

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 21/3/16

Ref: 04-16

SUCCESS FOR iTSCi IN NOMINATIONS FOR LIST OF 100 CONFLICT MINERALS INFLUENCE LEADERS

Yves Bawa of Pact and Kay Nimmo of ITRI, leading figures at the head of the iTSCi Programme, have come out as the leading two nominees in a vote to make the list of top 100 Conflict Minerals Influence Leaders in 2016. Between them, Yves and Kay garnered 809 votes which equates to nearly a quarter of the popular vote. This is a reflection of the great work and commitment from both Yves and Kay in building the iTSCi Programme into the only upstream industry mechanism getting results at a large scale across the African Great Lakes region.

As Manager of Sustainability and Regulatory Affairs at ITRI, Kay first became involved in discussions on conflict minerals in 2008 and formed the ITRI Working Group to find a practical solution. In 2010, this resulted in the start of the iTSCi Programme (ITRI Tin Supply Chain Initiative) and organisation of the first on-the-ground traceability pilot project in the DRC. The capacity building NGO Pact was invited to assist with the pilot project and Yves Bawa, as a technical expert in artisanal mining in the DRC, became closely involved with managing activities in the region.

Over the past 5 years, Kay and Yves have shown strong leadership at international and local levels to ensure the credibility of iTSCi is recognised and therefore that the miners in the Great Lakes region continue to have the opportunity to access the international market for their minerals. Built from nothing in a short time, iTSCi now helps more than 300 upstream companies, 1500 mine areas and 70,000 miners working in DRC, Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda, not only in the production of tin but also tantalum and tungsten minerals, or the '3T's'.

In 2015, iTSCi continued to expand the geographic area benefiting from the programme and most importantly established activity in the heart of the original conflict mineral area, the Walikale territory of North Kivu, DRC. This was a vital milestone in the progress to peace and stability in the region and a huge achievement made possible through previous years' success.

Kay is the tin representative of the iTSCi Governance Committee and implements non-field activities of iTSCi as the secretariat of the Programme, while Yves is the regional programme manager for field activities in-region. Kay also contributed to drafting the text of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance and regularly participates in relevant meetings at the international level while Yves continues to play a role in other projects improving the circumstances for artisanal miners in the region. Both also work with, and appreciate the support of, other iTSCi partners including local governments.

The result of the popular vote highlights the extent of support enjoyed by iTSCi and the appreciation of the fantastic results achieved which have benefited thousands of lives over the past 5 years. You can find the full results and list of nominees [here](#).

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About iTSCi:

The iTSCi Programme is a joint industry mechanism designed to address ‘conflict mineral’ concerns in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda and other Great Lakes Region countries. The Programme establishes traceability in the upstream mineral chain for 3T minerals by working with local Governments and their field agents, and assists companies to establish due diligence through independent monitoring on the ground and regular audits. The Programme supports the practical implementation of the OECD’s Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas as well as the UN Security Council Resolution 1952 (2010) due diligence recommendations. Members are expected to recognise all aspects of these guidelines and cooperate with monitoring, evaluation and audits as required, as well as working on their own company policies and contracts to influence the supply chain in a positive way. Through the implementation of the internationally recognised OECD Guidance, the Programme aims to aid compliance with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Rule interpreting the US Dodd Frank law, section 1502 on conflict minerals. The Programme complements other initiatives, including the Conflict-Free Smelter audit programme (CFS), the ICGLR’s Regional Certification Initiative, and BGR’s Certified Trading Chains Initiative (CTC). Please see the project website; https://www.itri.co.uk/index.php?option=com_zoo&view=frontpage&Itemid=60



About ITRI:

ITRI is the world's foremost authority on tin with over 80 years’ experience in tin related technologies. It is a membership based organisation representing major tin producers and smelters and is the premier source of tin related information. ITRI has specialist knowledge of tin use in all the major sectors as well as groups responsible for technology, statistical and market information, regulatory affairs and sustainability. It provides links to the main tin consuming sectors through a substantial network of industry contacts. The organisation hosts seminars, conferences and industry-specific group meetings. It also provides marketing and technical support to its members and the tin industry in general. ITRI is the tin representative to the iTSCi programme Steering Committee and Secretariat of the programme. Further information can be obtained from ITRI <http://www.itri.co.uk>