

## APEC Expert Group on Mineral and Energy Exploration and Development

In 1995, the forum for Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) established an Expert Group on Mineral and Energy Exploration and Development (GEMEED) to discuss mining and energy exploration, as well as development issues in the Asia–Pacific region. It also coordinates and promotes discussion of mineral-related issues within other APEC committees and working groups. Recently, GEMEED has included a specific focus on the sustainable development of minerals and metals.

## Mines Ministries of the Americas

Since 1996, mines ministers and senior officials from countries in the Americas and the Caribbean have been meeting annually to renew their commitment to the principles of sustainable development and to discuss ways of implementing Agenda 21. The network is known as the Mines Ministries of the Americas, or by the Spanish acronym CAMMA. Member countries have also participated in Pan-American workshops on the Safe Use Principle and on occupational safety and health in the mining industry. Recommendations from both of these workshops have been incorporated into the ministers' declarations from their annual conferences.

## International Study Groups

Three international study groups on lead and zinc, nickel, and copper provide an opportunity for information exchange among countries that produce and consume these commodities.

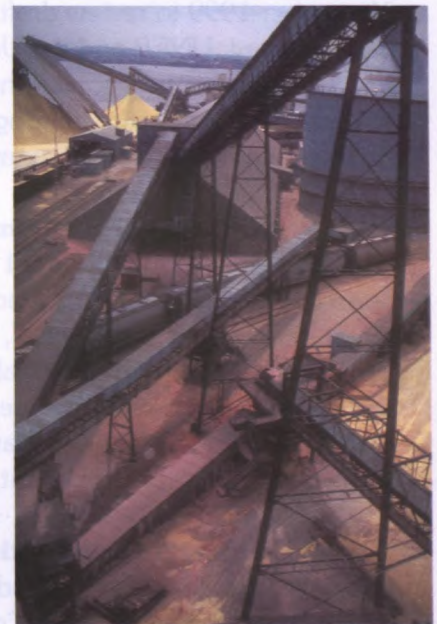
In December 1999, the study groups held a joint workshop on the sustainable development of nonferrous metals at which participants from 25 countries, international organizations, industry, and nongovernmental organizations recognized the contribution of non-ferrous metals to society and agreed to address challenges to the responsible production, use, re-use, and recycling of metals within the context of sustainable development. Five themes were identified for future action: partnerships, responsible management, good governance, information, and communication.

## World Mines Ministries Forum

In March 2000, Canada hosted the first-ever gathering of representatives from mining ministries around the world. The World

### CAMMA

*Strengthening CAMMA's network across the hemisphere and accelerating the diffusion of minerals and metals sustainable development policies and technologies was the objective behind the establishment of a CAMMA Web site (<http://www.camma.org>). The site is intended to facilitate the exchange of information and best practices on sustainable development and the safe use of minerals and metals. It also provides links to government ministries responsible for mining in North, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean.*



*Photo courtesy of the Natural Resources Canada photo library.*