

Tuesday 30th October 2018

To United Nations Global Compact

MMTA Communication on Engagement

The MMTA's primary roles are

- To raise awareness of the activities of its Member companies;
- To raise awareness of the importance of minor metals as an integral part of the development of the modern world, and also as part of the solution to a range of global challenges;
- To inform on new developments impacting the minor metals sector – technological, regulatory, etc;
- To develop and facilitate the global minor metals trade;

Today's MMTA has grown to around 150 producers, consumers, traders and service companies, such as laboratories, warehouses, banks, legal firms and insurers, who are engaged in the global minor metals industry in all its forms.

It is in response to the role of raising awareness of the importance of minor metals as part of the solution to global challenges that the MMTA supports the Global Compact and is committed to its principles.

The world's population is growing rapidly. Raw material demand is expected to increase 3-fold by 2050. Government and business need to face these challenges head on to ensure a plentiful supply of resources for all. Metals will be central to any strategy to make a sustainable future. Minor metals are used in renewable energy technologies, electric vehicles and other sustainable technologies. These metals are often described by governments as 'strategic' or 'critical' because of their exceptional characteristics. Minor metals are part of the innovative solutions which will ensure a sustainable future. In addition, steel, nickel, aluminium and other base metals also rely on minor metals as alloying elements to give them their mechanical properties, deformability, corrosion resistance and other essential performance characteristics.

Many minor metals already have recycling loops of high economic value. Examples where MMTA Members are leaders in their field include:

- Rhenium and precious metal recovery from spent catalysts
- Tantalum recovery from used capacitors
- Indium metal recovery from ITO and sputtering production waste
- Tungsten recovery from cemented carbide scrap
- Recovery of molybdenum, tungsten and niobium from used sputtering targets
- Recycling of cobalt and titanium-based superalloys

In support of the Global Compact's aims, the MMTA has produced a range of sector specific guidelines on the role of minor metals in addressing key sustainability issues. We encourage members to use these guides as tools to help them identify where they are addressing sustainability issues, to identify and promote best practice, and help members start on (or continue) their sustainability journey.

To assist members in this journey, the MMTA has produced a simple guide to getting started with sustainability reporting, particularly aimed at SMEs. We have also produced a similar guide to Responsible Sourcing reporting, also aimed at those with little experience. These guides follow a step-by-step approach, showing members how they can quantify and track their sustainability journey.

The MMTA takes every opportunity to engage with policy makers and other key stakeholders to demonstrate how the minor metals industry can be a trusted partner and can be part of the solution to the global challenges being grappled with. We take the opportunity to speak to the business community, to policy makers and to the research community, not only to highlight where the minor metals sector is doing good work in the sustainability field, but also to learn how we can do more; and these learnings are then disseminated to members and to the wider minor metals industry through our regular conferences, training events, magazine and website.

We also engage with the next generation of potential scientists by periodically taking on interns to show them how the industry works, as well as encouraging members to speak in their local communities on what the minor metals sector involves, and how it contributes to society. It is easy to simply see the dirty side of metals, without understanding how the world around us could not function without them. We aim to spread knowledge as widely as possible demonstrating how minor metals are an integral part of medical advances, renewable energy and other technologies that surround us.

We advocate the safe management of these metals by ensuring member companies are aware of their regulatory compliance responsibilities in the areas of chemicals management, as well as responsible sourcing. We use our publications, presentations and events to highlight and debate the issues.

Finally, as an association, the MMTA has recently founded a charity – Friends of Mufulira (FOM) – to support a metals town in Zambia. Mufulira grew up because of mining and is sustained by it.

FOM arises out of The Minor Metals Trade Association's wish to publicly recognize the communities in developing countries upon which we all depend for the supply of metals.

Mufulira, on the copperbelt in Zambia, offered itself via the personal links that some members of the MMTA had with this town. Other regions and places could have been chosen, but in Mufulira we were able to build on links already established in the mind of our community and it was also felt that concentrating resources on one place would have the greatest beneficial impact. Mufulira is therefore a symbol for all mining towns that lie at the start of the long supply chain that brings metals out of the ground to start their long journey towards their final and, sometimes astonishing, applications.

In Mufulira the metal with which this town is synonymous, is copper. Discovered by the British in the 1890s, specifically identified in Mufulira in the 1920s, the smelter was commissioned in the early 1930s. The arc of Mufulira's history thus encompasses colonialism and empire at its beginning, Zambian independence and nationalisation of the copper industry after 1964, and privatisation in 2000. In all that period emissions of sulphur from the smelter were not captured until the installation of Glencore's gas collection system launched in 2014. It is fair to say that the links and advocacy of the MMTA based on knowledge, good will and friendships within the Mufulira community, assisted this process. Tribute also needs to be paid to Glencore, the owner of the Mopani mine and smelter complex, for working with the MMTA to bring cleaner air to the people of Mufulira, with all the benefits and improvements to health that pertain.

From this focus and these links have emerged excellent communication between the local community in Mufulira and members of our Association. Our Association magazine, *The Crucible*, has carried many reports and updates over the last 10 years about the MMTA's work in the community to date, and so too has our *Annual Review* seen by all attendees to our conferences. Meantime, our website contains information, and speakers at all our public events also update our members as to what is happening with our charitable link. Each year visits from MMTA members to Mufulira take place which further enhance our ties.

The *Friends of Mufulira* Charity was thus formed to give structure and impetus to the work that was already naturally evolving. By means of the charity we wanted to ensure that charitable monies donated by members would be transparently segregated and managed separately from MMTA funds. Secondly, it assisted us to better define our charitable goals, which are, via objects or actions, to promote the education and health of people in the Mufulira community.

Prior the charity's formation, thanks to the suggestions and hard work of Dr Robin Gleek, some members got together to endow a programme to send two to three NHS trainee doctors on their electives to Ronald Ross General Hospital in Mufulira – as he himself had once done all those years ago. With the bursary offered by the MMTA we have had a wide range of excellent applicants each year whose wish is to experience medicine in a developing country. It is a link from which both sides continue to prosper, and we hope in future years to build on this programme with some reciprocity, so that Zambian doctors or nurses can travel to the UK for study also. Aside from this, links with schools in the region are, thanks to the local Somerset charity *Cary Mufulira Community Partnership Trust* extremely wide, allowing us to received direct information about concerns from the community. In 2017 we were informed of a serious problem caused by an excess of sulphuric acid trucks parked on the public highway near people's home. This resulted in further advocacy from the MMTA to the mine's owners, Glencore, with the result that the company is now building a state-of-the-art dry port stationing trucks far away from local people, thus reducing risks to health from a hazardous material and concomitant crime, disease and prostitution stemming from large numbers of migrant truck drivers idle and waiting for cargoes.

So, in summary, Friends of Mufulira is a charity whose purpose relates directly to the trade with which our members are involved, and which should also inform the way that our members operate in other parts of the world. Our Trustees include the Chairman of the MMTA, as well as other members with an interest in Zambia.

Yours faithfully



Simon Boon,
MMTA Chairman



Maria Cox,
MMTA General Manager