

# An International Perspective on the Value of AIPG Beyond our Borders

Bill Feyerabend, CPG-11047

*The following is an opinion by the author.*

It has been almost twenty years since I took my first expatriate job in Peru. At the time I had twenty years' experience in the U.S. and was hired to be project manager with a crew of Peruvian geologists, each with a few years experience, to do mapping, core-logging and sampling. During the intervening years I have grown professionally, and subsequently worked in Mexico, Guyana, Venezuela, Colombia, Bolivia, Chile, Saudi Arabia and Ghana. AIPG membership and CPG status has generated work as a Qualified Person (QP) and I have fourteen technical reports under my belt, including several for properties in other countries. During my time overseas I have seen geologists from other countries grow professionally as well, many reaching the level of expertise I had attained 20 years ago. I've had the pleasure of working with young African geologists and field geologists, Project Managers and Country Managers in Latin America, all of whom certainly struck me as well educated and very professional individuals who by any measure are the equal of their North American counterparts.

Seeing the growth in exploration, discovery and development of ore deposits in other countries, and the professional growth of the indigenous geologists, it occurred to me that a big part of the future of mining will be in those countries and, therefore, the future of organizations such as AIPG should include helping those professionals. I have started to talk to those foreign geologists individually and point out that they should begin to plan for ten or twenty years down the road when the mountains are higher and steeper by upgrading themselves with AIPG and SME membership and by learning English. I had the notion that the best thing I could do to encourage buy-in to that line of thought was to give them credit in the technical reports. I called the Ontario Securities and Exchange



Bill Feyerabend (center) with geologists and workers in Colombia.

Commission to inquire about the matter. It turned out that I was the second person in a month to call about exactly that and the point seemed to be a reasonable and possible goal. The guidance I was given was to include their names as contributors on the title page while making the responsible author's name very clear. As an example, the "Technical Report Update on the San Lucas Gold Property, Durango State, Mexico" dated July 19, 2011 shows that there are no SEDAR issues with giving credit to others as contributors: <https://www.otciq.com/otciq/ajax/showFinancialReport-ById.pdf?id=57485>

I am aware that outside the U.S., certain requirements for CPG status can be difficult such as verifying degrees and experience. However, I do not see any of those problems as insurmountable. I have found it personally rewarding to mention and, hopefully, plant a seed in the mind of other peoples to begin thinking of the future. However, as with most of us, I look at things from my personal standpoint. For the younger in heart and body there may be other arguments such as being able to submit articles for publication in *TPG* or the job-hunting benefits from having a broad contact network.

From what I have seen, in my core I believe that the world of the future will be best served by a mining profession peopled by a collage of skin colors and languages who are encouraged by organizations such as AIPG to have and maintain more international contacts

and to continually become more knowledgeable, professional and ethical. To that end, I intend to keep mentioning AIPG to geologists I meet and I hope that AIPG makes international growth an organizational cornerstone.

My elevator speech for myself is that I have over thirty years of experience at every stage from initial reconnaissance to discovery, development and continued exploration during production with most metal and some industrial mineral commodities. I have worked from sea level to 4,000 meters in ten countries on three continents. I have been through the complete cycle from discovery hole to production at the Mesquite and Chimney Creek mines in the United States and discovered the Paguanta deposit in Chile. I have been a member of AIPG since 2007 and have written fourteen technical reports. I am a Distinguished Toastmaster, a non-current private pilot, published newspaper writer and am looking forward after the 2013 PDAC Convention to completing the Simon Fraser University course on the duties of company directors. I hang my hat in Arizona with my wife who is Peruvian, and trained in publishing and public relations, and our two bilingual children.