

The Challenge of Strengthening Social and Environmental Performance in the Mining Industry

Cross Campus Seminar Series: Mining and Minerals Extraction in a New Global Landscape

Dr. Hodge will begin by reflecting on how the needed change in social and environmental performance is not forthcoming, too short term, and not industry wide – a concern that has been re-enforced by the recent tailings tragedies. He will point out that the demands of green technologies and support for the evolution of and poverty reduction in emerging nations together mean that more mining will be needed in the future. Different incentives for strengthening performance targeted at different parts of the industry are essential. These need to be synchronized through the creation of a synchronized industry-wide change strategy. If this step is not taken, business-as-usual will continue: change and improvement will continue at a rate that is too little and too slow, leading companies will continue to be dragged down by the laggards, and respect from society for the industry will not be forthcoming.



R. Anthony Hodge Ph.D., P.Eng.
Former President, International Council of Mining and Metals

Dr. R. Anthony Hodge received his B.A.Sc (1972) and M.A.Sc. (1976) from the University of British Columbia in Geological Engineering and in 1995 was awarded an interdisciplinary Ph.D. from McGill University for his work on Assessing Progress Toward Sustainability. His 40-year career has spanned a rich array of assignments - in the private sector, with government, in quasi-judicial processes, in civil society organizations, in communities, and with Indigenous peoples. Throughout, he has explored both technical and social dimensions of achieving human and ecosystem well-being over the long term, seeking common ground between actors and integrating multiple values into the solutions to some of the most difficult socio-technical-environmental-financial challenges facing today's society.

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