



A journal of mineral policy, business and environ- ment

Ten volumes of *Raw Materials Report* have been published by the Raw Materials Group of Stockholm, Sweden. The Centre for Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy at the University of Dundee, Scotland has now joined Raw Materials Group as joint publishers of the Journal. The new joint publishers have taken this opportunity to retitle the Journal as *Raw Materials Report - Journal of Mineral Policy, Business and Environment*.

The new title is intended to reflect the wider concerns of the publishers in issues which are of contemporary interest to the world raw materials supply. A central aim of the Journal will continue to be the reporting on important policy issues and developments affecting all stakeholders in the world minerals industries. The Journal will attempt to reflect and comment on the interests of consumers and suppliers, transnational mining companies and host governments, industry and trade unions, government and society at large. The editors will be assisted through a newly appointed and substantially enlarged Editorial Board, which reflects the international focus of the Journal.

The world raw materials industry is continuing to undergo significant change, which requires close commentary and investigation.

- First, the world raw materials industry is affected by the more general developments in world economy including at present most importantly the economic transformation of the formerly centrally planned economies, the move towards privatisation in other countries and the new role of the transnational companies and host governments.

- Second, changes are taking place in world commodity markets with the greater involvement of financial institutions and with the development and use of new financial instruments for commodity trade.

- Third, there is a greater social awareness of the political, economic, social and environmental impacts of raw materials production and consumption which has been manifested through the widespread concern with the environment and most clearly and consequently addressed through the notion of sustainability.

These shifts are in turn fostering changes in the way which the raw materials industry is managed and organised. New arrangements are sought for international commodity trade off commodity exchanges as well as on them. The

changes are exacerbated by the by current developments in the structure, organisation and regulation of the global economy. Many of these new, inter disciplinary issues and their inter-connections have been neglected in existing journals. We intend that they will be addressed through the new *Raw Materials Report - Journal of Mineral Policy, Business and Environment*.

To reflect clearly our commitment to these new areas, whilst retaining our concerns for the areas traditionally covered in the Journal, it has been retitled. The focus will continue to be on non-renewable, non-energy minerals, although there will be occasions when we would wish to examine issues encompassing a wider spectrum of raw materials than only minerals.

It is the intention of the editors to produce an objective Journal, which carries refereed papers written by academics, industrialist and policy makers from both international organisations and national governments. Papers will be chosen on the basis of the quality of their ideas and the interest of their subject matter.

We continue the regular publication of abstracts from *Raw Materials Data* to high light the changing structure of the world's mineral industries. Further we will publish documents of importance to mining sector and present leading mineral research institutes in the developing countries.

In addition we will experiment with a number of new features in the Journal. Readers are encouraged to correspond with the editors (or members of the Editorial Board) concerning features they would like included in the Journal. In particular, we see the Journal as a vehicle to report on debates and commentary on mineral issues, which are not normally published. There are a large number of meetings of international organisations, academic conferences and industrial seminars which discuss matters affecting the world raw materials supply and which we believe deserve a wider audi-

ence. By reporting these events an important role for the Journal will be the promotion of dialogue and understanding between different stake holders and interest groups.

We will try to find a new format for our book reviews in order to publish quickly basic information about new publications and to avoid the lengthy delays which are inherent in traditional reviews. We plan to give a brief description and possibly some quality remarks and include full details of how to obtain all publications that we receive news about.

The international focus of the Journal will be reinforced through a new series of regional and/or national reports which will attempt to keep readers abreast of issues arising in particular localities but of concern to an international audience. Our extended network of international contributors will play a most important part in ensuring a flow of high quality national and regional reports.

It will be apparent that the Editors intend that the relaunched Journal shall retain the best features of Raw Material Report but through exploiting the varied expertise of the new Editorial Board intend to broaden the subject matter of the content to reflect the extended title of Journal of Mineral Policy, Business and Environment. We hope that our old readers together with many new readers will be informed through the Journal of the most important developments affecting the global raw materials industries. ■

