

***Workshop: Conflict Resolution and Consensus-Building
Oct. 13, 2004***

Ple

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**If you are interested in participating in this workshop, please contact
Dr. Ali by October 5th, 2004.**

Objective

The proposed workshop will explore the kinds of conflicts that arise in the small-scale mining sector and provide a set of strategies for resolving conflicts between various stakeholders. Participants will be familiarized with techniques in conflict resolution that are of particular relevance to public-private conflicts and in contexts of development disparities.

Specifically we will try to accomplish the following:

- Document narratives of environmental conflicts in the small-scale mining sector, particularly in South Asia;
- Discuss techniques that have been used and those which have been developed in the literature for resolving such conflicts most efficiently and amicably;
- Understand the distinction between conflict management and resolution and the ways of reaching consensus in negotiating contracts;
- Provide a set of recommendation to various stakeholders for minimizing future conflicts (suggestions presented to plenary on October 14)

Format

Given the short duration of the workshop, I will request interested participants to register one week prior to arrival in Colombo and respond to some key questions regarding their experiences with conflicts in the small-scale mining sector:

Who are the key communities of interest in conflicts you have experienced in the small-scale mining sector?

What are the sources of power which these communities have (physical strength, knowledge, economic resources etc.)

Is there an absence of trust between the players and if so why?

How would you define “resolution” to a conflict?

What are the traditional techniques for conflict resolution in your community?

The format for the three hours allotted for the workshop will be as follows:

Wednesday, October 13

(Detailed introductions will have occurred prior to meeting via email or at lunch)

14:00 – 14:15	Anatomy of disputes and conflicts: why do they arise? (moderated discussion, based on responses from participants).
14:15 – 14:45	Powerpoint presentation on strategies for conflict resolution and consensus-building
14:45 – 15:00	Discussion and comments, with examples from small-scale mining sector
15:00 – 15:30	Scenario exercise: anticipating dissent and how to deal with it
15:30 – 15:40	Brief break to use facilities and get ready for simulation
15:40 – 17:00	Simulation exercise from the Harvard Program on Negotiation and the Consensus-building Institute

If the workshop timeframe is expanded for an additional hour, we can plan to have a more detailed debriefing on the simulation exercise as well.

Deliverable

A set of conflict “diagnoses” will be presented to the plenary with suggestions for “preventative” as well as “curative” approaches to building consensus on key development goals and resolving long-standing conflicts between communities of interest.

Reading resource packets will be distributed to the participants including the following material:

Ali, Saleem H. (2000). "Shades of Green: Mining, NGOs and the Pursuit of Negotiating Power." In Jem Bendell ed. *Terms for Endearment: Business, NGOs and Sustainable Development*. Sheffield UK: Greenleaf / Macmillan.

Susskind, Lawrence et al eds. (1999). *The Consensus-building Handbook*. Thousand Oaks CA: Sage Publications.

Watkins, Michael (2000). *Negotiation Analysis: A Synthesis*. Harvard Business School teaching note.