



## **SAGITTARIUS MINES, INC.**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

**7 November 2009**

#### **SMI, ABSCBN-Gensan team up for the environment**

Sagittarius Mines, Inc. continues its advocacy to greening the environment by supporting various tree-planting activities within and surrounding its Tampakan project area.

In the 13th anniversary of ABS-CBN's TV Patrol Soccksargen in Gen. Santos City, the TV station partnered with SMI and other volunteer groups in Gen. Santos City to plant trees along the Buayan River.

Around 120 volunteers including SMI and ABS-CBN employees, City Environment and Natural Resource Office (CENRO) representatives and student volunteers from RD foundation and AMA Computer Learning Center gathered to replant the barren Buayan riverbank. A total of 2,000 seedlings, five hundred (500) of which came from SMI's seedling nursery, were planted.

"We would like to impress to our stakeholders our commitment in caring for the environment. We recognize the need to preserve our environment and so we are fully supportive of initiatives like this," said Bella Lechonsito, SMI's Stakeholder Engagement and Partnership Superintendent.

"This commitment is evident in our continuing efforts to initiate tree-planting and reforestation activities and supporting environment campaign activities in partnership with Local Government Units (LGUs) and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs)," said Jose Sebu, SMI's Social and Environmental Superintendent.

SMI has been actively involved in various environment awareness and protection campaigns. Its reforestation program which was launched on 2005 has already planted and distributed over 250,000 seedlings in the project area and neighboring communities.

Currently, the company is embarking on a robust forest rehabilitation and management program within and surrounding its proposed final area in the Tampakan project. University of Queensland and Leyte State University is helping SMI in the program which involves baseline studies of the remaining forests, massive tree-planting, and forest management.

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### ***Notes to editors:***

#### **About the Tampakan Project**

The Tampakan project is located on the southern Philippines island of Mindanao, approximately 65 kilometres north of General Santos City. The project area spans parts of four Provinces – South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Davao Del Sur and Sarangani. The copper gold deposit is located in the Province of South Cotabato, Municipality of Tampakan.

The Tampakan deposit represents one of the largest undeveloped copper-gold deposits in the South East Asia-Western Pacific Region. On 30 March 2007, Xstrata Copper acquired 62.5% of the controlling interest in the Tampakan Project and assumed management control through acquisition of common stock in Philippines based affiliate Sagittarius Mines, Inc. Indophil Resources holds 34.2% and Alsons Group 3.3% of the remaining common stock.

[www.smi.com.ph](http://www.smi.com.ph)

#### **About Xstrata Copper**

Headquartered in Brisbane, Xstrata Copper is one of the commodity business units within the major global diversified mining group Xstrata plc. Its operations and projects span eight countries: Australia, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Canada, the USA, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea. Its operations are administered by five separate divisions, based close to the mining operations, namely the North Queensland, Minera Alumbrera, North Chile, Southern Peru and Canada divisions. It also has a recycling business (Xstrata Recycling) with plants in the United States and offices in Canada and Asia.

Xstrata Copper is the fourth largest global copper producer with annual attributable production capacity of one million tonnes.

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