

August 17, 2004

Dear Sir/Madame:

***Ref: Communities and Small-Scale Mining (CASM)
2004 Annual General Meeting & Learning Event***

Communities and Small-Scale Mining (CASM) would like to inform you of its 4th Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held at the Taj Samudra Hotel in Colombo, Sri Lanka, October 12-14, 2004, with an optional field trip following the conference.

In addition to the annual review and report regarding the CASM activities, the aim of the meeting is to further develop short and long-term strategies for dealing constructively with the social, environmental and technical challenges posed by artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) particularly regarding gemstone mining, and for maximizing the development potential of these activities where they are being practiced.

The country experience, which will provide the starting point for discussions is that of Sri Lanka with particular attention to its gemstones industry. The plenary sessions will include discussions on certification and fair trade, and other significant issues. There will also be opportunities to review ASM experiences in other parts of Asia and the world. This year's learning modules will address poverty reduction, conflict resolution and consensus building, setting up a gemstone processing business, and gender and child labor aspects of ASM.

Interpretation services will be available only in French.

The AGM will be followed by optional field trips to local gemstone factories and mines from Thursday evening, October 14th through Saturday morning, October 16th. Due to limited accommodation, participation will be capped to 60 persons on a first-come-first-serve basis.

For more information on the program, registration, costs and financial assistance, please visit our web page at: http://www.casmsite.org/events_Colombo.htm

We look forward to your participation.

With kind regards,

Jeffrey Davidson
Senior Mining Specialist
Communities and Small Scale Mining Global Initiative
Oil, Gas, Mining & Chemicals Department