

Scoping Document:

INAP's Relationship with Regional Organizations

The International Network for Acid Prevention



An organization of international mining companies dedicated to reducing liabilities associated with sulphide mine materials.



The Australian Centre for Minerals Extension and Research (ACMER)

Acid Drainage Technology Initiative

ADTI Metal Mining Sector and Coal Mining Sector



Mine Environment Neutral Drainage (MEND)



Partnership for Acid Drainage Remediation in Europe (PADRE)

Context:

The International Network for Acid Prevention (INAP) recognizes and supports the excellent work on acid drainage (AD) as carried out by regional groups such as the Mine Environment Neutral Drainage (MEND) programme in Canada, the Acid Drainage Technology Initiative (ADTI) in the U.S.A., the Australian Centre for Minerals Extension and Research (ACMER) in Australia, and the Partnership for Acid Drainage Remediation in Europe (PADRE). Indeed, these groups provide an important regional focus and a critical mass of activity, something that INAP cannot do globally. As a global organization, INAP does not intend to, and cannot, replace such regional efforts in AD. Rather, INAP would like to help strengthen these organizations' efforts, and link them to other regional organizations. As an industry group, INAP is also keen to see that duplication of effort is minimized, and inter-regional co-operation can very much assist in this regard. INAP recognizes that the regional organizations have specific strengths in areas of AD and related issues. For example, INAP sees the MEND programme as a world leader in the area of water cover technology and applications. It also has links to the ADTI in the area of pit lakes, and with ACMER, which conducts a variety of research and projects related to AD including long-term performance of covers.

INAP has an important role to play with regard to regional groups. It can provide the high level support and the "global glue" that links regional activities, coordinates information flow, identifies broad research needs and helps to minimize duplication of effort. This takes on an even greater importance given that most INAP member companies are operating internationally. By helping these groups access information from around the world on AD, and related issues, a truly global network will result.

Current Status:

INAP is keen to foster a more formal relationship with key regional organizations. The INAP Operating Committee (OpCom) meeting in Vancouver in April 2002 hosted a forum for preliminary discussions with key organizations, MEND, the Mining Association of Canada (MAC), ADTI and ACMER, to discuss this topic.

In September 2002, INAP held a teleconference with the same organizations with a view to progressing this initiative and to discuss a possible path forward. The discussions included a summary of what each party would bring to the proposed relationship.

The regional organizations bring:

- The ability to co-ordinate and manage some research projects in cooperation with INAP, in addition to projects responding to regional needs.
- Regional level interaction and networking with governments, industry, research groups, non-governmental organizations, etc.
- An ability to plan, organize and manage workshops.
- Technology transfer including publications, short courses, etc.

INAP brings:

- A working network of a number of major industry companies.
- Company-driven research based on needs.
- The ability to open up and fund new areas of research.
- Funding for workshops and potential attendees etc.
- A global perspective, linking information from other regions.
- The ability to further raise the profile of the regional groups, which may not be well known in other parts of the world.
- The potential to engage other companies in the regional organizations that are not involved in INAP, to become more active on an international basis.

As a result of these discussions, it was generally agreed that the idea has merit and it should be further progressed. It was stressed that it would be business as usual for the regional groups. INAP is in no way attempting to influence their activities or “takeover” in any way. Rather, an effective relationship between INAP and the regional groups could lead the way for a truly global network in this important area of environmental management.

Proposed Path Forward:

The following path forward was agreed:

- INAP to circulate a small briefing paper (this document) that can be used by the regional organizations in their internal discussions relating to this initiative.
- A formal but simple memo of understanding (statement of mutual intent) will be exchanged between INAP and each regional group. The intent is to keep this very simple, avoiding legalities as much as possible. The groups will aim to have this document formally in place prior to the 6th International Conference on Acid Rock Drainage to be held in July, 2003 in Cairns, Australia.
- INAP will offer the Regional Organizations Associate Membership in INAP (no membership fee).
- As a result of this, the regional organizations will be invited to attend INAP OpCom meetings, and to actively participate in part of these meetings. Typically, OpCom meetings involve one session where INAP business is discussed. These sessions are limited to full INAP members only, i.e., the member companies. However, the remainder of the OpCom meeting will be open to the regional organizations as Associate members. The agenda for this part of the meeting would allow for each regional organization to present on its activities and for common business with INAP, e.g., initiatives, research projects, workshops, meetings etc., to be discussed. Other parties may also be invited to attend these open sessions as well.
- Key contact people for each of the regionals will be identified and included on appropriate INAP distribution lists.

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- The regional groups will be invited to attend one or other of the INAP OpCom meetings, planned for November 2002 in Australia and December 2002 in Vancouver.
- INAP will place context and links for the regional organizations on its Web home page.
- Other regions, e.g. South America and South Africa, will be approached to also join INAP as Associate members. This may take some time to finalise.
- The INAP – Regional Organizations initiative will be formally announced at the 6th ICARD conference. A session on INAP and the regional organizations is being planned as part of the programme. That said, the initiative will be well and truly up and running before ICARD.
- The initiative will be further discussed at forthcoming INAP OpCom meetings.

INAP is very supportive of this initiative and looks forward to developing a close working relationship with the regional organizations.

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