

**Opening remarks by Joyce R. Aryee, CEO of the Ghana Chamber of Mines, at International Cyanide Code Auditing Management workshop held at the Alisa Hotel, Accra, on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2009.**

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The President, Vice President and board members of the ICMI  
The Chief Executive and Members of the Ghana Chamber of Mines  
Members of the local and international mining fraternity  
Invited Guests  
Members of the Media  
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is such a privilege for the Chamber to continue to be part of the ICMI workshops on the auditing and management of the International Cyanide Management Code. This workshop is the second to be co-organized by the Chamber and the International Cyanide Management Institute (ICMI) in West Africa since 1997.

As the host for this very important workshop, I say a big AKWAABA to all of you. It gives me pleasure to note that among the over 65 participants, are representatives of mining and mining support companies from Ghana, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, United Kingdom, Cote d'Ivoire, Tanzania, Senegal, Mali, Turkey and France.

We are here to learn more about the best practices in cyanide management. This highlights the Chamber commitment to responsible environmental management and conservation. As a proactive institution, Chamber has once again taken up the role of

making sure that our members are abreast with modern trends in cyanide management.

Even though the cyanide Code is a voluntary program for gold mines as well as producers and transporters of the cyanide the great participation here today demonstrates that the mining industry understand how important the code can be in improving the management of this potentially dangerous chemical and how we can enhance the safety of our workers, communities and the environment.

We are all here to learn or re-learn how our gold mines and cyanide transporters can implement what is recognized as the world's best management practices for cyanide, so that we can demonstrate to communities and stakeholders that they are protected from potential adverse impacts of cyanide.

Ladies and gentlemen, safety and environmental management are a major concern to those of us working the mines. Mining companies therefore make considerable effort to create a safe working environment for employees and surrounding communities during the mineral extraction process.

As we are aware, a safe working environment helps to maintain and motivate the human capital in order to increase productivity. This training workshop will help to improve the competency and ability of

our workers to handle and or mitigate cyanide related emergencies. Therefore its importance cannot be overemphasized.

In a sense therefore the Code's requirements and processes seek to complement the activities of our Environmental regulatory agencies.

Environmental management is a key corporate priority and members have integrated it into the continuum of operations from exploration, through design and construction to mining, processing, rehabilitation and decommissioning. Our members continue to cooperate assiduously with the EPA and the Mines Inspectorate in adhering to the Environmental Laws of this country.

Ladies and gentlemen, for some time now producing member companies of the Chamber have formed Community Safety Brigades in their catchment areas. The rationale for this initiative is to help train the communities in basic First Aid, fire fighting and emergency response measures, and forms an intrinsic part of our commitment to good corporate citizenship and social responsibility.

I am happy to note that four gold mines in Ghana, Newmont Ahafo mine; Anglogold Ashanti Obuasi and Iduapriem mines; Golden Star Wassa and Bogoso mines as well as Gold Fields' Tarkwa and Damang mines are either fully certified or over 90 percent certified. The two cyanide producing members of the Chamber, Cyplus and Orica, and three transporting companies Barbex Technical Services,

Allship Logistics and Vehrad Transport are all subject to the code's requirements.

Before I take my seat, let me applaud the Chamber Secretariat for the wonderful work in hosting this workshop. I hope that the high standards would be a benchmark for the organization and hosting of future workshops.

I will encourage participants to carry this information back to your facilities, implement the code's provisions, and use the best management practices available to continue to operate in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.

Thank you for attention.