

FOREWORD

During 2003 the Head of the Mining Engineering Department of the University of Chile, Mr. Aldo Casali, came up with the idea of organizing a biannual conference on Innovation in Mining combining the efforts of the Mining Engineering Departments of the Universidad de Chile, the Universidad de Santiago de Chile, and the Mining Center of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, the three universities that offer careers related to mining engineering in the Metropolitan Region.

Our mining industry, particularly that of copper, has recently gone through long periods of low metal prices and increases in costs in such important items as labor and supplies, and yet it has survived and advanced with giant strides due to excellent management and technological developments in such diverse fields as geological exploration, surveying, resource estimation, rock mechanics, production planning, drilling and blasting, transportation, ore processing, metallurgy, marketing, etc. We believe that, because of the importance and development of our mining industry, Chile is the ideal place to hold such a conference.

The spirit of the conference is to provide a venue for mining industry professionals, researchers and academicians so that they may present, share and carry out fruitful discussions on new technologies, applications and procedures.

The conference takes place during the three days prior to the well known international mining fair EXPOMIN, because it is believed that mining professionals can benefit by attending both events.

The organizing committee is aware that mining professionals have limited time because of their increasing responsibilities, and for this reason we have allowed for “in extenso” work for researchers and academicians, and extended summaries for industry professionals. This initiative has been well received.

More than 80 abstracts were received in the following areas covered by the conference:

- Sampling and Resource Evaluation.
- Mineral Economy.
- Strategic Mine Planning.
- Mining Operations.
- Maintenance Management.
- Information and Maintenance Technology.
- Mining Management.
- Expansions and New Projects.
- Environmental Management.

The final selection of papers was not an easy job due to the high level of work received.

The conference has six plenary sessions of great interest presented by the following professionals: Francisco Camus, Waldo Cuadra, Francis Pitard, Clayton Deutsch, Edmundo Tulcanaza and Jan Michel Rendu, all of them acknowledged international authorities on their subjects.

I wish to thank all the participants, particularly the authors of the plenary sessions, for their effort, without them this conference would not have been possible. I also appreciate the commitment and dedication shown by the organizing committee composed by Messrs. Fernando Henríquez and Miguel Vera of the Universidad de Santiago de Chile, Peter Knights of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Julián Ortiz of the Universidad de Chile, and Carlos Barahona and his team of Gecamin Limitada for organizing the conference.

I hope that both authors and participants will enjoy and benefit from MININ-2004, which is the first of its kind. I now cordially invite you all to attend MININ-2006.

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Chairman of the Organizing Committee