

Fourth International Symposium on Block and Sublevel Caving Report

writes Candice McLennan, Australian Centre for Geomechanics, Australia

The ACG team, in collaboration with SRK Consulting (Canada) Inc., Canada, hosted the Fourth International Symposium on Block and Sublevel Caving (Caving 2018), 15-17 October 2018, at the Vancouver Convention Centre in Vancouver, Canada. The sell-out event, chaired by Jarek Jakubec, corporate consultant at SRK Consulting (Canada) Inc., Canada, was a great success and provided an opportunity for industry professionals to come together and share knowledge, ideas and experience.

Attendee numbers for Caving 2018 exceeded 260, including 60+ presenters and 17 sponsors and exhibitors.

Prior to the commencement of the symposium, on Sunday 14 October 2018, SRK Consulting hosted the Cave Mining Forum Workshop, facilitated by Jarek Jakubec.

The associated ACG Ground Support in Cave Mining Workshop, held on Thursday 18 October 2018, sold out with 112 attendees and was facilitated by Professor Yves Potvin, Australian Centre for Geomechanics.

Following the symposium, on Friday 19 October 2018, two separate tours were run. One was a site visit to the New Gold New Afton Mine, near Kamloops in the south-central interior of British Columbia. The second was a laboratory tour of the Earth Science Building, Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of British Columbia.

The Caving 2018 Symposium technical programme reflected a range of themes under the caving umbrella, including case studies, caving productivity grade and value, cave mechanics and numerical modelling, draw control/fragmentation,



Delegates at the Caving 2018 Symposium

mine planning, sublevel caving, research and innovation, tools to manage seismic risk, cave front tracking, seismic hazard case studies, subsidence and monitoring, ground support and caving data. In total, there were 12 countries represented globally, with 68 presentations made, and three poster presentations.

Day one keynote speaker was Ryan Campbell, Freeport-McMoRan Inc., USA, who delivered a presentation on "Optimising for success at the Grasberg Block Cave".

The keynote speaker on day two was David Cuello, Newcrest Mining Limited, Australia, who spoke on "Key geotechnical knowledge and practical mine planning guidelines in deep, high-stress, hard rock conditions for block and panel cave mining". Day three brought with it the third and final keynote speaker, Craig Stegman, Rio Tinto, Australia, who presented "Past learnings focus innovative solutions to future cave mining".

Industry response for sponsorship was fantastic with exhibitor booths selling out. The ACG thanks all of the highly valued sponsors and exhibitors for their support, including Principal Sponsor Beck Engineering, and Major Sponsors ESG Solutions and Sika.

The Caving 2018 Symposium papers are openly accessible at the ACG's Online Repository of Conference Proceedings, courtesy of the Open Access Sponsor, OZ Minerals. Papers can be downloaded at papers.acg.uwa.edu.au/caving2018.

It was announced at the conclusion of the symposium that the next event, the Fifth International Symposium on Block and Sublevel Caving, will be held in 2022 in Australia. Updates on this event can be found at caving2022.com.

The ACG team gratefully thanks all Caving 2018 delegates, presenters, authors, sponsors and exhibitors who all helped in making the event a great success.