



## NEWS RELEASE

Embargoed until 15:00 GMT, 9 November, 2011

### **ALLIANCE FOR RESPONSIBLE MINING (ARM) AND RESPONSIBLE JEWELLERY COUNCIL (RJC) ANNOUNCE THEIR COLLABORATION TOWARDS BETTER SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, LABOUR AND BUSINESS PRACTICES IN ARTISANAL AND SMALL SCALE MINING.**

The Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM) and the Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) today announced they had agreed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work cooperatively on advancing their shared objectives. These objectives include: improving social, environmental and labour practices in artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM), facilitating constructive dialogue and where appropriate, collaboration between large-scale mining operations and ASM to create sustainable and fair local opportunities for communities in mineral rich regions, and increasing market access for jewellery raw materials produced by ASM communities.

The MOU will formalize ARM and RJC's collaboration on:

- **Standards Cross-recognition:** ARM and RJC will collaborate to ensure the standards and modalities of their respective certification systems are mutually supportive. To that end, RJC will provide input through membership of ARM's Technical Committee and ARM will provide input through membership of RJC's Consultative Panel, and subsequently through the RJC Standards Committee from 2012.
- **Supporting ASM:** ARM and RJC will collaborate to develop projects to improve social, environmental and labour practices, good governance and the implementation of environmental practices in artisanal and small-scale mining. To this end ARM and RJC will work together to recruit private, governmental and intergovernmental sponsors.
- **Industry Outreach:** ARM and RJC will collaborate to increase market awareness and support for jewellery raw materials sourced from well-managed artisanal and small-scale mining operations.

"ARM believes that strengthening its relationship with the RJC is a key step in building strong collaboration with the industry to jointly embrace the developmental opportunities of ASM. We hope to see more and more ASM communities realize their potential of becoming profitable, socially and environmentally responsible enterprises that participate in global markets and contribute to local development," says Lina Villa, ARM's Acting Executive Director.

[www.responsiblejewellery.com](http://www.responsiblejewellery.com)

The Responsible Jewellery Council is the trading name of the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd.  
The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd, First Floor, Dudley House, 34-38 Southampton Street, London, UK, WC2E 7HF.  
The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd is registered in England and Wales with company number 05449042.

[www.communitymining.org](http://www.communitymining.org)

The Alliance for Responsible Mining Foundation, Registered Charity Number: S0001168. Company Reg. in Colombia

”RJC welcomes this new formal relationship between our organisations with great enthusiasm. Working together with ARM towards common goals will strengthen our collective efforts towards responsible business practices throughout the jewellery supply chain. We are looking forward to the collaboration and the benefits it will bring to artisanal and small-scale miners and their communities, RJC Members and the jewellery industry as a whole,” says Michael Rae, RJC’s Chief Executive Officer.

**For further information please contact:**

Marcin Piersiak, Communications, ARM.

Telephone + 57 4 3324711, [marcinpier@communitymining.org](mailto:marcinpier@communitymining.org)

Mila Bonini, Communications Manager, Responsible Jewellery Council

Telephone +39 02 48002801, Mobile +39 334 5488723, [Mila.bonini@responsiblejewellery.com](mailto:Mila.bonini@responsiblejewellery.com)

**About ARM**

ARM's mission is to set standards for responsible ASM and to support and enable producers to deliver "fairmined" certified metals and minerals through economically just supply chains to the markets, in order to contribute towards the transformation of ASM into a socially and environmentally responsible activity, and to the improvement of the quality of life of marginalized artisanal miners, their families and communities. ARM's vision is for ASM to become a formalised, organised and profitable activity that uses efficient technologies, and is socially and environmentally responsible, that increasingly develops within a framework of good governance, legality, participation and respect for diversity, it increases its contribution to the generation of decent work, local development, poverty reduction and social peace in our nations, driven by a growing consumer demand for sustainable minerals and ethical jewellery.

More information on <http://www.communitymining.org>

**About RJC**

The Responsible Jewellery Council is an international not-for-profit organisation bringing together more than 340 member companies committed to promoting responsible ethical, human rights, social and environmental practices in a transparent and accountable manner throughout the jewellery industry from mine to retail. Their commitment aims to reinforce consumer and stakeholder confidence in diamond, gold and platinum group metals jewellery products. The Council has developed the RJC Member Certification System, a certification system, which will apply to all Members’ businesses that contribute to the diamond, gold and platinum group metals jewellery supply chain. All Commercial Members of the RJC are required to be audited by accredited, third-party auditors to verify their conformance with the RJC’s Code of Practices and become certified under the RJC Member Certification System.

More information on [www.responsiblejewellery.com](http://www.responsiblejewellery.com)

[www.responsiblejewellery.com](http://www.responsiblejewellery.com)

The Responsible Jewellery Council is the trading name of the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd.  
The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd, First Floor, Dudley House, 34-38 Southampton Street, London, UK, WC2E 7HF.  
The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd is registered in England and Wales with company number 05449042.

[www.communitymining.org](http://www.communitymining.org)

The Alliance for Responsible Mining Foundation, Registered Charity Number: S0001168. Company Reg. in Colombia