



The Role of the Majors in promoting good practice in Small-Scale Mining

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THE CHAMBER'S MISSION

- The Chamber aims at building a dynamic and proactive private sector Employers' Association, professionally managed to refocus its vision of serving and harmonizing the interests of its Stakeholders.
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HISTORY

- The West Africa Chamber of Mines, which gave birth to the Ghana Chamber of Mines, was set up in 1903.
 - The Chamber was composed of directors of the Mining Companies in London who, among other functions, sought to promote or oppose any legislative measures or petition government in the colony on many matters, which directly affected mining interests.
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History (Cont'd)

- On 6th June 1928, the Gold Coast Chamber of Mines was incorporated
 - The Chamber has since remained a voluntary private sector employers' association representing companies and organizations engaged in the minerals and mining industry in Ghana.
 - Programmes and activities of the Chamber are funded entirely by its Member Companies.
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Land Use Conflict

- There is a great deal of concern about the impact of mining on the environment, but a few facts should help give us a perspective:
- Ghana's total land area is about **240,000 km²**, out of which **31,237 km², or 13%**, has been granted to large scale mines for reconnaissance, prospecting and active mining.
- Only **4,304 km²**, or less than **2%**, is under actual large scale mining operations in the country

Small Scale Mining in Ghana Potential

- Artisanal Mining has been going on in Ghana for over a century
- Currently it is estimated that it employs over 50,000 people
- Income Generation for the local people
- Revenue for the State
- Check Rural – Urban migration

Challenges

- Environmental Impacts – Land, Water etc
- Financial Constraints – lack of credit, improper book-keeping
- Educational Impacts – Children of school Going age
- Health and Safety – Mercury, HIV/AIDS
- Illegal activities – No clear cut difference between legal and illegal miners

Role of Majors

- Help strengthen the Association of Small scale Miners
- Collaboration with PMMC – a member of the Chamber
- Possibility of the Association to join the Chamber
- Support, training and promotion of jewellery manufacturing – Jewellery Villages
- Support for the College of Jewellery – Now a Member of the Chamber

Role of the Majors (Cont'd)

- Mining companies are working with the Minerals Commission, The EPA and Mines Department to identify areas that can be used for small-scale mining.
- Provide support for Seminars and training in the use of Mercury Retorts
- Assist Mines Department, Minerals Commission and EPA to eliminate the illegal activity by educating small-scale miners to form co-operatives to be registered under the small-scale mining regulation

Role of the Majors (Cont'd)

- On the establishment of legal small-scale mining operations, The Chamber will assist in providing environmental education programmes for the Galamsey workers to ensure that they understand the effects of their activities.
- The Mines Department and the EPA should monitor the activities to ensure that they carry out their operations in an environmentally friendly manner.
- Willing to work with the Govt Agencies in charge of Small-Scale mining to improve public perception of mining in general

A portion of the degraded area at Tomento near Abosso Goldfields, Damang.



A young boy in Galamsey business at the expense of his future development



One of the many dangerous pits at Galamsey sites.

