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#1 JULY 2012

**Making a real difference with African communities
and reducing investment and operating risk**



*Mr Robert Sirleaf, Senior Advisor
to President of Liberia*

AAMIG hosts breakfast with Robert Sirleaf

AAMIG hosted a breakfast on 26 June 2012 with Mr Robert Sirleaf, Senior Advisor to the President of Liberia and Chairman of the National Oil Company of Liberia and Mr Sylvester M Grigsby, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The breakfast meeting provided an opportunity for AAMIG member companies to highlight the success of the Australian mining industry on the African continent and to promote Perth as one of the world's major mining centres.

The meeting also provided the opportunity for the visitors to speak about positive developments in Liberia, including recent ministerial appointments and the resulting enhanced support for direct foreign investment. It also provided AAMIG member companies the chance to express concerns about the relatively short terms applying to exploration tenure suggesting that, were changes to be made, this would improve the long-term attractiveness of Liberia as an exploration destination.

A luncheon meeting at Euroz Limited followed providing an opportunity for the Liberian visitors to gain a better understanding of the financial markets in Australia. This proved particularly useful given Mr Sirleaf's 25-year background in capital markets in New York.

The meetings were supported and attended by representatives of DFAT from Perth and Canberra.

July Events

18 July

**AAMIG Chairman to speak at
MEGWA event at Irish Club**
*(Mining and Exploration Discussion
Group Western Australia)*

19 July

AAMIG Seminar at Celtic Club

For discussion :

- **Direct Aid Programs**
- **Operating Risk Mitigation**
- **Tutu Desk Campaign**

AAMIG members invited to present at WASM Course

AAMIG received a request for Senior Executives and CSR Managers of member companies to speak to the students on CSR issues on 15-16 August at this year's 3-month Africa Awards Short Course at Western Australian School of Mines (WASM). This capacity building program is organised by WASM and supported by AusAID.

This year, there are 19 students (mostly senior government officials) from mines ministries in Central African Republic, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Liberia, Malawi, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo, and Uganda.

This is a terrific opportunity for member companies to connect with senior government counterparts from Africa and provide an Australian industry perspective in a receptive learning environment, in addition to developing meaningful relationships.

See AAMIG website for details.

EVENTS :

June 2012

- Breakfast with Robert Sirleaf, Senior Advisor to the President of Liberia (26th)

July 2012

- AAMIG Chairman speaking at MEGWA event (18th)
- AAMIG Seminar at Celtic Club (19th)

August 2012

- AAMIG members invited to present at WASM short course (13-17th)
- Africa Australia Research Forum Day (28th)
- Africa Down Under Conference (29-31st)
- Australia to open embassy in Dakar in Francophone West Africa

In brief . . .

- Met with **Attorney-General**, Nicola Roxon and **Opposition Attorney-General**, George Brandis, to discuss the issue of the Facilitation Payments Defence in the Australian Anti-bribery Legislation.
- Meetings held with Michael Ahrens, CEO, and Greg Thompson, Executive Director International, **Transparency International**, regarding Facilitation Payments issue.
- AAMIG's Special Adviser, Jeff Hart appeared before the **OECD Working Group** in Sydney to present AAMIG's views on the issue of Facilitation Payments. *See website for Jeff's report.*
- Met with Tim Costello, **World Vision**, and Hank van der Merwe, Australian Ambassador for the **Tutu Desk Campaign** (www.tutudesk.org). *Looking forward to some exciting developments!*
- Met with **Australian Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility**. *Discussing presentations to AAMIG members.*
- Federal budget provides for a new **Australian Embassy** in Dakar, Senegal (see AAMIG submission of 14 Dec 2012) and the appointment of an **Australian Trade Commissioner** to the High Commission in Accra, Ghana.

Wheelchairs for Kids

Container with 160 wheelchairs from Wheelchairs for Kids is about to be sent to MMG's Kinsevere Mine in DRC.

ADDITION TO AAMIG TEAM



AAMIG is pleased to announce that **Jim Nylander** has joined the AAMIG team as Consultant, on a part-time basis. Jim recently retired as a Senior Export Adviser, after a career spanning 39 years with Austrade and its predecessors.

Jim has been engaged with mining industry and service companies active in Africa for over 25 years and was instrumental in introducing Minproc Engineers into the Ghana market in the early 1980s. Jim also worked as Executive Officer for Austmine from 1996 to mid-2003.

Jim has specialised over the last 20 years in the mining sector, working with numerous mining industry and service companies in support of their international business activities, with much of this activity being directed towards the countries of Africa.



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From the Chairman . . .

AAMIG now has 65 members and the support from those actively engaged in the mining industry in Africa continues to grow. Building up our membership has been a priority, as we establish the organisation's capacity to engage, inform and support our members. We are endeavouring to do this via our website and by convening seminars and information sessions, the next seminar being at the Celtic Club in West Perth on 19 July.

You are encouraged to engage actively with AAMIG, so that we can all learn from one another's strengths and weaknesses, meaningfully engage with our African host Governments and communities, enhance the opportunities for those in the communities in which we work, and reduce our operating and other risks.

We thank Endeavour Mining for their initiative in proposing and greatly assisting in the compilation of this, our first Newsletter!

Bill Turner