



Ministère des Mines et de la  
Géologie, République de Guinée



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## **Guinea's golden half century of Independence to be celebrated with major mining event**

**Guinea's fiftieth anniversary of independence will be celebrated in October 2008** and will be marked by the organisation of a **major international mining event. Symposium Mines Guinée (SMG 2008)** will take place from **13 – 14 October 2008** at the **Palais du Peuple, Conakry, Republic of Guinea.**

The event will be organised by the **Ministère des Mines et de la Géologie, République de Guinée**, in association with **AME Trade Ltd**, United Kingdom. The event will follow on from a series of successful mining events that the Government of Guinea has been organising on a biannual basis. Previous editions of the event took place in **Conakry (FSM 2004)** and **Dusseldorf (SMG 2006).**

**SMG 2008** will feature two days of intensive conference plenary and technical sessions, including speeches from the key decision makers and stakeholders in the Guinea's mining sector. The **SMG 2008 exhibition** will be held simultaneously alongside the conference, allowing companies to demonstrate and market their products and services.

**SMG 2008's** will focus on Guinea's mining sector and how its abundant natural resources can be used for the **long term integrated development of the country.** The Guinean mining sector is the engine of the country's sustainable economic development strategy, providing over 75% of total export revenues.

**SMG 2008** will take place against the backdrop of a **massive shake up and evolution** of the Guinean mining industry, aimed at developing the country's entire economy. Mining agreements are currently under review, a new mining convention and code are being finalized, large scale mining is ongoing coupled with infrastructure development and mega alumina refinery projects are coming to realization, thereby valorizing Guinea's natural resources. The government is also promoting the use of local companies and workforce in mining projects, to create employment and a skilled Guinean workforce.

SMG 2008 will celebrate **Guinea's golden anniversary of Independence**, the country was the first French African colony to declare independence on **October 2 1958.** By doing this

Guinea played a major role in African history, compelling other countries such as Ghana to follow their example and initiating the concept of Pan-Africanism. **SMG 2008** will mark the achievements Guinea's mining industry has made during the previous half century, and discuss the challenges and goals that lay ahead in the next fifty years.

Guinea is already **one of the most attractive mining destinations in the world**. Large scale mining investments will increase **Guinea's economic growth to 4.5% in 2008** from **1.8% (2007)**. Guinea has the **world's largest bauxite reserve**, the ore which is used to make aluminium, rising global demand for this commodity has seen investors plan large mines and processing plants. It is estimated that by 2015, **\$27 billion will be invested** in Guinea's mega projects.

Guinea has an estimated **9 billion tonnes of iron reserves**, an estimated total reserve of **1000 tons of gold**, potential for **25 million to 30 million carats** of diamonds, estimated reserves of **200,000 tonnes** of limestone, estimated reserves of **185,000 tonnes** of nickel and estimated reserves of **192,000 tonnes** of titanium. Uranium, graphite, gemstones, cobalt, zinc and are all believed to be present in **Guinea's rich mosaic of natural resources**. Guinea's **offshore and onshore hydrocarbon** resources are relatively unexplored, but the potential for discoveries is thought to be encouraging.

**SMG 2008** will be a vital source of the latest information, gathering a diverse range of participants emanating from Guinea and internationally, from both the private sector and public sector, with the result of a stimulating debate, concrete actions, significant business opportunities and will set the outline for the next half century of Guinea's mining industry.

***For further information about press passes & media releases for SMG 2008 contact:***

**AME Trade Ltd**

**Unit 204, Omnibus Business Centre, 39 – 41 North Rd, London, UK, N7 9DP**

**Tel: +44 (0) 207 700 4857**

**Fax: +44 (0) 207 681 3120**

**Email: [smg@ametrade.org](mailto:smg@ametrade.org)**

**Contact: Dan Coberman**

**Media inquiries in Guinea:**

**Ministère des Mines et de la Géologie, République de Guinée**

**Contact: Cécé Noramou, President, SMG 2008 & Conseiller Technique du Ministre**

**Tel: + 224 60 33 00 81**

**Email: [cecenoramou@yahoo.fr](mailto:cecenoramou@yahoo.fr)**

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