

INTRODUCTION

It is our pleasure and privilege to introduce this special Zambia issue of "Geologie en Mijnbouw". Its publication is to a large extent the result of the recent reorganisation of the Royal Netherlands Geological and Mining Society. A more outward-looking policy has resulted, which involves the strengthening of our ties with overseas members as well as the encouragement of increased interaction between Universities and Industries.

The above policy led to the appointment of a special committee and a staff of overseas correspondents, who have jointly taken the initiative to encourage overseas members to submit articles for publication in the Society Journal. Because of the significant number of Netherlands geologists, mining engineers and metallurgists currently working in Zambia, and because recent graduates have shown a continued interest in the mineral industries of this country, an attempt was made to acquire a limited series of individual articles relating to the Zambian mining industry.

Several Society members were approached. It soon appeared that, in addition, several outstanding specialists — non-members of the Society — were also prepared to contribute. Therefore we were encouraged to widen the scope of our original initiative and challenged to attempt to publish an issue entirely devoted to the Zambian mining industry and related geological subjects. The Zambian authorities and mining companies offered their full support.

The present issue highlights various new developments in geology, mining, metallurgy, mining legislation and economics. Regrettably, one paper on exploration techniques and another on metallurgical research were not completed in time for publication, although summaries of these papers have been included. Editing of manuscripts has been kept to a minimum, in order not to interfere with author's personal approaches. Because of space limitations, it was in many cases not possible to go into great detail or to give extensive reviews of the available evidence concerning new thoughts or hypotheses. The authors have expressed their willingness, however, to communicate with those who are interested in more detailed information.

The editors hope that this issue will contribute to a better appreciation of the high technical level of Zambia's mineral industry, its impressive amount and quality of research and its modern approach to long-range planning.

Apart from these subjects, Zambia has, in one other respect, attracted the attention of the mining world. The Government has acquired 51 percent ownership of the large copper mining companies. All parties concerned have indicated their satisfaction with the deal completed. Further information on this topic is contained in this volume.

We should like to express our gratitude to Mindeco Ltd., Nchanga Consolidated Copper Mines Ltd., Roan Consolidated Mines Ltd., the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development and the Geological Survey Department for their support in the form of articles by staff-members, financial support, or both.

Our warmest thanks are also extended to the authors who have sacrificed so much of their valuable time. We should also like to express our gratitude to Mr. Deelder for his editorial assistance, Professors Roorda and Uytenbogaardt for their professional advice, Dr. G. ter Bruggen for reading the proofs, Mr. Faessen and Mr. Swanink for redrawing various figures, Miss. de Groot and Mrs. Wieringa for secretarial help, and to all others who have given their highly appreciated assistance during the preparation of this publication.

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