

AusIMM New Leaders' Conference 2014
12 – 13 August, Perth, Western Australia
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The AUSIMM New Leader's Conference was an amazing three-day experience in Perth. The first two days of the conference were held at Pan Pacific Hotel in Perth, followed by a field trip and mining games. The first two days of the conference gave the opportunity to attend a variety of presentations ranging from safety, leadership, and technical developments in the field as well as professional development.

Among the presentations were also mining companies' managing directors who gave very interesting accounts of the industry and their company's growth amidst the various challenges encountered. There were research presentations relating to the development of new techniques and applications for the industry. In particular, Simon Assmann presentation on the development of Electrostatic solvent extraction applications was particularly interesting and intriguing. Then, there were also presentations by practicing professionals from the industry, which gave exposure to their role and work involvement.

There was also a focus on the current downturn in the mining industry and as such, presentations also focused on this aspect. The underlying message among these presentations was on the long-term future and sustainability of the industry, and the various opportunities for graduates and students awaiting us. In addition, the presentations also focused on the development of skills and application necessary for successful entry into the mining industry. There were many opportunities in breaks throughout both the days to network and meet with new people. Furthermore, the networking night was an excellent opportunity and atmosphere to mingle with other students and graduates, ranging from mining engineers, geologists to mechanical

engineers. It was a wonderful and enjoyable evening where I interacted with both students and professionals from the industry alike.

Following the first two day of the conference, I had the opportunity to visit a coal mine, operated by Premier Coal, in Collie, which is about three hours of drive south of Perth. The mine tour was very enlightening and various aspects related to mining operations were discussed from safety to geological modeling to the delivery of the commodity to customer. This was followed by mining games, which involved a range of activities from gold panning and rock identification to air-leg drill. There were a variety of exciting and challenging games. Although I was not officially participating in the games, it was an opportunity to observe and be part of an exciting and vibrant environment as well as an opportunity to spend more time with students I had met at the conference.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the New Zealand branch of AusIMM for their sponsorship. In particular, I would like to thank Vivienne for all the co-ordination and organisation related to my attendance for the conference. Without the help and support from AusIMM, I would not have been able to attend the conference and forge new contacts, relationships and advice pertaining to professional development. My attendance of the conference has certainly exposed me to new skills, knowledge and experience, which will prove very valuable for future growth and serve as a strong foundation to build my professional development in the industry.



