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2022 WEST AFRICAN MINING & POWER CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION OPENS



Vice President Alhaji Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia cutting the tap to open the conference and exhibition supported by Mr. Eric Asubonteng, President of Ghana Chamber of Mines (on Vice President Bawumia's left) and Mr. Sulemanu Koney, CEO of Ghana Chamber of Mines (on Vice President Bawumia's right).



A group photograph after the opening ceremony

The 2022 West African Mining & Power Conference and Exhibition (WAMPOC/WAMPEX 2022) has commenced with about 150 exhibitors from mining and power sectors all over the world.

The two-day conference and three-day exhibition will bring together strategic private and public industry stakeholders to discuss and debate the drive for sustainable investment opportunities in West Africa.

Also, the technical workshops and extended networking and B2B matchmaking opportunities, WAMPEX/WAMPOC offer the widest range of mining and power suppliers and technologies in the region, with over 80 exhibitors from 16 countries.

In addition to increased government involvement, this year WAMPEX and WAMPOC boast the support of ECOWAS Federation of Chambers of Mines (EFEDCOM) who will also be hosting their General Assembly during the event.

The conference is under the theme ‘Advancing a legacy of sustainable and responsible mining through innovation and partnership’.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Chief Executive Officer of the Ghana Chamber of Mines, Mr. Sulemanu Koney stated that the “catalytic role of mining is only realizable whenever we are able to optimise the linkages between the mining industry and the non-mineral economy”



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Mr. Koney noted that the mining was about development and a catalyst for socio-economic development.

Mr. Koney added that “for as we have always said, “if it is not grown, it is mined” and further, agriculture needs the farm implements and fertilizers which are key outputs of mining to be viable. At the same time, we are of the firm belief that mining is about development and indeed a catalyst for socio economic and sustainable development.”

According to him, the deliberations at WAMPOC/WAMPEX 2022 would elicit solutions to some of the challenges facing the mining and energy sectors, especially in West Africa.

President of the Ghana Chamber of Mines, Mr. Eric Asubonteng who chaired the opening ceremony in a brief remark said the West African Mining and Power Exhibition and Conference brings them together to share ideas on how to improve our industry, adopt new innovations and technologies as well as prospect for new opportunities.

Mr. Asubonteng added that “our aspiration as a Chamber is to position Ghana as the mining support services hub in West Africa and work closely with our partners across the world. Hence, having this event is a great opportunity in realizing that aspiration.”

Opening the conference, Vice President Alhaji Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia called on major players in the mining industry to work towards the emergence of a mining index on the stock exchange

Vice President Bawumia said “this will require deep collaboration among the local stock exchanges (Ghana Stock Exchange in Ghana), their regulators (in Ghana the Securities and Exchange Commission), as well as mining firms to incentivise Ghanaians to own listed greenfield exploration projects as the upside on such investments tend to be higher”.

Vice President Bawumia observed with concern how Africa had failed to realize the full benefits of its mineral resources despite producing billions of tonnes of minerals over the past years totaling hundreds of billions of dollars

He said, “I am told for instance that in 2019 alone, Africa produced almost one billion tonnes of minerals of various kinds totaling some US\$406bn”.

“The United Nations sources indicate that, Africa hosts about 30 percent of the world’s mineral reserves, 12 percent of the world’s oil and 8 percent of the world’s natural gas reserves.

“The continent also holds 40 percent of the world’s gold and up to 90 percent of its chromium and platinum – both valuable metals”.

Vice President Bawumia pointed out that although the availability of resources on the continent was important, the over-riding aim was to ensure that there was a carefully balanced mechanism to ensure that the resources of the state benefitted the owners of the resource.

BACKGROUND

WAMPOC/WAMPEX commenced in 1994 and has become a major forum attracting mining and power professionals from more across the globe, making it one of the most



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important meeting places for the West African mining industry. Exhibitors from around the world participate at WAMPEX to showcase latest technologies, innovations and products.

The conference (WAMPOC) and exhibition (WAMPEX) are organised in partnership with The Ghana Chamber of Mines assuring participants of the presence of the major gold mining companies who are members of the Chamber.

In addition, the Chamber will hold its Annual General Meeting during this event ensuring that delegates, exhibitors and visitors will benefit from the participation of key stakeholders from across the industry.

WAMPEX/WAMPOC will be held from 1 - 3 June 2022, at the Accra International Conference Centre Accra, Ghana.

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Notes to the Editor

The Ghana Chamber of Mines is the main minerals industry association in Ghana. The Chamber represents the collective interests of companies involved in mineral exploration, production and processing in Ghana. Its member companies produce over 60 per cent of Ghana's mineral output. The Chamber has represented the industry's interests since 1928.

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