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Newsletter PA MICA

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**Edito:**

Cette newsletter a été réalisée par les élèves de 4ème année du Parcours d’Approfondissement Mine & Carrière (PA MICA) à l’Institut Polytechnique LaSalle Beauvais. Dans le cadre de leurs études, chaque élève réalise mensuellement un résumé sur le thème de l’actualité minière. Ainsi, le SEG se propose de faire partager le fruit de leur travail.

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**NEWSLETTER PA MICA**

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**Janvier 2016**

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**Anglo American may fully exit Brazil**

The current economic crisis affects many mining companies, including Anglo American. According to some experts, Anglo American may fully exit Brazil. Indeed, the company puts its $1 billion niobium and phosphate business located in Brazil up for sale. According to some sources, the company also wants to sell its Barro Alto nickel mine as well as the vast Minas-Rio iron core complex. This last mine came into production only last year. The assets sales come as Anglo American undergoes a major restructuring aimed to improve its balance sheet. Anglo American is consolidating its business into three units from the current six. With this restructuration, it will be “a very different company”. Such reorganization includes reducing its total workforce from 135,000 to 50,000 by 2017.

CLEMENT Gaëtan

Reference: **JAMASMIE C.,** 2016. Anglo American may fully exit Brazil [on line]. Available on: <http://www.mining.com/anglo-american-may-fully-exit-brazil-report/>

**Devastation caused by illegal miners in Peru reaches national reserve**

Peru has a great National reserve, The Tambopata Reserve in the region of the Amazon Basin. It is a huge place for unique ecosystems and biodiversity. But, since several years, it is polluted by illegal gold miners, around 30 000 according to an in-depth report by AlJazeera TV, which cut trees, use high pressured water or mercury to extract or dissolve the ores. Because of this, they pollute the land and the water. A recent study show that already 20 000 hectares were already damaged and the number of illegal miners is still increasing.

Peru is just an example because several other countries have similar situations. 20% of Peru’s gold production comes from an unknown origin.

DUVERNOIS Alban

Reference: Jamasmie C., 2016. Devastation caused by illegal miners in Peru reaches national reserve. *In*: Mining.com [on line]. Available on: <http://www.mining.com/devastation-caused-by-illegal-miners-in-peru-reaches-national-reserve/>

**Mining Ready for M&A Revival, Producers Fight for Survival**

Companies are squeezed by the lowest commodity prices in six years. Rio Tinto Group and BHP Billiton Ltd. are among the best placed to grab assets sold by rivals desperate to stem losses or pay down debt. They are financially reasonably strong and the low-cost producers in the sector permit them to consolidate.

The rout in commodity prices, combined with a debt binge in the past decade by mine operators high on surging Chinese appetite for raw materials, means even past titans of the industry are trading at minnow valuations.

Copper will be the biggest focus by far because they all still have the belief that the copper market will be back into deficit within a few years. Still, transactions involving copper producers or mines announced last year slumped to $4.3 billion, from $17 billion a year earlier, making it the slowest year for deals since 2009. The only deal of $1 billion or more was a purchase by Antofagasta Plc of Barrick Gold Corp.’s stake in the Zaldivar mine in Chile.

Part of the problem is that slumping metals prices, along with increased volatility, make it harder to reach agreement on the value of mineral resources and mining operations. Rio Tinto, with the strongest balance sheet in the industry, is in the best position to take advantage of depressed valuations.

MADON Baptiste

Reference: J. RISEBOROUGH, B. FOLEY, A. DE SOUSA, 2016. Mining Ready for M&A Revival, Producers Fight for Survival. *In*: Bloomberg Business [On line]. Last updated date: 11/01/2016. Available on: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-01-11/mining-ready-for-m-a-revival-as-producers-fight-for-survival>

**La vérité de Necotrans sur les tarifs de manutention du terminal vraquier du Port de Dakar**

Le groupe Necotrans est un acteur majeur de la logistique internationale. Implanté dans plus de 40 pays avec 126 sites industriels, la société gère plus de 6000 collaborateur dont 5500 en Afrique. En 2014, Necotrans a connu un fort développement avec de nouveaux investissements en 2014, engagés notamment sur le terminal vraquier de Dakar (Sénégal).

Dans le cadre de ce développement, de nouveaux tarifs de manutention sont entrés en vigueur en janvier 2016 (3645 francs CFA/tonne) et sont le résultat de concertations menées en 2015 avec l’ensemble de la communauté portuaire au sein d’un comité de réflexion placé sous l’égide des autorités sénégalaises.

Contrairement à certaines allégations mensongères, ces nouveaux tarifs ne sont donc en rien une décision unilatérale du groupe Necotrans et de sa filiale sénégalaise TVS, gérante du Port de Dakar.

Le groupe Necotrans/TVS a engagé 74 millions d’euros d’investissements (48,5 milliards de F CFA) pour moderniser le mole 8 du port et le rendre ainsi plus compétitif. Un nouveau quai être construit pour recevoir des navires de fort tonnage (70 000 tonnes) permettant de tripler les volumes traités. Les capacités de manutention (minerais, phosphate, ciment, clinker, attapulgite, charbon...) sont déjà passées du simple au triple atteignant aujourd’hui plus de 20 000 tonnes par jour. Ces efforts de productivité permettent d’économiser plusieurs dizaines de milliers d’euros d’économies en coût d’affrètement. Cette augmentation des cadences constitue donc un gain substantiel et conséquent pour l’ensemble des clients de Necotrans/TVS qui développe son savoir-faire reconnu le service logistique international.

BEQUET Frédéric

Référence: Disponible sur: <http://www.agenceecofin.com/industrie/2701-35413-la-verite-de-necotrans-sur-les-tarifs-de-manutention-du-terminal-vraquier-du-port-de-dakar>

**Rio Tinto Fer et Titane: la fermeture de la mine Tio prolongée jusqu'au 10 avril**

La mine de fer et de titane, localisée au Havre-Saint-Pierre (Québec), exploitée par le géant minier Rio Tinto ne recommencera son activité d’extraction et de transformation qu’en Mars 2016. L’arrêt des activités ayant eu lieu le 17 Octobre 2015 en raison d’une faible demande en titane qui est reliée à la situation économique mondiale difficile qui touche de nombreuses activités.

Plus récemment la date de réouverture du site a été reportée au 10 avril soit deux semaine de plus que la date initialement prévue. Les maintenances prévues ainsi que le nombre d’employés qui y œuvreront ont quant à eux été revus à la baisse. Les maintenances se dérouleront sur quatre semaines au lieu de huit. L’arrêt des activités prévues pour l’été 2016 a été rallongé de deux semaines, passant donc à huit semaines.

HUGUET Julien

Référence: ICIRADIO-CANADA, 2016. Rio Tinto Fer et Titane: la fermeture de la mine Tio prolongée jusqu’au 10 avril. *In*: ICIRADIO-CANADA [en ligne]. Date de consultation: 02/02/2016. Disponible sur: <http://ici.radio-canada.ca/regions/est-quebec/2016/01/25/017-rio-tinto-fer-titane-havre-saint-pierre-fermeture-prolongee.shtml>

**Province-scale commonalities of some world-class gold deposits: Implications for mineral exploration**

This article is treating about the discovered and inventoried metal resources which are declining and look for the reasons of that. It most particularly interest of gold industry. First, this paper is relating the different scales used for gold exploration and explains the needed to use a larger scale in terms of tectonic and temporally stage. Then, it explains the different know gold deposit such as: orogenic gold, Intrusion-related gold (IRGD), Carlin-type gold and Iron-oxide copper-gold (IOCG) and list their main characteristics. After that, it tries to show similitudes and different between these deposits. For example, the link in the tectonic settings compared to the deposit scale. They are then discussing about tectonics of different world known orogenic gold deposit like the Tintina Province (Alaska), the Olympic Dam (Australia) and the Jiaodong (China). Finally, they produced a scenario of risks in mining exploration that involved fewer targets with a lower cost. A more selective district-scale exploration might help the currently declining exploration success rate.

MASSON Karl

References: Groves D., Santosh M., 2015. p rovince-scale commonalities of some world-class gold deposits: Implications for mineral exploration. *Geoscience Frontiers*, volume 6, issue 3. p. 389-399.

**Despite De Beers and Rio's efforts, global diamond output to jump 1.3% this year**

De Beers, which represents >30% of the total diamond production, and Rio Tinto companies are trying to limit global diamond production. However, the production had increase by 1.3% over 2015, due to Russian production, new mines, and production increases by Dominion Diamond Corp and Petra Diamonds. Thus, the value of diamond falls down by 10% over 2015.

De Beers is trying to reduce the diamond upraising coast by limiting its activities. It reduces its production in Botswana, in South Africa, in offshore operations in Namibia, and by suspending its activities in Snap Lake (Canada) and Damtshaa (Botswana). It also sells the South African Kimberly tailing mine in December 2015. It represents a fall in its diamond production of -6.9% since 2015.

Others decrease in production have occurs. Dominion Diamond production has decrease by 11.5% during 2015 due to the pause of their processing plant and the absence of stock. The production of artisanal productions in Zimbabwe has felt from 12M carats in 2012 to 4.5 M carats in 2015. The others artisanal productions have decrease too.

Despite De beers efforts’, the market is still growing down due to concurrence.

ALROSA Company, which has a similar marketshare than De beer, chooses increased production in 2015 by 6%. Consequently, it increases its supply by only selling 78% of its production. The company plan to keep increasing production, if the market remains stable. In Russia, LUKoil starts the Grib mine production in 2014. It has a reserve of 75M carats and production could grow up to 4.5M carats by year. Rio Tinto’s Argyle mine in Australia is the world’s largest diamond mine by production volume. It is extracting over 45% of the world year production. The mine production increased in 2015. It also has left Zimbabwe in 2015, and planed to produce 21M carat in 2016. Petre diamond has also increased its production by 5.3% during 2015. It plans to increase production by 2017.

CEDOU Matthieu

Reference: ZIMNISKY P., 2016. Despite De Beers and Rio's efforts, global diamond output to jump 1.3% this year. *In*: Mining.com [on line]. Available on: <http://www.mining.com/web/dev-randhawa-fission-ceo-talks-failed-denison-merger-chinese-investment-and-uranium-outlook-2016/>

**Platinum to remain in deficit through next six years, council says**

The deficit of platinum totaled 365 000 ounces in 2015 and it an independent consultant at Glaux Metal predicted that it will reach 250 000 ounces a year in 2021. A report from the World Platinum Council said that the platinum market will stay in a shortage in the next six years due to a lack of supply while the demand from car companies and jewelers will be growing. The demand is different from country to country. Indeed, jewelry demand is expected to increase by about 1 % a year, following the increase of Indian purchases, while the growth will be lower in China due to a lower growth of demand.

The prices of platinum have dropped in the past years and there is a risk that producers reduce investments if the prices continue to drop. It would cause a further decrease of output.

The fall of the prices is caused by an ample supply of stockpiled metal and by the slowdown of China’s production. As though platinum has been in annual shortage since 2012, the prices have reached a seven-year low this January. This has strongly impacted some of the biggest platinum-mining companies such as Lonmin. Fortunately, the consultant said that the increase of the metal price should be favored by a split between the supply and the demand side.

KIEFFER Marie

Reference: VAN DER WALT E., 2016. Platinum to remain in deficit through next six years, council says. *In*: Mineweb [on line]. Available on: <http://www.mineweb.com/news/platinum-group-metals/platinum-to-remain-in-deficit-through-next-six-years-council-says/>

**La production mondiale d’acier a baissé en 2015, après cinq ans de hausse**

La production mondiale d'acier (1 622,8 millions de tonnes) est en baisse pour la première fois (-2,8 %) après cinq années de hausse exceptée pour l’Océanie. Même si la croissance chinoise est de 6,9 % en 2015, il s’agit du plus faible chiffre depuis 25 ans. La Chine reste le leader sur le marché de l’acier en terme de producteur mais aussi de consommateur. Ce recul est dû au fait que le PIB de la Chine est en baisse lui aussi.

LEFEBVRE Victoria

Référence: DELAMARCHE M.,, 2016. La production mondiale d’acier a baissé en 2015, après cinq ans de hausse. *In*: L’Usine Nouvelle [en ligne]. Disponible sur: <http://www.usinenouvelle.com/article/la-production-mondiale-d-acier-a-baisse-en-2015-apres-cinq-ans-de-hausse.N375485>