



IMII celebrates 3 years of expanding education and research in Saskatchewan's minerals industry

SASKATOON, SK – International Minerals Innovation Institute (IMII) hosts its 3rd Annual General Meeting on Thursday, May 21, 2015 starting at 11:00 am at The Willows Golf and Country Club with a networking luncheon to follow. The theme to this year's meeting is "Innovation through Collaboration".

Engin Özberk, Executive Director and Senior Technical Advisor of IMII says, "We are very proud of our accomplishments over the last three years. Through the 9 projects IMII is funding and the collaboration and commitment of the industry, government and post-secondary education and research institutions we started producing results. More than 60 First Nations students are being trained at the Regional Colleges, more than 50 university students are taking the mining engineering options and more than a dozen university graduates and academics are doing research on minerals industry technical solutions to obtain their graduate degrees. As we move forward, the current efforts are going to help us to reach our goal of having a world-class minerals industry."

"Education and research are fundamental pillars in advancing improvements in safety and efficiency in the minerals sector. IMII brings together the collective resources of the private sector, government and educational institutions to advance education and research toward the future of mining and mineral processing," says Mark Fracchia, President, PCS Potash.

"Companies like BHP Billiton and the other industry partners stand to benefit enormously from the innovative and collaborative approach of the IMII. We are proud to invest in such sound R&D and E&T initiatives which will produce quality skills in a broad and inclusive labour pool that will grow the capacity of a safe and sustainable resources industry," says Alex Archila, Asset President, BHP Billiton Potash.

The Details:

Date: Thursday, May 21, 2015

Registration: 10:30 am

Annual General Meeting: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Networking Luncheon: 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Place: Willows Golf and Country Club, 382 Cartwright Street, Saskatoon, SK

Guest Speakers:

Honorable Jeremy Harrison, Minister of Innovation Saskatchewan;

Mark Fracchia, President, PCS Potash;

Alex Archila, Asset President, BHP Billiton Potash;

**Media scrum will be available immediate following Annual General Meeting.*

About International Minerals Innovation Institute:

International Minerals Innovation Institute is a unique industry-government-post-secondary education and research institutions partnership jointly funded by industry and government. The Institute is a catalyst to developing industry-driven education and training programs to address labour force needs in the sector and conducts industry-driven research and development to address workplace health and safety, environmental sustainability, social license, policy research, exploration, mining, processing and economics of commodities to ensure the continued growth of the industry.

IMII's current activities and future plans are being driven by industry priorities. Through the Board of Directors and separate panels for both Education and Training (E&T Panel) and Research and Development (R&D Panel), collaboration occurs amongst industry, government and education and research institutions to clearly define the need, solution, implementation plan and outcomes together.

For more information, please contact:

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