

**MEDIA RELEASE: AUSTRALIA-AFRICA MINING INDUSTRY GROUP**

**Friday, 30 August 2013**

**AAMIG and Curtin University launch an Africa Short Course  
“Navigating the Minefield”**

The Australia-Africa Mining Industry Group (“AAMIG”) is pleased to announce the launch of a new program, **Navigating the Minefield** by Curtin University with the support of AAMIG.

**Navigating the Minefield** is a six-day course, divided into three modules each of two days, and is designed to provide in-depth training on the non-technical risk issues that companies frequently face in Africa. Recent research suggests that many of the smaller and mid-tier companies are less well prepared to tackle the unique risks inherent to the region and this short course is aimed at meeting that need.

Course leader, Curtin University Adjunct Professor and World Bank emissary Colin Roberts commented, “Africa is beset by a minefield of political, social, legal and security risks and sustained business success can be achieved only by careful and successful navigation of these issues.”

The **Navigating the Minefield** program will help Australian companies better understand the environment and develop the right strategies and frameworks to effectively manage non-technical risks and develop an internationally competitive advantage in Africa.

Professor Roberts commented further, “Australian resource companies are world leaders with respect to technical competency, but few have really mastered the non-technical risk issues inherent to the African environment. At best, this lack of preparedness impedes their ability to fully realise the potential of Africa, but at worst it exposes them to potentially significant economic and personal liability.”

Bill Turner, Chairman of AAMIG commented, “Although the investment climate in many African countries has improved a great deal over the last fifteen years, issues such as social and political instability, sovereign risk, bribery and corruption, abrogation of contractual rights, and security issues can arise and these issues require skill, patience and tact to manage effectively.”

The first **Navigating the Minefield** program will be delivered during November 2013, by Professor Roberts and a panel of experts with extensive business experience in Africa. The program is outcomes-focused and using an applied methodology, aims to improve organisations current Africa strategies, policies, risk frameworks and internal training programs.

To obtain more information or to reserve a place in the program, go to:  
**[business.curtin.edu.au/africa](http://business.curtin.edu.au/africa)**

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## **ABOUT AAMIG**

Founded in May 2011, the Australia-Africa Mining Industry Group (“AAMIG”) represents Australian and Australian-based exploration, mining, service and supply companies active in Africa. AAMIG aims to support member companies and enhance their Social Licence to Operate, with a key focus on stakeholder engagement, sustainable community development, human rights and governance.

AAMIG is committed to supporting a “Team Australia” approach in regard to Australia’s engagement with Africa. This includes building relationships between the mining industry, governments, not-for-profits and academia.

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