

6.3 Tasiast Area



1. View of BIF from the West



2. Detailed Geological survey on the BIF outcrop.



3. Study of the Waste in the trench.
The data on waste is important in areas with few outcrops



4. Gold Ore. It seems that gold is included in the part of abundant quartz



5. Sampling of meta-amphibolite for dating



6. The view of dune on the way to the site



7. TO14 Deposit in Tazazit. The high-grade part called "Blue hematite". Specular ore has the grade of 67 ~ 68% of Fe and clearly shows bandit structure with microcrystalline hematite and quartz.



8. Tasiast Piment. BIF shows breccia Structure



9. BIF (Left) and White Schist (Right) from the trench. BIF includes fine grained limonite and quartz.



10. Quartz from the trench. BIF looks like quartz vein due to an intense silicification.. Microcrystalline quartz shows milky quartz – black quartz. It sometime includes Au with grade of 1g/t.



11. Quartz from the trench. The width of silicified zone is 0.3–1cm. Limonite shows brown–yellowish color. This type of ore includes Au with a grade of 0.5–1g/t.

6.4 Placer Deposit



1. TANZIT Area (65 km to NNW of Nouakchott)



2. Dune near the shore. The dune also includes heavy mineral sand.



3. Heavy mineral sand (black) on the surface



4. Layered heavy mineral sand (black)



5. Sampling near the surface

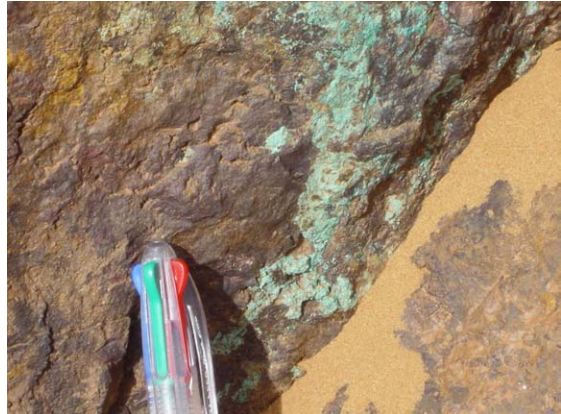


6. Concentrate of heavy mineral sand by panning

6.5 Kadiar



Rock outcrops of the Kadiar deposit. They are composed of silicified FeO_2 ore bodies



Secondary oxidized copper ore along a fissure of a silicified FeO_2 ore body

6.6 Indice



One of the exposed quartz veins. This vein is 10m wide and 60m long, with a N-S strike. Rock outcrops of the Kadiar



Copper dissemination in a quartz vein

6.7 Ouedlemguli



The prospect consists of a malachite vein having limonitized basalt as the parent rock..



The main malachite vein (arrow) is 20cm wide, with a strike of $\text{N}70^\circ\text{E}$ and a slope of 30°W .

6.8 Diaguli



Looking at a quartzite outcrop from the eastern side of the Diaguli prospect $N70^{\circ}E$ and a slope of $30^{\circ}W$.



Quartz networks seen in a quartz vein.

6.9 Guidimaka



View of a trench from the eastern side of the Guidimaka deposit. The red arrow shows chrome ore.



Massive (block?) chrome ore.

6.10 Jreida-Lemsid



Taking heavy sand samples in the Tanit district.



Area of concentrated titanium ore.

7. Photos of the Infrastructure and Environmental Survey

7.1 Tasiast



1. Tasiast Mauritania camp built on the western side of the gold deposit (which alternates with BIF). This is a view of the office and water tower.



2. Water truck.. Water is brought in from a well 60km away.



3. Communication with Nouakchott is by wireless radio and INMARSAT.



4. View of trenches dug in the deposit zone



5. A survey benchmark.. This is the base point for trench boring aerial photo surveys, and so on. The surrounding geology is BIF. The camp site can be seen in the distance in the upper left.



6. Traces of a site where vertical boring was conducted.

7.2 Nouadhibou



1. Workshop for locomotion



2. Workshop for mine cars



3. Sand of desert affects on various parts of equipment



4. Tippler (Unloading equipment)



5. Big crushing Plants



6. Nouadhibou Power Plant

7.3 Akjoujt



1. On-site mine management office



2. Piled tailings of debris



3. Old open pit (the pond is the bottom of the pit.)



4. Abandoned heavy equipment



5. Old dressing facility



6. Gold extraction facility

7.4 Zouerate



1. Open pit of TO14 mine, blue hematite is visible at the bottom black zone



2. TO14's huge 55m³ capacity power shovel



3. Operator in the radio room, indicating to truck driver and power shovel operator



4. The moment of a dynamite blast at TO14. A thunderous noise is accompanied by a tremendous dust cloud.



5. Head of coarse ore bin



6. Secondary crusher (front) and loading hopper (behind)

8.1 Opening Ceremony of the Tasiast Gold Mine



A Guide to the Tasiast Gold Mine, installed at the branch of Route No.1. The Mine is located at about 300km to the north of Nouakchott..



Ceremony participants welcoming the minister of MMI.



Mine Opening Ceremony.



Speech by the minister of MMI



A monument for opening the mine



Earth breaking ceremony by a machine

8.2 Newspaper Article related to Opening the Mine

Earth breaking ceremony for the Tasiast Gold Mine

("HORIZON" the Mauritanian Government Newspaper, Nov. 17, 2005)

Pose de la première pierre de la mine d'or de Tasiast **Début de l'exploitation en 2007**

Le ministre des Mines et de l'Industrie, M. Mohamed Ould Ismail Ould Abeidna, a procédé mercredi au camp de Tasiast (300 km au nord de Nouakchott), dans la commune de Benichab, à la pose de la première pierre de la mine d'or de Tasiast.

Ce projet aurifère, qui sera exploité par la société Tasiast Mauritanie Ltd, filiale de la société canadienne RIO NARCEA GOLD MINE Ltd., a mobilisé un investissement de 63 millions de dollars US.

La production moyenne est estimée à 115.000 voire 120.000 onces, soit environ 4 tonnes d'or. Le début de l'exploitation est prévu en 2007, avec la création de plus de 250 emplois directs, suivant les dispositions du code minier accordant la priorité aux entreprises nationales de travaux et de services. La durée de l'exploitation de la mine est estimée à 8 ans.

Tasiast Mauritanie Ltd détient un permis d'exploration qui couvre une superficie de plus de 16.000 km² en Mauritanie.

La cérémonie de pose de la première pierre a été l'occasion pour le ministre des Mines de souligner que

ce projet reflète la volonté du gouvernement de respecter l'ensemble des engagements de la Mauritanie vis-à-vis des partenaires étrangers.

Le ministre a également indiqué que le lancement du projet traduit la mise en oeuvre de la déclaration de politique minière de mars 1997, complétée par l'adoption d'un nouveau code minier en 1999 et d'une convention minière type en 2002 avec un ensemble de textes subséquents, conduisant à une procédure simplifiée et transparente pour l'attribution des permis de même qu'une fiscalité allégée et stabilisée sur toute la période de validité des titres miniers.

"C'est justement pour accompagner et faciliter les efforts de ses partenaires que le gouvernement de transition a, dès le mois de septembre dernier, décidé de faire adhérer la Mauritanie à l'initiative de transparence dans les industries extractives", a dit le ministre.

Pour sa part, l'administrateur directeur général de RIO NARCEA GOLD MINE Ltd, M. John W. W. Hick, a précisé que le partenariat de sa société minière internationale avec le projet Tasiast, est le premier

d'une série d'investissements à l'extérieur de l'Espagne.

M. Hick a également mis en exergue l'importance et la qualité du potentiel géologique mauritanien, le cadre légal, les lois et règlements régissant le secteur. "Je me permets de saisir l'opportunité d'applaudir le gouvernement mauritanien pour avoir élaboré un code minier moderne et d'avoir chargé le département des mines d'appuyer efficacement les démarches et recherches des sociétés minières dans le cadre du développement des ressources minières de la Mauritanie", a-t-il souligné.

Le maire de la commune de Benichab, M. Mrabih Ould Abdelaziz, s'est déclaré honoré de voir sa commune abriter le lancement de la première mine d'or de Mauritanie et émis le vœu de voir les habitants de cette commune bénéficier des retombées du projet.

La cérémonie de lancement s'est déroulée en présence du wali de l'Inchiri, des ambassadeurs de France, d'Espagne, du consul honoraire du Canada, des administrateurs directeurs généraux de la SNIM et de Rio Nacera GOLD Mine Ltd, des représentants des agences de coopération allemande et japonaise, des directeurs centraux du département et des maires des communes de la wilaya de l'Inchiri.

Droits sociaux et économiques de la femme en Adrar

Le wali de l'Adrar M. Mohamed à travers le renforcement de sa capa

Opening Ceremony for the Tasiast Mine, Exploiting from 2007. (Summary in English)

Yesterday, Mr. Mohammed O. Abeidna, Minister of MMI, participated in the opening ceremony for the Tasiast Gold Mine which is located in the Benichab Village, about 300km to the north of Nouakchott. This gold mining business is carried out by the Tasiast Mauritania, Ltd, a subsidiary company of the RIO NARCEA GOLD MINES, Ltd. Total investment is approximately US\$ 63 million. Estimated annual gold production is 115,000 to 120,000 ounces (about 4 tons). About 250 workers will be directly employed for the mine (to be started in 2007). This action is by the Mining Code which put the priority on the domestic workforce and service companies. The mine life is estimated to be 8 years.

Exploration right of the Tasiast Mauritania, Ltd. Covers more than 16,000km² in Mauritania. This ceremony was an opportunity for the minister to recognize the agreement with the foreign partner. The minister executed the Declaration of Mining Policy in March, 1997 (modified in 1999 and 2002). The procedure for permission becomes easy, and the tax burden decrease for foreign partners during the mining permission period. The minister stated that the Mauritanian Provisional Government promised to clarify the former mining business, and it is safe and reliable information for the foreign partners.

Mr. John W. W. Hick, a CEO of RIO NARCEA GOLD MINES, Ltd, stated the Tasiast business is the first investment for his company out of Spain. He emphasized importance of mineral resources potential and legal framework (mining regulation, etc.). He also stated that he evaluated highly that the Mauritanian Government has the modern Mining Law and the DMG has the new methods developed by the mining industry.

A Malik of Benichab, Mr. Mrabih O. Abdelaziz said that he was very proud of his place being the first gold mine-site in Mauritania. Also, he expected that this business gave the good impacts of spillover effects to his community.

Many guest participated in the opening ceremony, such as Governor of Inchiri, Ambassador of France, Ambassador of Spain, honorary Consul of Canada, Director of SNIM, Director of RIO NARCEA GOLD MINES, Ltd., representatives of Japanese and German International cooperation Agency, Director of DMG, Maliks of Inchiri.