



THORIUM CONFERENCE

20–22 February 2012

Cape Town International Convention Centre

BACKGROUND

There is global acknowledgement that human activity, which inevitably entails the burning of fossil fuels, contributes to increasing concentration of greenhouse gas emission in the atmosphere. There is also recognition that this in turn contributes to global warming, which results in climate change that impairs social and economic well-being and disturbs ecological balance in different ways across the world.

In light of the considerable risks posed to world prosperity, global warming is an issue that requires urgent, unequivocal and wide-ranging actions by governments, business and civil society.

The efforts of the international community, through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, requires committed support. In South Africa, every citizen has the responsibility to back the government in its drive to reduce emissions, and to seek appropriate clean energy measures.

For South Africans, a pressing challenge is to make the transition to carbon-neutral base-load electricity generation. In our view, the solution is the harnessing of nuclear power.

The use of thorium in power reactors has been considered since the origins of nuclear energy, in the first half of the previous century, in large part because thorium is considerably more abundant than uranium in the Earth's crust.

Since the establishment of the Atoms for Peace Programme in the 1950s, thorium has been earmarked for its potential as supplement for the globe's limited uranium reserves. Extensive research dedicated to thorium-based fuel cycles resulted in developments of importance, including the prototype high-temperature reactors.

The high-temperature thorium-fuelled reactor is a distinctive example of a gas-cooled reactor. As far back as a quarter of a century ago, the first of its type was proven a successful concept in Germany.

South Africa has vast resources of thorium in beach sands and hard rock deposits. Aside from its abundance, thorium has the advantage of generating 10% of the waste generated by conventional uranium-based reactors.

OBJECTIVES

The conference will provide an international forum for the rare earth and thorium processing industries to exchange information about current processing technologies for current, as well as about emerging technologies for thorium. The symposium scope includes geology, mining, processing fundamentals, operational practices, and environmental issues.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

The conference should be of interest to the following:

- Geologists
- Scientists
- Investors, etc.

SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship opportunities are available. Companies wishing to sponsor or exhibit should contact the Conference Co-ordinator.

For further information contact:

Head of Conferencing, Jacqui van der Westhuizen, SAIMM
P O Box 61127, Marshalltown 2107 · Tel: (011) 834-1273/7
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First Announcement and Call for Papers

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CALL FOR PAPERS

The conference is being organised by the Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, and papers are invited for the conference.

Prospective authors are invited to submit titles and abstracts of their papers, in English. The abstracts should be no longer than 500 words and should be submitted to:

Head of Conferencing, Jacqui van der Westhuizen
SAIMM, P.O. Box 61127, Marshalltown 2107, South Africa.

Telephonic enquiries may be made at
Tel: +27 (11) 834-1273/7 · Facsimile +27 (11) 838-5923 or
E-mail: jacqui@saimm.co.za

TOPICS

Papers are invited that integrate the following topics:

- Opportunities of Thorium
- Waste and renewables
- Geology / mining
- Processing / reprocessing
- Reactor design
- Waste management

- Fuel production
- Generation technology
- Heat application

KEY DATES

24 August 2011	Submission of abstracts
28 September 2011	Acceptance of abstracts
25 October 2011	Submission of final paper
20–22 February 2012	Conference

COMMITTEE MEMBERS INCLUDE:

Willem van der Merwe (Chairman)
Christelle Baker
Peet du Plooy
Robbie Louw
Eben Mulder
Umesha Naidoo
Johannes Nel
Jacobus Swanepoel

**The Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy,
Head of Conferencing, Jacqui van der Westhuizen**

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P.O. Box 61127, Marshalltown, 2107, Tel: 27 11 834-1273/7

THE DETAILS OF THIS FORM CAN BE POSTED TO US, or E-MAILED TO: jacqui@saimm.co.za
or FAXED TO: 27 11 838-5923 / 833-8156

- I am interested in attending the Conference
- I expect to be accompanied by my partner
- I may be interested in participating in a technical visit
- I intend to submit an abstract of the proposed paper entitled:

Title of paper:

Personal details: Name

Address

Tel: Fax:

E-mail: