

**FIRST-EVER GLOBAL SUMMIT ON MINE TAILINGS INNOVATION BEING
ORGANIZED BY THE MIT ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS INITIATIVE (ESI) IN
COLLABORATION WITH ICMM IN SEPTEMBER 2024**

Cambridge MA, USA, June 24, 2024 — The MIT Global Summit on Mine Tailings Innovation, organized by the MIT Environmental Solutions Initiative (ESI) in collaboration with mining and metals sustainability association ICMM, is a first-of-its-kind conference dedicated to accelerating the development of solutions to reuse, reduce, and reimagine mine tailings. The summit emphasizes involving stakeholders from academia, industry, government, startups, and civil society in order to leverage diverse perspectives and effectively tackle this global issue.

[The conference](#) will take place on September 19 and 20, 2024, and can be attended either in person on the MIT campus or virtually via a Zoom livestream. It will feature a variety of speakers across academic, industry, government, and startup sectors. Confirmed keynotes include:

- Helaina Matza, Acting Special Coordinator for the Partnership on Global Infrastructure Investment (PGI) at the U.S. Department of State
- Bruno Pelli, Global Technical Services Director of Mining at Vale, S.A.
- Jaidev Prasad, Chief Advisor for Next Generation Processing at Rio Tinto

A [complete list of speakers and a preliminary agenda](#) can be viewed on the MIT ESI's website.

“Catastrophic tailings facility failures in recent years reinforce the urgent action that is needed not just to manage existing tailings facilities, but also to reduce, reuse, and reimagine mine tailings in order to reduce future risk,” says Bryony Clear Hill, director of innovation at ICMM. “In supplying the metals and minerals that are critical for the energy transition and sustainable development, if we continue to use traditional production processes to meet rising demand, tailings waste will grow exponentially.

“We hope that ICMM’s collaboration with MIT on this conference will help to identify and accelerate opportunities for wider collaboration on technologies and solutions that can minimize or potentially eliminate tailings – as well as leverage its significant opportunities to create new products and value streams at scale.”

Embracing a circular relationship with tailings is critical to meet rising demand for minerals and metals as part of the energy transition, as well as minimizing their production risks. If tailings are viewed with this perspective, the risk no longer concerns only dam failure, but also the risk of not valorizing these potential resources where it makes sense to be able to meet demand.

“The MIT ESI is pleased to have ICMM’s support for this event, our largest engagement with the mining industry to date,” says Professor John Fernández, director of the MIT ESI. “We look forward to the many tailings innovations that will emerge from uniting industry and academia behind this urgently necessary public challenge.”

[Tickets for the conference can be purchased](#) through the MIT ESI’s Eventbrite page. Students who are interested in attending the conference free of charge should email esi-mine@mit.edu.

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About the Program on Mining and the Circular Economy from the MIT Environmental Solutions Initiative (ESI)

MIT ESI’s [Program on Mining and the Circular Economy](#) recognizes that countries and companies across the globe are working to mitigate and adapt to climate change through infrastructural development that depends on the extraction and processing of natural resources such as lithium, cobalt, copper, iron, and nickel. Mines carry their own environmental and social harms, especially at the local level in the areas in which they operate. The program grapples with these contradictions through rigorous research and public outreach with stakeholders such as mining companies, governments, NGOs, and community organizations.

About ICMM

[ICMM](#) stands for mining with principles. We bring together a third of the global metals and mining industry, along with key partners to drive leadership, action and innovation for sustainable development, ultimately delivering a positive contribution to society. Through collaboration, ICMM member companies set the standard for responsibly produced minerals and metals in a safe, just and sustainable world.

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