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The Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM) and IMOswiss AG (IMO) begin collaboration on a Third Party Certification and Auditing System for responsible Artisanal and Small Scale Mining against the FAIRMINED Standard.

The Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM) and IMOswiss AG (IMO) are happy to announce their recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in which they agree to collaborate on the development of a tailor-made Third Party Certification and Auditing System for responsible Artisanal and Small-scale Mining. The purpose of the collaboration is to implement sustainable, credible and transparent certification services to Artisanal- and Small-scale Mining Organisations and traders against ARM's FAIRMINED Standard.

The FAIRMINED Standard for gold and associated precious metals was developed with ARM's network for responsible mining and includes five types of requirements: traceability, social development, economic development, environmental protection and labour conditions. The mining organisations wishing to be certified are audited by a third party that will determine their compliance with the FAIRMINED Standard requirements.

Certified Artisanal and Small-scale Mining Organisations receive a FAIRMINED minimum price and a premium, which is reinvested into community projects and improved mining operations. After obtaining certification the organizations undergo annual audits to assure their compliance with the development approach of the standard and their continuous improvement of conditions at mines, processing units and in the surrounding communities.

The certification and auditing system will be in line with internationally recognized procedures and methodologies for Third Party Certification and Auditing System and shall provide all users with transparent and comprehensive information on requirements, fees and procedures.

For more information on the certification and auditing system please contact:

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Notes to editors:

About the Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM)

- **The Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM)** is an independent, global-scale, pioneering initiative established in 2004 to enhance equity and wellbeing in artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) communities. ARM is committed to social justice and environmental responsibility as the values driving the transformation of ASM.
- **ARM's vision** is for ASM to become a formalized, organized and profitable activity that uses efficient technologies and is socially and environmentally responsible. **ARM's work** is focused on four strategic areas: Standard Setting, Producer Support, Market Development and Advocacy and Communications.
- On the local level ARM works through local organizations such as Cumbre del Sajama in Bolivia, ASOMIRCOL in Colombia and Red Social in Peru.
- **FAIRMINED Gold** is ethical gold extracted by Artisanal and Small-scale miners certified under the **FAIRMINED Standard**. FAIRMINED gold is the achievement of the world's pioneering and industry leading network of responsible Artisanal and Small-scale miners. An initiative and movement led by and for the miners. The FAIRMINED model is open to all market players wishing to make a positive impact on responsible mining.
- Currently, **four mines in Bolivia, Peru and Colombia are certified in the FAIRMINED system**, with over 30 other mining organizations working towards certification in Latin America. Furthermore, ARM partners with UNIDO, GEF, FFEM and AGC to begin the certification process for ASM communities in Senegal, Burkina Faso and Mali; and in 2012 the organization began the expansion of its efforts into Mongolia.

About the Institute for Marketecology (IMO)

- The **IMOgroup AG** with about 400 staff members in 11 independent entities and over 20 international contact offices is active worldwide in the certification of organic and sustainable products for over 20 years. Today IMO is among the experts in the sectors of Fair Trade & Social Responsibility, natural textiles, responsible forest management, sustainable fisheries & aquaculture as well as wild collection. IMO is a pioneer in all these fields and has given important impulses for development. IMO is providing its service according to 70 different environmental and social standards in over 90 countries. With about 60 staff members and many international experts **IMOswiss AG** is the largest office within the IMO Group as well as part of the international ECOCERT Group.
- **IMO's vision** is to build bridges between local providers and responsible-minded consumers as the reliable partner for high quality control and certification of organic, eco-friendly and socially-responsible products.
- For many years, IMO and a number of its inspectors have been active in the field of **fair trade and social accountability auditing**. Special expertise has been developed in the field of smallholder group quality assurance schemes (ICS).
- IMO has been actively **involved in various standard development processes** and has developed several social and environmental standards such as for example the brand neutral, third party Certification Programme for Social Responsibility ("for Life") and Fair Trade ("Fair for Life"), including development of audit and certification methodology. The Fair for Life Certification Programme and IMO's Fair for Life audit and certification service has gained quick acceptance and is well-known in high quality markets worldwide. More than 200 operations worldwide are currently certified against the Fair for Life Programme.