



Going for Gold : Newsletter 1

Crawford School for Public Policy
ANU College of Asia and The Pacific

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We are pleased to offer you the first issue of the monthly newsletter of *Going for Gold: Safe Livelihoods for informal Gold Miners in South and Southeast Asia*. 'Going for Gold' is an Australian Research Council funded 'Action Research Project' that aims to work with national research partners and civil society organisations in three selected locations in three Asian countries India, Indonesia and the Lao PDR in order to explore alternative ways to reduce the use of mercury in informal, artisanal and small-scale gold mining.

Going for Gold project is based at The Australian National University and led by Drs Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt and Keith Barney, and Minelab, an Australia-based, manufacturer of metal detectors.

Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt and Keith Barney are working with Dr Amalendu Jyotishi (of Amrita University, India), Dr Rini S. Soemarwoto (of Padjadjaran University, Indonesia), Dr Erwiza Erman (Senior Researcher at Research Center of Regional Resources, Indonesian Institute of Sciences) and Ms Chansouk Insouvanh (a renowned social consultant associated with World Bank Southeast Asia Unit, Lao PDR). Jointly, they are researching locations in in South India, South Java, the Sumatran Island, and South Laos. Ms Anindita Kumar is the Research Assistant of the project.

One of the objectives of *Going for Gold* is to create a 'knowledge-network' along the lines of the previous CASM Asia-Pacific Learning Network. This Newsletter will serve the function of exchanging news and information on the project as well as on informal, artisanal and small-scale mining, with special attention to gold in the Asia-Pacific region. The aim is to disseminate findings of the project, to draw attention to informal gold mining-related information from around the region and to create an overall awareness through the collation of recent news articles on informal gold mining from around the world.

To start with, to learn more about *Going for Gold* (and related) projects, partners and outputs, please take a look at the website: www.asmasiapacific.org

For this Newsletter, we have collated some information for you. The following links offer insights into informal, artisanal and small-scale gold mining in different areas around the world.

1. <http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/biores/news/striking-gold-partnerships-for-sustainable-small-scale-mining>
2. <http://www.globaldialogue.info/CSD18%20Learning%20events/LC%202/ASM%20Carter.pdf>

We would like to hear from you! Please feel free to share any information that you think might be relevant for others in this network. Do please let us know if you have published a research report, or share with us your stories from the field. Also, please feel free to share with us the contact details of individuals who might be interested in receiving this Newsletter. Last but not the least, if you wish to withdraw from the network, please send in an email to informalmining@gmail.com .