



SAGITTARIUS MINES, INC.

MEDIA RELEASE

SMI RECEIVES HIGHEST AWARD FOR ITS INDUSTRY LEADING PRACTICES IN TAMPAKAN

19 November 2009

Sagittarius Mines, Inc. (SMI) has been awarded the Presidential Mining Industry Environmental Award (PMIEA) by the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA) at the 56th Annual National Mine Safety and Environment Conference held in Baguio City on 14 November.

SMI General Manager Mark Williams said that the PMIEA recognizes excellence in the mining sector relating to the environment, safety and health management, as well as community development.

"We are honored to receive this award. This confirms our continuing commitment to employ the best available technologies and practices in safety, environment, community development, and stakeholder engagement," said SMI General Manager Mark Williams.

SMI had an overall rating of 98%. SMI received a perfect score for its Social Development and Management Program (SDMP), as did the Information, Education, Communication (IEC) program. Environmental Management also scored highly with 39% out of 40%, while the Safety and Health program received 19% out of the allocated 20% weighting.

This is the third time for the company to be a PMIEA recipient. In 2004 and 2006, the PMIEA selection committee also recognized SMI's performance in the conduct of its mineral exploration activities.

"While we ensure compliance with the legislative requirements, we also hold fast to the stringent expectation of our major shareholder, Xstrata, and the communities in which we operate, in all aspects of our operation," said Mr. Williams.

SPECIAL FORESTRY AWARD

SMI also received second runner up in the Best Mining Forest Program as recognition of its forest development initiatives involving volunteers from the host communities. Special forestry awards were also given to SMI in 2006 and 2008.

Since the company launched the *Maleh Tu Kayu* (Blaan for 'let us plant trees') reforestation program in 2005, SMI together with its partners and volunteers from the community have planted and distributed over 300,000 tree seedlings.

"SMI is committed to advancing the Tampakan project in line with leading environmental and industry best practices and in partnership with our stakeholders."

"I would like to thank the host communities and our stakeholders for supporting our various programs and initiatives and making it possible for us to win these two awards," said Mr. Williams.

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Tampakan Project

The Tampakan project is on the southern Philippine island of Mindanao, approximately 65 kilometers north of General Santos City. The current project borders four Provinces – South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, and Davao Del Sur. The Tampakan copper gold deposit is in the province of South Cotabato, municipality of Tampakan.

The Tampakan deposit represents one of the largest undeveloped copper-gold deposits in Southeast Asia. The latest mineral resource estimate confirmed 2.4 billion tonnes containing 13.5 million tonnes of copper and 15.8 million ounces of gold at a 0.3% copper cut-off grade.

On 30 March 2007, Xstrata Copper acquired 62.5% of the controlling interest in the Tampakan Project and assumed management control through its Philippines based affiliate Sagittarius Mines, Inc.

Xstrata Copper

Xstrata Copper is headquartered in Brisbane, Australia, with regional offices in Santiago and Antofagasta, Chile; Lima and Arequipa, Peru; Buenos Aires, Argentina; and Toronto, Canada, and is one of the commodity business units within the major global diversified mining group Xstrata plc.

Xstrata Copper's mining operations and projects span seven countries and include mines, mineral processing plants and port facilities in North Queensland, Australia; mining and processing operations and port facilities in Chile, Peru and Argentina in South America; and mining and processing plants in Canada. It also has a recycling business (Xstrata Recycling) with facilities in Canada, the United States and Asia.

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

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