

**Fair Trade and Certification in Minerals:
An Open Event for Shared Learning and Partnerships**
Brainstorming on Fair trade and Certification of Minerals

Dear Colleagues:

Developing fair trade status for artisanal mining products is a promising path to improving the lot of those laboring in mines throughout the world. You are invited to attend a session to consider the way forward on fair trade/certification issues in the artisanal mining sector at 9:00 a.m. on 15 June 2005. It will be held at the World Bank (Room 8P-100, located on 2121 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20433), whose Communities and Small Scale Mining (CASM) Secretariat will co-host the event with Fair Trade in Gems and Jewelry, and the Integrated Diamond Management Program.

We'll meet on the eve of CASM's "Millennium Development Goals and Small-Scale Mining: A Conference for Forging Partnerships for Action". We are anticipating that many attending that conference will have interest in this as well. If you know of others that will be in D.C. on the 15th, and would be interested in attending, please forward this announcement to them.

The agenda for the meeting will be participant-driven. At the least, we will discuss current standards for achieving fair trade status for artisanally-produced gold and diamonds, very preliminary experience in organizing artisanal diamond mining cooperatives to produce such diamonds, experience in complying with such standards in other areas, and options for marketing production. My particular interest is in linking fair trade marketing of gold and diamonds to development and security efforts in West Africa, though the discussion will be open to considering other minerals as well, depending on participant interest.

I would appreciate it if you would please drop me an email to let me know if you will be attending, any areas to which you could contribute based on personal experience, and any issues you would like to group to consider. I will let you all know the likely participants and agenda, based on this feedback, later this week.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this. I hope you will join us in D.C. next week.

Cheers,
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Please plan to arrive 15-30 minutes early to clear security, and inform those processing your entry that you plan to attend the CASM conference on fair trade and certification of minerals. You will need to bring photo identification.