th - 9th June 2006
- Ore Testing and Process Development, 5th - 9th June 2006
- Advanced pottery/ceramic course, 12th - 16th June 2006
- Web Mapping, 19th - 23rd June 2006
- Gemmology, 19th - 23rd June 2006