

# **Australian National Report for the 38th ISM Presidium Meeting in Sun City, RSA**

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This report presents the activities and achievements of two Australian professional mine surveying organisations, e.g. Australian Institute of Mine Surveyors (AIMS) and the Mining and Engineering Commission of the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI). It covers the last twelve months (July 2009 – June 2010).

The Australian Institute of Mine Surveyors (AIMS) is an organisation with members located mainly in the Eastern states (Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria) of Australia.

Engineering and Mine Surveying Commission of the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI) continues traditions of the IEMSA (Institute of Engineering and Mine Surveying Australia) with members located mainly in Western Australia.

There were many achievements in the last 12 months, particularly:

1. An outstanding joint AIMS/SSSI Australian Mine Surveying Convention was held in Perth (12-14 Aug 2009), seeing our largest contingent ever brought together.
2. AIMS initiated talks between the governing survey bodies from WA, NSW and QLD. The AIMS Executive and invited members, including representatives from WA, reviewed and regenerated a business plan for the next 2 years. The planning session was conducted in house and held in Brisbane covering many areas of AIMS' management, member services and future dealings. A plan was developed regarding AIMS direction and goals for the coming years.
3. Discussions were also conducted with SSSI regarding future dealings and representation of Australian mine surveying profession nationally and internationally. During these meetings discussions were held regarding AIMS becoming the Mine Surveying representative for SSSI in Western Australia, initially, and then all of Australia. This would be controlled under an agreement between AIMS and SSSI in terms of a Memorandum of Understanding. This understanding would see AIMS control and administer the Mining and Engineering Commission of SSSI under our current organisation structure and policies. The MOU is currently with the SSSI Board for their consideration. The agreement between AIMS and SSSI should ensure that mine surveyors would have, as an industry, a common voice to government bodies, educational institutions and associations alike.
4. Many regional professional seminars were held. Two (2) were held in Queensland, one (1) in Victoria, five (5) in New South Wales and two (2) in Western Australia. These were all well attended and from all reports were well received.

5. The first AIMS University Scholarship was established and awarded. The scholarship is worth \$2500 per semester. The presentation was conducted at the awards evening held at the University of Southern Queensland in March. Patrick Metcalfe, the winner of scholarship, obtained high academic results at secondary school and has since progressed well during his studies at university.
6. TAFE Work Based Training Mine Surveying Program, first delivered in 2008, is continued in 2009 and 2010 and provides technical education to remotely located students based in Newman & Kalgoorlie, Western Australia. The program is designed for mine surveying students who are working full or part time. They are able to complete Cert 4 right through to an Advanced Diploma in Mine Surveying.

Over the last 12 months the WA Engineering and Mine Surveying Commission of SSSI was engaged in many activities, namely:

1. Actively contributed to the 2009 Kenner Review of the WA Mine Safety and Inspection Act 1994, providing at least four recommendations related to the mine surveying activities.
2. Continually was engaged and communicated with all Key WA mine surveying stakeholder groups:
  - a. WA mine surveyors
  - b. Surveying & Spatial Sciences Institute
  - c. Australian Institute of Mine Surveyors
  - d. Department of Mines and Petroleum - WA Mine Survey Board
  - e. Curtin University Surveying Programs
  - f. Central TAFE Surveying Programs
  - g. Survey equipment, software & service suppliers
  - h. WA mining companies
3. Delivered a number of workshops, seminars & networking opportunities to WA mine surveyors.
4. Assisted with the formation of KEMSIG (Kalgoorlie Engineering & Mine Surveying Interest Group).
5. Continued to work in partnership with the WA Mines Survey Board to address the following WA legal and professional mine surveying issues:
  - a. Lack of reciprocation of the WA Mine Surveying Certificate of Competency (Grade 1 & 2 Authorization) by NSW & QLD – positive progress is slowly being made on this issue,
  - b. Implementation of a compulsory oral exam for WA authorization candidates – it was made compulsory in March 2010,
  - c. Possibility of CPD / Annual registration requirements for WA mine surveyors – the Mines Survey Board has invited comment from all stakeholders before the issue will be progressed further.

It can be seen that over the last twelve months, there were a number of significant activities on the Australian mine-surveying scene. The active collaboration between AIMS and SSSI has a chance to lead successfully to single representation of Australian mine surveying professionals nationally and internationally.