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SME Annual Conference & Expo draws more than 6,300
Largest professional mining society focuses on global economic growth

The 2017 Annual Conference & Expo of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration Inc. (SME) was held at the Colorado Convention Center Feb. 19-22, and welcomed industry professionals from around the world. Thirty-five countries and virtually every state in the U.S., plus Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, were represented during the Society’s four-day event.

“The future for the mining industry depends on emerging innovations and technologies,” said SME Executive Director David L. Kanagy. “The 2017 SME Annual Conference & Expo offered opportunities for leaders from around the world to share their expertise with the global mining community through 121 technical sessions and two professional symposia.”

The Denver convention welcomed:
• 6,325 attendees
• 746 international attendees
• 609 students
• 575 exhibitors
• 757 booths on the convention floor

The conference began with the keynote session, “When are Commodity Prices going to Rebound?” presented by Douglas B. Silver, portfolio manager for Orion Mine Finance. In addressing the “Grand Recession” which resulted in a massive contraction of the global economy, Silver discussed how the world has changed in the past ten years, its impact on commodity prices and the ramifications to the minerals industry.

At the Board of Directors meeting, 2016 SME President Timothy Arnold passed the gavel to 2017 SME President John G. Mansanti. To read an exclusive interview with President Mansanti, please visit Mining Engineering online at http://me.smenet.org/.

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SME is a professional society (nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation) whose members represent all professions serving the mining, minerals and underground construction industries in more than 100 countries. SME members include engineers, geologists, metallurgists, educators, students and researchers. SME advances the worldwide minerals community through information exchange and professional development.

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SME exists to be the premier resource and advocate for the mining community. For further details, see www.smenet.org

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