

## 22nd International Conference on Paste, Thickened and Filtered Tailings Report May 2019, Cape Town, South Africa

The 22nd International Conference on Paste and Thickened Tailings (Paste 2019) was held 8 – 10 May 2019, at The Westin Hotel in Cape Town, South Africa.

The conference was attended by close to 270 delegates and hosted by Paterson & Cooke South Africa, with Collaborating Organisation – The University of Cape Town. The Founding Body is the Australian Centre for Geomechanics. Paste 2019 was a fantastic forum for industry professionals to discuss and share ideas, outcomes and best practice, as well as enjoy beautiful Cape Town; the Mother city of South Africa.

Prior to the conference, on Monday 6 May, the Mine Backfill – Design and Operation Course was held and facilitated by Dr Angus Paterson, managing director, Paterson & Cooke, South Africa. The course detailed the fundamental concepts of geomechanics and material properties that underpin decision-making when developing a backfill design. It was attended by 54 delegates.

On Tuesday 7 May, the Is the Future Filtered? Paste and Thickened Tailings Short Course

was facilitated by Professor Andy Fourie, The University of Western Australia. Following on from Paste 2018, Perth, this was the second time the workshop was held, attracting over 104 attendees. Presenters were well-respected leaders in their field: Christophe Bellot, Weir Minerals B.V.; Rob Brown, Paterson & Cooke, Canada; Amol Chinchankar, Alfa Laval Lund AB; Andrew Copeland, Knight Piésold Consulting (Pty) Ltd; Colleen Crystal, SRK Consulting, Canada; Andrea Grosso, Aqseptence Group S.r.l.; Scott O'Brien, McLanahan Corporation; Dr David Reid, The University of Western Australia; Bryan Ulrich, Stantec Consulting Services Inc.; Wilfried Wimmeler, Innovative Filtration Solutions Pty Ltd; and Todd Wisdom, FLSmidth.

Over the three days of the Paste 2019 Conference, 47 presentations were made. The presentations covered topics in the paste, thickened and filtered tailings arena including surface disposal, dewatering technologies, mine backfill, closure, legacy issues, transportation and rheology.

The keynote speaker on day one was David Corriveau from Canada's Oil Sands Innovation,

speaking on 'Canada's Oil Sands Innovation Alliance: leading innovation in oil sands tailings'. Day two brought with it a historical and seminal keynote presentation from Kelvin Legge of the Department of Water and Sanitation, who spoke on 'An economy and ecosystem symbiosis: barrier systems for water conservation and pollution control'. This was followed by a second keynote by Dr Caius Priscu who presented "Tailings dam safety: going beyond technical". The final keynote speaker on day three was Mariette Liefferink from the Federation for a Sustainable Environment whose thought-provoking and topical presentation was on 'Selected extracts from South Africa's environmental legislation: challenges with the management of gold tailings within the Witwatersrand gold fields and case studies'. All of the keynote speakers gave excellent presentations which set the bar high for each day of the conference.

The conference was generously supported by the highly valued sponsors and exhibitors. The event organisers extend warm thanks to all of the delegates, presenters, sponsors and exhibitors who contributed to making Paste 2019 a success.

### Paste 2020

The 23rd International Conference on Paste and Thickened Tailings will be held in Santiago, Chile, with abstracts due 21st October 2019. <http://paste2020.com/>

### Proceedings

All of the papers from the Paste 2019 Conference are openly accessible on the ACG's Online Repository, with thanks to the open access sponsors: FELUWA Pumpen GmbH, MHWirth GmbH, and Chemquest Africa (Pty) Ltd. The number of papers available has grown considerably, and continues to grow with each paste conference.