

FOREWORD

As a foreign mining professor arriving in Chile in 1996 with a minimal knowledge of Spanish, the first thing I looked for was a technical dictionary of mining terms. However, the dictionaries that I discovered were either lacking mining vocabulary or had been prepared with a European audience in mind. When I tried to use European Spanish in my classes, the blank looks that resulted quickly told me that something was not right. I rapidly discovered that mining vocabulary varies markedly between Latin American countries, regions and even mines within the same countries!

With this in mind, I started to prepare my own dictionary with vocabulary captured from conversations with Chilean mining professionals, or encountered whilst reading technical articles or news reports. Later, I was fortunate to be able to count on the assistance of Francisco Burgos, a Mining Engineer recently graduated from the Mining Center of the Catholic University of Chile, and Juan Pinto, a professional translator, to help me compile and verify this dictionary.

The result of our collective effort is a compilation of some 1400 mining terms commonly used in Chile, with Canadian or Australian equivalents. It is our hope that this dictionary will assist both those “Gringos” trying to come to terms with Chilean mining terms, as well as Chilean mining professionals who frequently have to master technical articles and manuals written in English. In addition, we purposely designed the dictionary to fit in a shirt pocket; as such it should come in handy for those 1001 field uses that we would never thought of!

Peter F. Knights

Canadian Chair of Mining, Mining Center
Catholic University of Chile
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