



# **Society of Mining Professors Societät der Bergbaukunde**

## **“Roadmap for the Future”**

Updated in December 2024

### **Background**

The constitution of the Society defines our objectives as follows (Constitution Article 3):

The Society of Mining Professors/Societät der Bergbaukunde (hereinafter referred to as “the Society”) is intended to be a vibrant global Society, representing the mining and minerals academics. The purpose of the Society is to promote the responsible practice of mining, and to facilitate knowledge exchange, research and teaching collaboration among its members and with other stakeholders.

### **Vision**

The vision of the Society is to be the leading international society for mining and minerals academics, recognised for its commitment to advancing knowledge, fostering global collaboration, and ensuring excellence in education and research with relevance and impact for the global mining sector contributing to a responsible minerals supply.

### **Mission**

The mission of the Society is to contribute towards responsible minerals supply for society through:

- exchanging innovative experience in teaching and learning practice,
- actively developing and supporting the mining engineering and minerals related disciplines,
- development of long-term professional relationships,
- fostering professional career development and mentoring,
- engaging in social awareness activities on the importance of responsible mineral supply,
- sharing research experiences, capabilities and innovative approaches and solutions, and
- providing timely, authoritative and independent expertise on critical issues.

More specific functions and objectives are:



- ensuring the sustainability of high-quality university-based education in disciplines relevant to the provision of mineral resources,
- ensuring continued advancement of the scientific and engineering knowledge and processes in the areas of relevance to the provision of mineral resources,
- establishing a network of academics involved in pursuing our vision and achieving our mission,
- enhancing the social awareness and perception of the minerals-producing industries by promoting the development of educational curriculum, training activities and fostering pride in the disciplines,
- establishing and sustaining collaborations with key stakeholders of the global minerals industry and other relevant organisations,
- promoting the development of early career academics and researchers through establishing mentorship programs, encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration and international exchanges, and introducing awards, and
- promoting collaboration in educational and research programs.

## **SOMP's Strategic Roadmap for the Future [2025-2030]**

SOMP aims to evolve into an active global Society, championing the responsible practice of mining, minerals engineering and relevant disciplines. SOMP's future is rooted in adaptability and growth, ensuring its standing as an active and influential international network of mining and minerals academics. We have already established a truly international representation, encompassing nearly all regions of the world. However, we recognise that we have been operating in isolation from other groups and organisations. To create a considerable impact on both society and industry, we must integrate more collaboratively and form strategic alliances that leverage our collective knowledge and drive meaningful progress.

The SOMP aspires to evolve into a dynamic global society, championing the responsible practice of mining, minerals engineering and relevant disciplines. Our future vision encompasses a commitment to advancing knowledge, fostering collaboration, and ensuring excellence in education. SOMP will conduct this through the following future initiatives:

The vision of the Society is to be the leading international society for mining and minerals academics, recognised for commitment to advancing knowledge, fostering global collaboration, and ensuring excellence in education and research with relevance and impact for the global mining sector contributing to a responsible minerals supply.

1. Thought Leadership: Maintain and expand our relevance and purpose by actively contributing to capacity building and shaping strategic global initiatives. This also



includes the establishment of collaboration with relevant international bodies.(Responsibility: Council)

2. Sharing Research Experiences and Activities: Continue developing activities that supports research exchange through sharing experiences, capabilities and innovative approaches and solutions (Responsibility: Research, development & Industry Committee [RDI])
3. Activities for Knowledge Gaining and Sharing: Collecting global educational and research data and organising outreach activities. (Responsibility: Education Committee [E])
4. Advancing Social Awareness and Perception: Enhance the social awareness and perception of minerals industries by fostering pride in the disciplines and promoting the development of educational courses and training activities. (Responsibility: Mining and Minerals Program Sustainability Committee [MMPS])
5. Promoting Mentorship and Collaboration: Improve the exchange of early-career academics and research students by implementing mentorship programs, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, encouraging international exchanges, and introducing awards. (Responsibility: Members Development Committee [MD])
6. Outreach Activities for Global Impact: Foster activities to address challenges and promote participation of low and middle-income countries, as part of our commitment to global responsibility. (Responsibility: Capacity Building Committee [CB])
7. Ensuring Delivery of High Quality Mineral Education Programs: Continue updating the curriculum to include new technologies and practices for the mine of the future. (E)

SOMP's future is rooted in adaptability and growth, ensuring its standing as an active and influential international network of mining and minerals academics. Our future vision encompasses a commitment to advancing knowledge, fostering global collaboration, and ensuring excellence in education and research.

The following actions are recommended:

**Thought Leadership: Maintain and expand our relevance and purpose by actively contributing to capacity building and shaping strategic global initiatives. (Responsibility: Council)**

|     | Action                                  | Responsibility   | Description                                                                                                       |
|-----|-----------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.1 | <b>Maintaining effective governance</b> | <i>Council</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review SOMP governance as part of the annual council meeting</li> </ul>  |
| 1.2 | <b>Annual General Meetings</b>          | <i>President</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Organise the meeting and encourage membership to participate.</li> </ul> |



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| 1.3 | <b>Develop new strategic partnerships</b>                        | <i>Council</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify potential strategic partnership opportunities</li> <li>▪ Take appropriate actions to establish these relationships</li> <li>▪ Communicate internally and externally</li> </ul>                                                                                   |
| 1.4 | <b>Maintaining and advancing existing strategic partnerships</b> | <i>Council</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Communicate effectively with the existing partners</li> <li>▪ Enhance the activities through further collaborations</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                            |
| 1.5 | <b>Develop 'White Papers' on Critical Global Issues</b>          | <i>Council</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify the needs and challenges</li> <li>▪ Identify champions and delegate the task</li> <li>▪ Develop an internal review process</li> <li>▪ Communicate internally and externally</li> </ul>                                                                           |
| 1.6 | <b>Establishing New Awards</b>                                   | <i>Council</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify new awards such as PhD student Travel Scholarships to attend SOMP events (travel cost and registration fee waiver; Best Research or Education Initiative in Low-to-Medium (LM) Countries Award; Best Collaboration Award; Early Career Academic Award</li> </ul> |

**Sharing Research Experiences and Activities: Continue developing activities that supports research exchange through sharing experiences, capabilities and innovative approaches and solutions (Responsibility: RDI)**

|  | <b>Action</b> | <b>Responsibility</b> | <b>Description</b> |
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| 2.1 | Update the Mines of The Future (Version 2.0) | <i>RDI</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review the Version 1</li> <li>▪ Identify areas missing</li> <li>▪ Develop white paper(s) relevant to Mines of the Future</li> <li>▪ Publish the content in SOMP website and industry magazines</li> </ul> |
| 2.2 | Foster collaborative research projects       | <i>RDI</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify and report the regional funding opportunities</li> <li>▪ Mapping of research areas and capabilities</li> <li>▪ Develop strategies and activities to support research collaboration.</li> </ul>   |
| 2.3 | Promoting early career researchers           | <i>RDI</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify the high performing early career researchers</li> <li>▪ Conduct interviews for newspapers or other media</li> </ul>                                                                              |
| 2.4 | Supporting staff exchange                    | <i>RDI</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify existing examples</li> <li>▪ Promote best practices in newsletters</li> </ul>                                                                                                                    |

### Activities for Knowledge Gaining and Sharing: Collecting global educational and research data and organising outreach activities. (EC)

|     | Action                                 | Responsibility | Description                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----|----------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.1 | Provide annual global educational data | <i>E</i>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Collect enrolment numbers (bachelor, master and PhD levels)</li> <li>▪ Collect demographical of the academics (ages, gender identity, ...)</li> </ul> |



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|     |                                                                                                   |                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct analysis on educational and faculty/staff data</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 3.2 | Develop an interactive world map of mining programs                                               | <i>EC in collaboration with MMPS</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and report the regional funding opportunities</li> <li>Mapping of research areas and capabilities</li> <li>Develop strategies and activities to support research collaboration.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                             |
| 3.3 | Develop and exchange ideas on graduate attributes/competence profiles for future mining workforce | <i>EC</i>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect data on graduate attributes from all programs and</li> <li>Explore and analyse the differences</li> <li>Recommend for future graduate attributes/competence profiles</li> <li>Drive digital exchange (e.g. webinars) and offer a space for exchange and discussion to address the identified emerging topics</li> </ul> |
| 3.4 | Develop an interactive world map of global research data                                          | <i>RDI</i>                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect enrolment numbers (bachelor, master and PhD levels)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

**Advancing Social Awareness and Perception: Enhance the social awareness and perception of minerals industries by fostering pride in the disciplines and promoting the development of educational courses and training activities. (Responsibility: MMPS)**

|     | Action                                                               | Responsibility | Description                                                                                           |
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| 4.1 | Develop a roadmap for sustainability of mining and minerals programs | <i>MMPS</i>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify major challenges to the mining engineering</li> </ul> |



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|     |                                                                                  |             | <p>programs (regional and global)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supporting multi-stakeholder dialogue toward solutions</li> </ul>                                                                                                                       |
| 4.2 | <b>Support promotion of mining/minerals education programs</b>                   | <i>MMPS</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify the stakeholders and target groups</li> <li>▪ Identify existing resources and gaps that need to be filled by universities, industry, government, etc.</li> <li>▪ Share best practices across SOMP network</li> </ul> |
| 4.3 | <b>Evaluate SOMP's online presence and make recommendations for improvements</b> | <i>MMPS</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assess SOMP website from a communications perspective and using small focus groups</li> <li>▪ Create an action plan for updating the online presence, and increasing SM effectiveness to reach a broader audience</li> </ul>  |

**Promoting Mentorship and Collaboration: Improve the exchange of early-career academics and research students by implementing mentorship programs, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, encouraging international exchanges, and introducing awards.**

**(Responsibility: MD)**

|     | <b>Action</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Responsibility</b> | <b>Description</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| 5.1 | <p>Develop and Establish the Network for Early Career Academics (NECA)</p> <p>This new network aims to:</p> <p>(1) Provide guidance to ECAs in strategically navigating their career paths, setting informed goals, and enhancing their</p> | <i>MD</i>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Define the ECA</li> <li>▪ Defining the objectives of the NECA</li> <li>▪ Develop structure and governance</li> <li>▪ Organize activities, such as mentorship programs and</li> </ul> |



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|            | <p>competencies in research, teaching, and service;</p> <p>(2) Create opportunities for ECAs to connect and share insights within their specific fields and the broader academic community, such as through collaboration with RDI Action 2.3;</p> <p>(3) Promote mentorship, interdisciplinary collaboration, international exchanges with focus on Junior Members to enhance their experience and the introduction of awards to boost ECA development.;</p> <p>(4) Bridge the gap between the wider SOMP collective and the ECA cohort, serving as the collective voice for ECAs in SOMP.</p> |           | <p>awards, to achieve the objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify gaps and develop solutions as the activities progress.</li> </ul> |
| <b>5.2</b> | <b>Continue Running the Mentorship Program</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <i>MD</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review the existing program and update if necessary</li> </ul>                                                      |

**Outreach Activities for Global Impact: Foster activities to address challenges, promote participation of low and middle-income countries, as part of our commitment to global responsibility. (Responsibility: CB)**

|            | <b>Action</b>            | <b>Responsibility</b> | <b>Description</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <b>6.1</b> | <b>Regional Meetings</b> | <i>CB</i>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Encourage organising regular regional meetings with emphasis to low and middle-income countries, fostering a vibrant exchange of ideas.</li> <li>▪ Identify the potential regions and candidates to run regional meetings</li> <li>▪ Develop strategies to support these events</li> </ul> |





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| 6.2 | Developing collaborative teaching activities             | EC                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify needs</li> <li>▪ Develop action plans</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 6.3 | Investigate the feasibility of developing a SOMP Journal | Council                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify needs and content</li> <li>▪ Suggest frequency and editors</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 6.4 | Review the SOMP Website                                  | IT & Communications Committee (ITC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review the feasibility of a SOMP App and decide on how to implement</li> <li>▪ Evaluate the feasibility of suggested changes to the website by MMPS</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                  |
| 6.5 | Developing SOMP YouTube channel                          | EC and RDI                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Creating a SOMP YouTube channel</li> <li>▪ Identifying needs and target groups</li> <li>▪ Develop the content and regularly maintain</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 6.6 | SOMP Social Media Strategy                               | Council                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identifying and reporting the existing accounts in social media platforms</li> <li>▪ Decide on SOMP presence in social media</li> <li>▪ Appointing the responsible persons</li> <li>▪ Develop a social media disseminating protocol</li> <li>▪ Getting connected with other Cttees for content input</li> </ul> |
| 6.7 | Attract more mining countries                            | CB                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop a gap analysis: Report members stats for countries and match with the mining activities globally to</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                          |



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|     |                                                                                 |                  | <p>identify missing representations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prioritise the countries of interest in missing regions</li> <li>▪ Develop and implement a strategy to incorporate regions of interest</li> <li>▪ Develop regional meetings on focused regions (not more than 2 per year)</li> <li>▪ Run at least 2 Webinars per year</li> </ul> |
| 6.8 | <b>Supporting and enhancing sustainable university cooperations within SOMP</b> | <i>EC and CB</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review of the existing collaborations between universities within the SOMP network</li> <li>▪ Formulate strategies to grow the partnerships and develop new ones</li> <li>▪ Strengthen collaboration in and between universities and industry in research and technology development.</li> </ul>                         |

**Ensuring Delivery of High Quality Mineral Education Programs: Continue updating the curriculum to include new technologies and practices for the mine of the future. (Responsibility: E)**

|     | <b>Action</b>                                    | <b>Responsibility</b> | <b>Description</b>                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| 6.1 | <b>Joint international students' supervision</b> | <i>EC</i>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify the existing examples</li> <li>▪ Include the best practices in Newsletters</li> <li>▪ Develop guidelines to support joint supervision</li> </ul> |



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| 6.2 | <b>Capacity building teaching programs</b>                     | EC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify the existing examples</li> <li>▪ Include the best practices in Newsletters</li> <li>▪ Develop guidelines to support these initiatives</li> </ul>                                                                       |
| 6.3 | <b>Define and set best practices and quality standards</b>     | EC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strengthen teaching and learning initiatives for capacity development</li> <li>▪ Investigate blended learning and co-teaching opportunities at undergraduate and postgraduate levels</li> <li>▪ Share best practices</li> </ul> |
| 6.4 | <b>Establishment of international postgrad degree programs</b> | EC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify the existing examples</li> <li>▪ Include the best practices in SOMP Newsletter</li> </ul>                                                                                                                              |