



Precious Metals News

A Publication of the International Precious Metals Institute
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Volume 43, Number 12

December 2019



44TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

JUNE 6 - 9, 2020

GREEN VALLEY RANCH

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44th Conference Call for Papers

The IPMI 44th Conference will be held at the Green Valley Ranch in Henderson (Las Vegas) Nevada June 6-9 2020. Our Technical Program, following the format for 2020, is restructured to allow for a more scientific and informative approach and at this time we are officially submitting a Call for Papers.

- Potential Speakers Must Submit Abstract to IPMI by January 31, 2020
- Abstracts will be Vetted by the Technical Chairs and Selected Speakers Confirmed by March 1, 2020.
- Any papers that are "Marketing Oriented" will be assigned to the New Technology: What's on the Horizon session

Topics for Papers

- Sampling and Analysis
- Hedging, Finance and Market Analysis
- Environmental and Legislative Affairs
- Mining and Jewelry
- Responsible Sourcing and Anti Money Laundering
- Insurance/Legal
- New Technology/Applications

**Please submit your abstract including Title by
January 31, 2020 to mail@ipmi.org**

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SAC/PRC Meeting
Houston, Texas February 10-12, 2020
Marriott Hotel at George Bush International Airport



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Security and Anti Money Laundering Seminar
February 24-26, 2020
Marriott Hollywood Beach Resort
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Public Affairs Update

Issue: U.S. Senate Hearings on Illicit Mining in South America

- Bill introduced by Senator Ted Cruz (R-FL) would allow the Treasury Department to consider whether precious metals transactions with countries under US sanctions warrant money laundering designation.

Impact:

- IPMI member companies engaged in business with covered countries or financial institutions could be required to provide significant documentation, reports, and identification of ownership and customers

Legislative Status:

- Referred to Senate Banking Committee. However, no hearing has been scheduled
- Not expected to be considered until at least February 2020.
- IPMI Committees
- Legislative issues and developments being monitored by IPMI Legislative Affairs Committee
- Issue under review and will be addressed at SECAM Meeting on February 25, 2020 in Hollywood, Florida

ADVISORY

Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee Holds Hearing on Illicit Mining in South America

Overview

In South America, illicit mining has grown in popularity among criminal organizations – some claiming it has surpassed narcotic trafficking as a primary source of funding. Colombia, Peru, and Venezuela have become hotbeds for this illegal activity that not only keeps criminal organizations afloat but has also led to mass deforestation, mercury pollution, and the exploitation of poor communities.

Citing recent Department of Justice (DOJ) investigations into two prominent U.S. precious metals refiners, Subcommittee Chairman Marco Rubio (R-FL) convened a hearing on December 5th to discuss the problem and possible solutions.

It should be noted that the Trump Administration has taken steps to address ‘dirty gold’ from Venezuela. In March of this year, the Treasury Department imposed sanctions against the Venezuelan gold sector for storing illicitly mined gold and transacting with other countries, mainly Turkey. Between January-September 2018, Turkey purchased \$900+ million in Venezuelan gold – more than the total

trade volume between the two countries during the previous five years combined.

Proposed Solutions

1.) S. 533

Introduced by Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX), this bill would allow the Treasury Department to consider transactions of precious metals, with countries under U.S. sanctions, when deciding whether a country or bank should be designated as a primary money laundering concern. If signed into law, IPMI members engaging in business with covered countries or financial institutions could be required to do any of the following: file transaction reports with Treasury, disclose beneficial ownership information, identify customers of payable-through and correspondent accounts, and face restrictions on opening such accounts on behalf of a covered country or institution.

Status: The bill has been referred to the Senate Banking committee meaning, but a public hearing has not been held. Both the House AML reform bill, H.R. 2513, and the Senate version, ILLICIT CASH Act, would be appropriate vehicles for including S. 533. However, there is not much optimism that either measure will be brought up this year or in January 2020.

2.) International Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Standard

The U.S. originally implemented the standard through Section 1504 of Dodd-Frank which required the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to issue rules for mining companies, listed on U.S. stock exchanges, to report payments to the U.S. and foreign governments for commercial development.

The Trump Administration spearheaded a Congressional Review Act (CRA) review of Section 1504, claiming it was too broad, which led to the repeal of the associated regulations. However, after two years, no new regulations have been proposed.

Status: As of December 11, legislation has not been introduced.

3.) International Sanctions

The State Department official, Ms. Filipetti, said that additional sanctions would promote greater accountability in international mining sectors. Furthermore, she announced that the State Department is ‘likely’ to impose further sanctions on foreign partners that buy Venezuelan gold – including Russia, China, and Turkey.

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Public Affairs Update, continued from page 4

Status: As of December 11, additional sanctions concerning ‘dirty’ gold have not been introduced.

4.) Improve Capabilities to Track Imports of Non-Monetized Gold

Throughout the hearing, the point was made numerous times that a) non-monetized gold is not required to be disclosed upon entry into the country, and b) gold bullion is not subject to customs duties. It is clear that law enforcement agencies view this as a significant vulnerability, and Senator Cardin acknowledged it as such. Going further, he said that the subcommittee must offer a solution or else they would have no choice but to target every ounce of gold entering the country.

Status: As of December 11, legislation has not been introduced.

Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women’s Issues Hearing on “Illicit Mining: Threats to U.S. National Security and International Human Rights”

HEARING TRANSCRIPT

Opening Statements

Subcommittee Chairman Marco Rubio (R-FL)

- Illicit mining, at times, is more lucrative than narcotic trafficking. I recently visited Peru and was surprised by the extent of this problem in the country.
- Deforestation, especially in the Amazon region, is linked to illicit gold mining.
- The annual value of illegal mining in Colombia is estimated at \$2.4 billion – three times the amount derived from the trade of Colombian cocaine.

Subcommittee Ranking Member Ben Cardin (D-MD)

- The Burmese gem trade is well-known to support local armies that conduct human rights abuses – so much so that they have become known as “Genocide Gems”.
- In the Western Hemisphere, I’ve noticed that criminal organizations are turning more to illegal mining than narcotic trafficking.
- I authored Section 1504 of the Dodd-Frank Act and the Global Magnitsky Act to fight the corruption that leads to corruption of illicit economic sectors. The Administration needs to issue new rules and regulations for Section 1504, which were repealed

over two years ago, or allow the SEC to reinstate the prior regulations.

Witnesses

Carrie Filipetti – Dept. Asst. Secretary for the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Department of State

- Venezuela holds some of the world’s largest gold reserves in the “Mining Arc” – a 112,000 square kilometer area (12% of the country’s land mass) comprised of mostly indigenous people targeted by criminal organizations.
- Criminal organizations are a part of the Maduro patronage system which has solidified Maduro’s power grip.
- In March, the State Department imposed sanctions on the Venezuelan gold industry which includes over 200 specific individuals and entities.
- State Department will likely impose further sanctions on foreign partners that buy Venezuelan gold – including Russia, China, and Turkey.

Richard Glenn – Dept. Asst. Secretary for the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, Department of State

- Illegally mined gold in South America is often used as a mechanism to launder profits from other illicit activities including sex and drug trafficking. Peru is a major source of illegally mined gold with over 28% of Peruvian gold sourced from these mines.
- Currently, it is easy to import illegal gold into the U.S. due to “under-regulation”.
- One such mechanism utilized is the importation of gold bars into the U.S. Such non-monetized gold is not required to be disclosed upon entry into the county, whereas gold coins in excess of \$10,000 require disclosure.

Jeffrey Haeni – Dept. Asst. Administrator for the Bureau for Economic Growth, Education and Environment, U.S. Agency for International Development

- The artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) sector in developing countries – comprised of over 40 million people – is most vulnerable to illicit mining activities.
- Over the past five years, USAID has awarded over \$125 million to address illegal mining in Afghanistan, Central African Republic (CAR), Colombia, Ivory Coast, Democratic Republic of Congo, Peru, and Rwanda.

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Public Affairs Update, continued from page 5

- Foreign aid, alone, will not solve the problem. These countries need to do more to advance the formalization and regulation of their ASM sectors; and strengthen mineral ASM supply chains to promote legal and transparent practices.

Patrick Lechleitner – Asst. Director for International Operations and Homeland Security Investigations, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

- ASM is the largest source of mercury pollution around the world.
- HIS leads the multi-agency Operation Arch Stanton – which resulted in the conviction of executives from a Florida gold importer for conspiring to purchase over \$3 billion in “criminally derived gold from Latin America”.

Regina Thompson – Dept. Asst. Director for the Criminal Investigative Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation

- Transnational criminal organizations (TCO) use U.S. businesses to exploit U.S. regulations and export illegally extracted gold to the U.S. for the purposes of money laundering.
- Gold bullion is not subject to custom duties, which limits law enforcement visibility into suspected money laundering.
- In 2015, the FBI established the Illegal Mining Initiative to disrupt the illicit trade of gold and prosecute complicit U.S. companies.

Question & Answer

Subcommittee Chairman Marco Rubio (R-FL)

We have seen numerous cases of small, private planes coming into the U.S. carrying illegal gold. How can we increase scrutiny of such flights coming into the U.S.?

- Lechleitner: It's difficult because of the way gold is handled – once it is melted, it is difficult to tell where it has come from. We should be working with our international partners and investigative units to determine the source of the gold associated with these flights.

Logistically, can you walk us through how illicitly mined gold winds up in our marketplace?

- Thompson: There's two ways: 1) Fraudulent documentation at the border and 2) Smuggling. Sometimes, it's shell companies that provide obscurity and cover for the gold, but the two main ways of it entering the country, literally, are the two I mentioned. Smuggling may involve melting it down into belt buckles, jewelry, purses, etc. to enter the country.

So, if I arrive to the U.S. with gold bars in my suitcase, what must I declare when I land?

- Lechleitner: If it's greater than \$10,000, you need to declare, but there's no way of telling the value if it has been melted down. The gold is being melted down and combined (which legitimizes it, hence laundering) and comes in through normal commercial transactions.

If I show up with a bunch of gold and someone wires cash to me, does that wiring have to be reported?

- Thompson: It depends on what you mean by 'reported'. Since gold is not a monetary instrument, there is a minimal paper trail.

- Lechleitner: That wire is a money transfer.

If transactions are under \$10,000, there's no reporting, right?

- Lechleitner: Correct – I don't believe so.

What's the best thing we could do in places like Peru, El Salvador, Colombia, to help them increase their capacity [to combat illicit mining]?

- Glenn: We have had success with Peru because there is a political will to do so there. With other countries, we should focus on building investigative agency capacities, making sure they have strong enforcement laws, and training the justice system to execute the laws.

What evidence do we have that U.S. shell companies are being used to launder money derived from illicit mining?

- Lechleitner: Yes, we have seen quite a bit of shell companies in South Florida that typically are traced back to a residence.

- Thompson: Sometimes, they have done “layering” which is the masking of shell companies within a shell company.

What is the role of ELN and FARC movements, within Venezuela, in the illicit mining operations within the country?

- Filipetti: It depends on the area. Most of it happens in ungoverned, lawless territories. In some cases, we see them control the mines, themselves. In other cases, it is control over armed weapons, medicinal supplies, and supply routes that is solidifying their control and influence over operations.

Subcommittee Ranking Member Ben Cardin (D-MD)

These [illicit] enterprises are profitable because they have found a way to break into legitimate U.S. companies who are either unaware or don't care where their supply is coming from. It seems we could do a better job with the transparent supply chain requirements for U.S. companies, before they purchase their products. Under our

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current enforcement rules, we cannot stop the trade of illicit gold into America.

Would it help you if we had more [supply chain] transparency, and more responsibility for where the money is coming from? Can we develop a better way for supply chain transparency?

- Thompson: Yes. A lot of times when we are conducting training, we talk a lot about AML measures – which can be taken on both an international and domestic business level to determine beneficial ownership (BO) information to determine who is ultimately benefiting from the trade of that gold.

How do you make that information know so that U.S. companies know, before purchasing, whether or not the gold is connected to illicit activities?

- Haeni: It could be difficult for gold, but we have had success with tracking tin and tungsten from the DRC. Due to actions taken since 2010, criminal control of mining in the DRC has gone from 100% to 20%, which is remarkable. That's an example of how we can see progress with traceability measures, but gold is more difficult to address since it can be smuggled more easily.

The alternative is that Congress passes on outright ban on these products coming into the country because we can't determine their connectedness to illicit activity, which would create diplomatic issues. I don't believe we have the cooperation of domestic commercial entities in this area. If everyone is required to comply by the same rules, there will be an equal playing field.

What is the game plan?

- Glenn: It does back to political will. We can throw money at a country, but it goes nowhere unless political will exists.

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)

I've long worried that we have not been paying enough attention to the use of gold as a monetary instrument of illicit finance. Earlier this year, I introduced a bill that would add trade in illicit precious

MINERALS COUNCIL SOUTH AFRICA CALLS FOR URGENT INTERVENTION IN VIOLENT ORGANISED CRIME AFFLICTING THE SECTOR

Johannesburg, 20 December 2019: The Minerals Council South Africa has called for urgent intervention by the Ministers of Police and Mineral Resources and Energy to prevent and investigate the violent assaults by heavily armed intruders on mining company targets, especially smelt houses. In the past year alone, the gold industry alone has suffered nine significant attacks that have seen employees and security personnel held hostage and assaulted. Two people have been murdered in two attacks, the most recent being an attack at Harmony Gold's Kalgold Plant this morning.



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IPMI Involved in Advocacy on REACH Reclassification of Silver Biocide:

In the European Union (EU), regulators have launched an effort to reclassify the status of silver biocide under the far-reaching REACH program. It is possible that the reclassification will put silver in a more highly regulated area, and that could have far-reaching consequences regarding how silver-containing materials are regulated. EU regulators are likely to revisit the classification

of silver biocide in several levels of toxicity and in other areas. This could trigger additional requirements related to all modes of management of silver. IPMI is working closely with the European Precious Metals Federation to coordinate our advocacy and ensure that any reclassification results will have minimal impact on IPMI members.



European Precious Metals
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Silver Advocacy Task Force

12 December 2019 | Webinar

For more information and to view the entire article, go to the home page of the IPMI website:

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In Memoriam: Ralf Duesmann

Deeply saddened and with great respect we bid farewell to our company founder and former shareholder, Mr. Ralf Duesmann. He departed on his last journey on 1st December 2019.

Ralf founded the company in 1998 together with his wife, Alexandra, and successfully managed it for many years. With tireless personal commitment, great vision and unwavering determination, he drove the development of the group. Ralf was an IPMI member since 2004 and attended many annual conferences. Even after his retirement, he remained closely connected with the Group and the employees. His entrepreneurial energy always remains an example for us.

We will keep him in grateful memory.
Management and Staff of Hensel Recycling



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International Precious Metals Institute Educational and Scientific Foundation, Inc. (“IPMI Foundation”) Student Awards

Background

The IPMI Foundation is the charitable, scientific and educational affiliate of the International Precious Metals Institute (IPMI). One of the foundation's primary purposes is its Student Awards Program. Each year at its Annual Meeting, the Foundation awards some \$100,000 in grants, internships, and cash awards to students, professors, and student advisors from around the world.

Scholarships to **research focusing on precious metals** include:

- **IPMI Student Awards**

Up to 3 IPMI-sponsored Student Awards in the amount of up to US\$ 20,000 each and US\$ 5,000 for one of the student advisors.

- **IPMI Corporate Student Awards**

Several corporate-sponsored Student Awards in the amount of US\$ 5,000 each sponsored by some of the most prestigious companies in the precious metals industry.

Eligibility

Students applying for an IPMI Student Award have to be enrolled in an academic training program (Masters, Ph. D., Postdoctoral research) performing fundamental or applied research focusing on any precious metal (Au, Ag, Pt, Pd, Ir, Rh or Ru), be it on the scientific side (catalysis, material, mining, refining, etc.) or on the commercial side (finance, marketing, etc.). Their expected graduation date must not be within the same year in which the award is received (*e.g.* an award winner of 2020 may not graduate before 2021).

Documents

The following application documents are required:

- Student CV (resume);
- Executive Summary of the research (maximum half-page), indicating the program the student is enrolled in, as well as the expected end-date of the program;
- Short research plan (maximum 2 pages) detailing research performed so far with results, as well as planned projects during the remaining time of the education program;

- Nomination/recommendation letter (maximum 1 page) from the supervising professor;

Students are welcome to add any other document they deem pertinent to their application (e.g. published papers, extended research details, academic grades, etc.).

Please submit one single pdf file containing all documents; the file name should be as follows: “student_last_name student_first_name - academic institution with country” (for example: Smith John - Columbia University USA).

Please mail the pdf application to: mail@ipmi.org

Student Award Winners

The student award winners are asked to attend IPMI's Annual Conference in Henderson, nearby Las Vegas, NV (USA) in June 2020, present their work in the Student Research Session and join all the conference professional and social events. They will have many opportunities to meet and interact with people from the precious metal industry.

Students joining the conference will be reimbursed for their travel expenses by the IPMI Foundation (economy flights, to be purchased at the lowest available rate). Conference registration (including meals) and hotel reservation will be made by the IPMI Foundation.

About IPMI

The IPMI Scientific and Educational Foundation, Inc. is the charitable, educational, and scientific affiliate of the International Precious Metals Institute, Inc. IPMI is the largest and best-known organization of producers, refiners, fabricators, scientist, users, financial institutions, merchants, private and public sector groups, and the general precious metals community. The organization seeks and promotes the efficient and environmentally sound use, reuse, and recycling of precious metals from both primary and secondary resources. The IPMI Scientific and Educational Foundation conducts educational meetings, offers courses and serves as primary resource for information for the public, industry, and government agencies worldwide. It is headquartered in the USA with several Chapters in North America and Europe.

Timeframe

Date

20 January 2020
ca. 31 March 2020
6-9 June 2020

Action

Deadline for submitting application
Award winners will be notified
Conference in Las Vegas, NV

For questions or for additional information, please contact: mail@ipmi.org, or visit our website at www.ipmi.org



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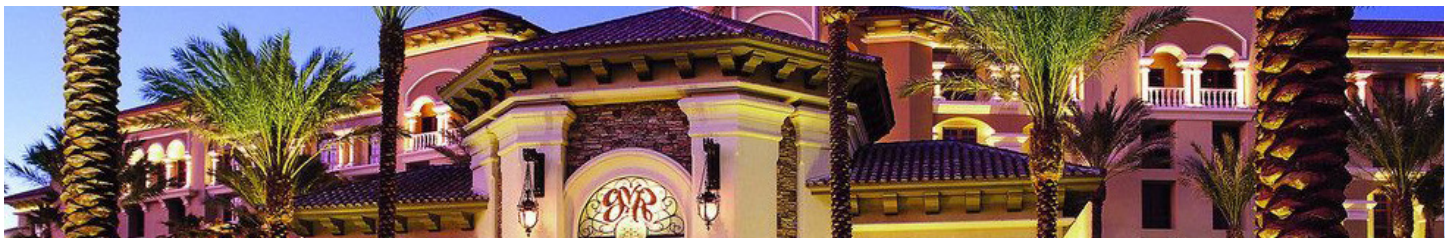
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2020

Feb 10-12 PRC / SAC Meeting • Houston, TX

Feb 24-26 Security Council Anti Money Laundering Meeting • Hollywood, FL

June 6-9 44th Annual Conference • Green Valley Ranch • Las Vegas, NV

Sep 17 8th Platinum Dinner • Grand Hyatt New York • New York, NY

To register attendance to IPMI events or add to your personal calendar, click on the following: https://www.ipmi.org/events/event_list.asp