



## Activity brief (December 2014)

### Mining Skills Development Study Tour

7 – 19 September 2014



**Background:** Australian and African Governments are collaborating to share experience in mining governance. This interest comes from the significant expansion of the mining, oil and gas industries in many African countries, the challenge of channeling the benefits of these industries to sustainable development impacts, and the long history of the industry in Australia.

Many African countries have requested Australian support for mining-related technical vocational education and training (TVET). In October 2012, the AAPF held a TVET Study Tour to Australia for approximately 30 participants from 10 countries. Following the tour's success, several African governments have requested follow-up TVET assistance.

**Objective:** The *Mining Skills Development Study Tour to Australia* aimed to help participants to understand and appreciate the function and strategic role of a skills council working with the resource sector, including:

- the relationship between a skills council and government in supporting national workforce policy and developing localised strategies to meet and respond to industry needs;
- how a skills council supports the development of national competencies and training criteria to guide the delivery of quality training that meets industry needs, and the establishment of nationally recognised qualifications; and
- how a skills council engages with key stakeholders, including government, industry, industry peak bodies, training providers, and unions.

**Activity description:** This study tour to Australia, including participation in the SkillsDMC 2014 Annual Conference, complemented the delivery of Australia's broader assistance for mining TVET under the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (DFAT's) extractives program. It also built on the success of the first two TVET study tours that the AAPF conducted, in October 2012 and August 2013, respectively.

The study tour involved 36 participants from five countries and three regional organisations. The participants were: senior officials who conduct policy and planning work at country and regional levels in departments responsible for mining, skills development, labour, chambers of mines or skills authorities; and representatives of TVET training institutions.

Throughout the study tour, participants were exposed to theoretical discussions and field trips where they had the opportunity to: meet with community groups and private sector companies; visit TVET training facilities; and interact with state and federal government departments. Participants were supported to develop links and networks with institutions, companies and individuals that they met during the study tour.

**Sector:** Extractives

**Outcomes:** Meeting with relevant Australian institutions and professionals enabled participants to understand some of the challenges faced in Australia, as well as industry best practice. The participants had the opportunity to create partnerships and linkages with Australian organisations, which can provide future support.

During the study tour, the relevant topics were unpacked in considerable detail, and participants were exposed to appropriate topics through both theoretical discussions and site visits.

Participants' feedback has confirmed that study tours have provided helpful exposure to mining governance issues and an excellent forum to build professional relationships.

**Participating countries and organisations:** African Union Commission, Botswana, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Ghana, Mozambique, Southern African Development Community (SADC), Tanzania and Zambia

<b>Date approved:</b>	15/05/2014
<b>Implementation partner:</b>	SkillsDMC
<b>Total cost:</b>	AUD 651 886