

7th Annual CASM conference, Mongolia

Opening speech by Mr M. Enkhbold, Prime Minister of Mongolia

Your Excellency Mr. Jon Hobbs,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of Government of Mongolia, I would like to express a deep appreciation to CASM, to its Strategic Management team for a decision to organize the 7th annual International CASM conference in Mongolia.

I am delighted to give my welcome address to the participants of the annual conference of CASM Initiative that makes important contribution to worldwide ASM development and is hosted under the auspicious of the Prime Minister of Mongolia.

We, the Mongolians, appreciate for organizing the conference at the time of intensive development of mining sector in the country and expect that conference based on accumulated experience, existing best practices will come up with concrete approaches and strategies to address the complex issues of ASM.

The large scale mining industry in Mongolia has 90 years history since its establishment, whereas small scale mining has emerged in Mongolia recently and is being developed rapidly. Nevertheless, some of ASMs use toxic chemicals such as mercury and cyanide bringing serious damage and destruction to ecology, humans and domestic and wildlife species.

Today, the small scale mining sub-sector in the country faces the same problems as in other parts in the world. Recognizing significant economic potential and positive social impact of artisanal mining in rural development, the Government of Mongolia has developed a law on artisanal mining and it's being discussed in Parliament. Having deeply studied the ASM issues, the Government seriously considers the integrated approach to ASM issues i.e. social, economic, ecological, and technological issues. In other words, it is possible to develop artisanal mining into formalized, responsible and sustainable ecologically friendly sub-sector of the economy and key of rural development.

I believe that CASM conference provides great opportunity to all of us to discuss pressing ASM issues, to exchange experiences and best practices and to identify the ways and develop strategies to move towards responsible, integrated and sustainable artisanal mining. I am confident that the issues e.g. environmental problems, human health, restriction and elimination of chemicals including mercury and cyanide, and introduction of environmentally friendly technologies are in the center of your attentions and discussions for finding the most optimal solutions.

I am sure that the 7th CASM conference "Effective Partnership for Sustainable ASM" will address the ASM key challenges and make ASM one of development motor.

I wish success to all participants of CASM conference.