

THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF MINING AND METALLURGY

SYMPOSIUM SERIES S45

Second International Platinum Conference
‘Platinum Surges Ahead’

THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF MINING AND METALLURGY
JOHANNESBURG 2006

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Foreword

Platinum production in Southern Africa amounted to 80% of world production in 2005 with a small increase from 5 117 000 ounces to 5 275 000 ounces. For the seventh consecutive year the platinum market is on course to record a moderate deficit in supply. This is reflected in the price increase from a trading range US\$860 to US\$880 in June 2005 to an excess of US\$1 200 in September 2006. Southern Africa, with its extensive platinum reserves, will continue to be the dominant platinum producer and has a number of new mines in an advanced stage of planning.

The slogan 'Platinum Surges Ahead' was selected to describe the exciting and vibrant nature of all aspects of platinum mining, beneficiation and marketing.

This conference will cover these aspects from exploration and orebody delineation, through mine design, development and operation to mine closure; mineral beneficiation, marketing and compliance with the Mining Charter will also be subjects for discussion and debate. It is also anticipated that the issue of overall increases in productivity, through the introduction of technology, will demonstrate Southern Africa's status as a premier mining district.

It is my pleasure to welcome delegates from abroad and locally, on behalf of the SAIMM, to the Second International Platinum Conference 'Platinum Surges Ahead'.

I trust that you will find the proceedings informative and value adding and will participate in the discussions and debate in order to obtain maximum benefit from the conference. I am sure that the post-conference tours will be interesting and of great benefit to participants.

Finally, a big word of thanks to the members of the Organising Committee, the management and staff of the SAIMM, and to our willing sponsors, without all of whom this conference would not have been possible.

Mike Rogers
Chairman,
Organising Committee

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