

EX4DEV18 MINING WORKSHOP DEMONSTRATES THE IMPORTANCE OF COLLABORATION AND USE OF DATA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

12th November 2018

James McQuilken, [@J_McQuilken](#)

A photography competition may seem trivial, but one of the most effective ways to challenge false perspectives of women working in mining is to show them actively engaged onsite and in a variety of roles.

This was the message of Deborah Craig, a Board Director of [International Women in Mining](#) when she highlighted the organisations' recent outreach and mentorship work as well as the need for data disaggregated by gender during Ex4Dev18 last week. Designed to foster relationships between academia and industry and identify practical steps to harness the extractive industries for socio-economic development in sub-Saharan Africa, Ex4Dev is an annual interdisciplinary workshop implemented by a volunteer team of PhD researchers.

InternationalWiM
@IntWIMCommunity

Data shows just \$10 increase in women's income helps keeps children out of
#artisanalmining @A_Gatsinzi #Ex4Dev18

EX4DEV18 EMPOWERING WOMEN IN MINING IN SUBSAHARAN AFRICA

Co-organiser of Ex4Dev18 and PhD Researcher of child labour in ASM Angelique Gatsinzi (left), and Board Director of International Women in Mining Deborah Craig (right) spoke on panel 1 about women's empowerment and gender challenges in mining.

This year, Ex4Dev returned to Surrey Business School, University of Surrey and with a smaller group of 20 or so key persons it had a more informal tone than in previous years; an advantage that provided an open and safe space for energetic and in-depth discussions.

Tied together by the theme of '*challenging false perspectives in mining*' the [programme](#) comprised three panels focused on 1) empowering women in the sector; 2) formalising artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) and; 3) exploring the role of exploration and junior companies in development, all interspersed with ample time for networking. A resounding message of the day was that data is key to understanding, awareness raising, and change-making.

Panel 2 saw Dylan McFarlane, Senior Programme Officer of Pact's Mines to Markets signature program, invite participants to collaborate on [Delve](#) – a joint World Bank initiative to develop a global online data platform and knowledge hub for ASM.

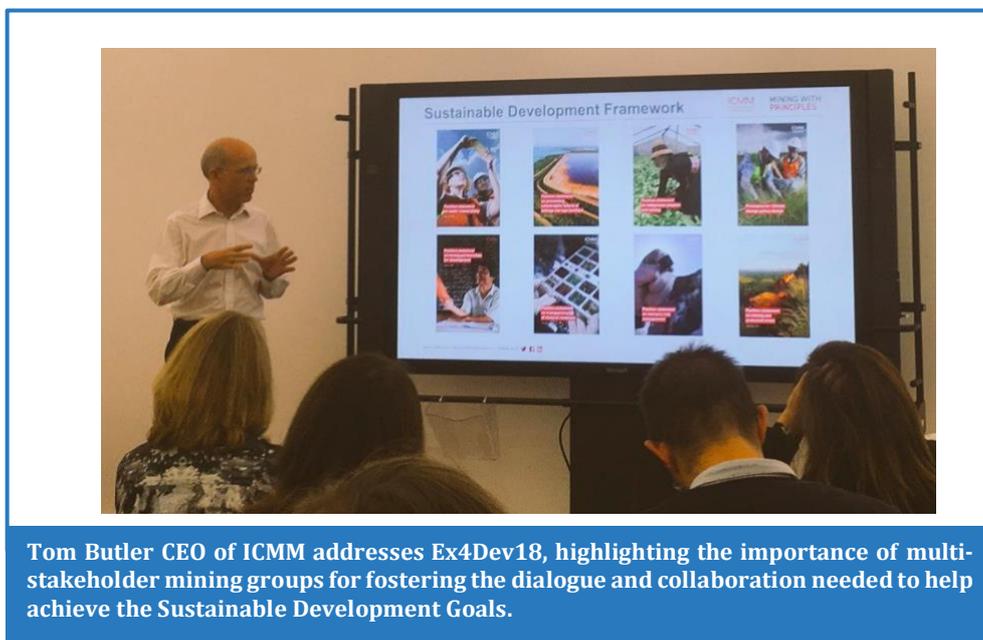
Set to release its first annual State of the ASM Sector report in December this year, Delve aims to plug the ASM 'data gap' and demonstrate the importance of the sector to development.

This will be done through a collaborative effort, by seeking voluntary contributions of data and support from a wide range of stakeholders and experts, such as those found in the room. One potential avenue for cooperation was highlighted by panellist and PhD researcher Martin Gunther, who is using remote sensing and machine learning to map livelihood and economic impacts of ASM communities in Ghana.

Next, during panel 3, which was expertly chaired by Lecturer Dr Abigail Hilson, participants heard from Dr Gokce Mete and Sophia Antoniou about how the [Extractives Hub](#) is supporting good governance through its online information and technical support resource. While case studies from Sarah Caven and Roy Pitchford provided real-life examples of where exploration and junior mining companies have been able to have a positive development impact through time and energy spent understanding, engaging, and working alongside local communities to create shared value.

Rounding up Ex4Dev18, Tom Butler, CEO of International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM), reminded participants that all stakeholder perspectives should be considered valid.

He highlighted the importance of working together to contribute positively to sustainable development, and shared research that showed there will be an increasing demand for key metals over the coming decades in order to build the wind turbines, solar panels, and electric vehicles needed to reduce fossil fuel emissions and help combat climate change.



Tom also discussed how ICMM has been using a range of data sources to develop its newly released Mining Contribution Index, which quantifies the significance of the sector to national economies. This promoted discussion as to whether a similar index could be created through Delve to demonstrate the importance of ASM and catapult it further up the policy agenda.

The enthusiasm and positive feedback from participants for the third year running, once again underlined the need for intimate workshops such as Ex4Dev18 that facilitate collaboration and allow time for in-depth discussions and networking. It is only by working together that the false perspectives around the sector can be challenged, greater understanding and insight attained, and that mining *can* be harnessed for sustainable development in sub-Saharan Africa.



The organising committee would like to thank Surrey Business School for the grant provided to fund the workshop, as well as all speakers and participants. For more information visit: <https://ex4dev.com/>