



Mining in Partnership

An Empowerment Agenda

Summary

Mining in Partnership: An Empowerment Agenda is an initiative resulting from Days of Reflection at the Vatican (October 2013) and Lambeth Palace (October 2014) that brought CEO-level leadership of major mining companies together with faith groups, the churches in particular. *Mining in Partnership: An Empowerment Agenda* aims to assist theological seminaries and similar institutions around the world better to equip pastors and church leaders to serve communities affected by mining projects.

Benefits to mining companies include:

- More effective recognition of faith groups as important stakeholders in partnerships with local communities
- More effective listening to the needs and concerns of faith groups as intrinsic to community development activities
- Faith group leaders better informed about mining and 'best practices' in the industry, and thereby able to communicate with the companies
- Improved potential for 'deep reach' into local communities to better understand what's important locally, and why, and what hinders local development.

Benefits to churches (and potentially other faith groups) include:

- Resources to think theologically, ethically and liturgically about mining in the locality and internationally
- Toolkit and training materials to assist theological seminaries better to equip pastors and other church leaders to serve communities affected by mining projects
- Network of interested parties for mutual support and guidance
- Resources to think theologically, ethically and liturgically about growing small, sustainable businesses that will survive after the mine has closed.

Too often mining in developing countries, and/or those with fragile governments or conflict, fails to benefit local communities in the long term.

Companies that participated in the Faith Groups Engagement 'Days of Reflection' at the Vatican (October 2013) and Lambeth Palace (October 2014) want their host communities to thrive, and are committed to helping generate the conditions for flourishing in the locality long after the mine has closed. Progress toward leaving communities strong and healthy requires cross-sector networking and co-collaboration between organizations that have an interest in good mining but might not previously interacted much — notably faith groups. *Mining in Partnership: An Empowerment Agenda* is an initiative in capacity building in local communities and the regions. Improved training at seminaries and other institutions of learning should better enable co-collaboration and co-innovation to tackle the real problems of mining communities in developing countries.

Churches and other faith groups are challenged to engage constructively with the participating companies with a view to long-term poverty reduction, the protection of natural resources and heritage sites, community asset-building, the forging of social bonds, and much more. Much has been done already but meeting this challenge in ever more competent ways requires church leaders and congregations to increase their knowledge of best practices and standards in the industry, to learn how to gather and represent community views effectively, to work together ecumenically and across religious traditions, prepare for beneficial, peaceful dialogue and/or negotiations with companies, to develop a 'quick response' capacity, to play a role in community asset building, including the interests of all community members, and so much more. *Mining in Partnership: An Empowerment Agenda* aims to support seminaries and similar institutions in training students to think theologically and ethically about mining, about the benefits and ills minings can bring to a region, how engagement with reputable companies can assist long-term community development, poverty reduction, asset building, sustainable local businesses, and more.

The 'natural resource curse' is how the Archbishop of Canterbury referred recently to this paradox during a Day of Reflection on Mining with the industry and church leaders (Lambeth Palace Report 2014: 4) When years of mining produce nothing for local communities in the long term, the blessings of the earth's natural resources do not sow the seeds for future development but bring harm and misery. '[T]here has to be a change', he said 'in the endless cycle in a country where the first discovery of minerals or hydro-carbons leads to inflation, followed by deferred hope and impatience, and then by corruption and division and, finally, by disappointment and failure. (Lambeth Palace Report 2014: 7)

No single policy, solution or initiative can spread the benefits of mining more equitably amongst all with a legitimate interest. Currently, however, gaps in seminary and other training by the churches currently leave many clergy poorly equipped for this challenge. *Mining in Partnership: An Empowerment Agenda* is a practical, ecumenical and international response to this need.

Key Objectives

Mining in Partnership: An Empowerment Agenda will:

- Host a website mininginpartnership.org for easy, open access to a growing body of resources materials
- Take initial responsibility for populating mininginpartnership.org with educational and other materials, with a view to handing over responsibility at some point to a seminary
- Develop a Toolkit and Training Curriculum, for inclusion on the website, for the churches to help theological seminaries in their training of pastors and other church leaders to serve communities affected by mining projects
- Develop action point proposals for the industry to assist engagement with faith communities
- Identify key 'nodes' in a support network of interested parties for mutual support and guidance

These aims arose from conversations surrounding the Days of Reflection including formative in-put from senior global church leaders with oversight of seminar training.

Invitation to You


You are invited to contribute to this process by contributing material for the website which is likely to have the following pages:

Theology and Ethics of Mining	Liturgical Resources	Church: Local and Global
Mining and Human Rights	Asset Building	Sustainable Businesses
Voices from the Industry	Voices from the Churches	Toolkit and Curriculum Materials

We anticipate short articles (or liturgical resources) of 3000-6000 words plus, ideally, video clips of authors speaking to / about / beyond their pieces. Mindful of how time-pressured most people's lives are, we want our invitation to you to be as flexible as possible. Please be aware, however, that the website will be open access and so any material must be free of copyright restrictions.

We are flexible and open to new ideas, so please feel free to suggest any other ideas if you have them. E.g., material on anti-corruption measures could either have a new page or find a home under 'Sustainable Businesses'.

The presentation and content of this website will be overtly Christian in the first instance. So, for instance, it might include:

<p><i>Mining in Partnership: An Empowerment Agenda</i> is committed to a holistic understanding of the Christian gospel.</p> <p>The churches' experience of God is a whole-life experience. Proclamation of the gospel of Christ includes concerns about survival, nourishment, education, justice and truth.</p> <p>May God's kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven!</p>	
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Our hope is to grow the work to include voices from other faith perspectives.

Finance and Support

This project is variously supported by the University of Exeter, UK, several of the major mining companies (including Anglo American PLC, Rio Tinto, Newmont, in the first instance, and potentially more).

We are supported with advice and other practical assistance from a broad network of institutions and individuals. Various aspects of *Mining in Partnership* have been discussed with and, welcomed warmly by *inter alia* orian Emmett, Advisor to the CEO, Anglo American; Tricia Wilhelm, Social Performance Manager, Anglo American; Laurel Green, Chief Adviser Policy, External Affairs, Rio Tinto; Nick Cotts, Group Executive, Sustainability and External Relations, Newmont Mining Corporation; Dr Anthony Hodge, President, International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM); Peter Bryant, Senior Fellow & Honorary Co-Founder, The Kellogg Innovation Network; Loretta Minghella, Chief Executive, Christian Aid; Reverend Helen Dawes, Archbishop of Canterbury's Social and Public Affairs Adviser; The Most Reverend Albert Chama, Archbishop of Central Africa & Bishop of Northern Zambia; Fr Seamus Finn OMI, Chair, Interfaith Centre on Corporate Responsibility; the Revd Kenneth Howcroft, President of the Methodist Church, GB.