

*Short supply and high demand of Mining and Minerals
Engineers over the next year worries the Industry.*



FEMP, the Federation of European Mining and Mineral Education Programs held their fifth annual meeting at Corus Steelworks on December 9 to 11, 2004

At the constitutional meeting the main theme was the results of studies carried out in Europe, Australia and the United States. These studies indicate that there will be a severe imbalance between supply and demand of mining and mineral engineers over the next 10 years. This is partly caused by decreased student enrolment and the number of programs which are closing worldwide. Also the retirement of a relatively large number of engineers in their fifties and sixties contributes to the expected shortage.

The industry is welcoming organisations which include the major universities and the industry like FEMP in Europe and MTEC in Australia.



Apart from the meeting the program included a workshop hosted and organised by Corus called: “Merges and Take-overs”. The workshop focussed on various aspects of this subject. The participants were divided into 10 groups to discuss and work out various statements. This was followed by a number of presentations and a discussion by the participants.



The programme also included social events such as the reunion dinner at the hostel “castle Assumburg” in Heemskerck. On Saturday a visit to the beach in Wijk aan Zee and a teambuilding activity with subsequent BBQ took place in Bergschenhoek at Outdoor Valley.

50 students of the three European Programs and 30 alumni as well as 30 representatives from industry and the participating universities attended the program. The record high number of participants came from 12 countries in Europe, South-and North America.



This unique international program for students of mining, mineral and geotechnical engineering in Europe is organised by the Technical Universities of Aachen, Berlin and Freiberg (Germany), Delft (the Netherlands), Helsinki (Finland), Camborne (England), Wroclaw (Poland), Kosice (Slovakia) and Miskolc (Hungary).

Students of the participating universities form groups during an eight months period. Each group of 15-20 students stays two months in 4-5 universities to follow courses (in the English language) in either mining (European Mining Course: EMC) or mineral engineering (European Mineral Engineering Course: EMEC) or geotechnical engineering (European Geotechnical and Environmental Course: EGEC). The programs also include exchange students from Canada, USA, Australia, Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Poland, Estonia, Slovakia and Spain.

Industry supports this unique initiative and provides annually some 150,000 Euros to support the students participating in the programs and the organisation of FEMP.

Current members of FEMP are: AKZO, Anglo American Plc., Arctic Platinum Partnership, Barrick Gold Corporation, Boart Longyear, BHP-Billiton, Caterpillar, Corus, Euromines, Falconbridge, Hornonitrianske Bane Priedviza, IHC, Kali Und Salz, KGHM, Minera Alumbrera, Outokumpu, Pechiney, RAG, Resource Capital Funds, RWE Power, Rio Tinto, Tamrock, Umicore, Walter Beckers Wirtschaftstvereinigung Bergbau, Xstrata and Zinifex



Since 1996 some 270 students have completed the programs and work in all parts of the world. They form a valuable world-wide network, which keeps in touch with the industrial members of FEMP.