



Telephone
+44 (0)1727 875 544

Fax
+44 (0)1727 871 341

Internet
<http://www.itri.co.uk>

ITRI Ltd
Unit 3, Curo Park, Frogmore,
St. Albans, Herts AL2 2DD, UK

David Biggs
Secretary of Security Council Committee
United Nations Secretariat
New York
NY 10017
USA

Copy by email: biggs@un.org

12 May 2009

Dear Mr Biggs,

I am writing to provide you with information on the work of ITRI, the global association for tin miners and smelters, regarding our phased and constructive approach towards improved due diligence in the purchase of cassiterite from eastern DRC.

ITRI has been considering possible actions relating to certification of cassiterite from various supply areas for some time and, for your background information, have previously commissioned various confidential consultants' reports including;

- Environmental Certification Options for the Tin Industry, 2007
- Business Case for Sustainable Supply Chain Management in the Tin Industry, 2008
- Analysis of the Initiative for Responsible Mining (IRMA), 2008

We are now focusing efforts on the development of due diligence procedures for the DRC in order to provide an industry agreed methodology which can be implemented by our tin member companies and which will allow them to record, to the greatest extent possible, the source of cassiterite purchased from that region. I enclose copies of relevant project summary documents, most of which have been available on the ITRI website for the past few months;

- ITRI Artisanal and Small Scale Mining Policy, October 2008
- ITRI Background Information Sheet: Cassiterite Production and Trade in the DRC, October 2008
- ITRI Statement of Progress: Towards a Responsible Cassiterite Supply Chain, February 2009
- Improved Due Diligence And Steps Towards Voluntary Industry Declarations Or Audited Certification – an Action Plan, February 2008

As part of the on-going DRC project, the ITRI Working Group is now in the process of producing specific checklists for comptoirs and their suppliers which will aim to establish both the legitimacy of operations and the provenance of materials purchased. This is 'Phase 1' of our three phase approach to the issue which we are developing as part of the ITRI Tin Supply Chain Initiative 'iTSCi'. A document detailing this process is in the final draft stages and we expect to be in a position to publish this by the end of May.

We are aware that the UN Group of Experts co-ordinated by Mr Mahtani is currently making further investigations of the possible links between mineral trade and non-state armed groups in the Kivu area and we would be keen to engage with either yourself or the Group of Experts as appropriate to share our due diligence procedures and plans and to seek the support of the UN in implementing the measures.



Telephone
+44 (0)1727 875 544

Fax
+44 (0)1727 871 341

Internet
<http://www.itri.co.uk>

ITRI Ltd
Unit 3, Curo Park, Frogmore,
St. Albans, Herts AL2 2DD, UK

We are also aware of the considerable NGO activity focussed on this trade and in particular on the pressure being exerted on the consumers of tin, specifically the manufacturers of electronic goods. Whilst our members fully recognise the need for improved due diligence, this will take time to implement effectively. We are increasingly concerned that the pressure being exerted could lead to a de facto ban in the cassiterite trade from the DRC, which many commentators suggest could lead to an escalation of violence and considerable hardship amongst the Congolese population. From a macro economic perspective, our members provide a unique and important service to the DRC and therefore we would welcome specific guidance on (and possible subsequent endorsement of) our plans in order for the trade to continue, whilst improved due diligence is implemented.

It is probable that the Group of Experts has been informed of the ITRI activity by other actors in the cassiterite supply chain, but we feel it is important that ITRI is in direct contact with the UN on this important policy area. We have so far not received any communication from the Group.

I would be grateful if you could provide any comments and specific recommendations at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kay Nimmo', is written over a light pink rectangular background.

Kay Nimmo
Manager of Sustainability and Regulatory Affairs

- cc. David Bishop, MD, ITRI Ltd
Dinesh Mahtani, Co-ordinator of Group of Experts (mahtanid@un.org)
Alan Doss, Special Representative to the DRC of the Secretary General (via US based fax 001 212 963 0205)