

ASI Announces new Executive Director: Dr Fiona Solomon

The Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI) today announces the appointment of Dr Fiona Solomon as their new Executive Director from March 23, 2015. Fiona brings nearly twenty years of experience in sustainability, corporate social responsibility and independent third party certification in the mining industry and downstream precious metals sectors.

“ASI represents a logical next step for a metal that has been at the forefront of materials stewardship initiatives for many years”, said Solomon. “I am honoured to be leading ASI into its next stage of development and sincerely thank the wide range of stakeholders who have contributed to its achievements to date. I look forward to growing the organisation with increasing company uptake across the aluminium value chain in the coming years, and developing an innovative third-party certification program that will meet the needs of this essential industrial sector and its stakeholders.”

Since its launch in 2012, ASI has been coordinated by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Fourteen industry players across production, transformation and downstream sectors have worked in consultation with fourteen non-industry stakeholders in a multi-stakeholder standards setting process. The first part of the ASI Performance Standard was launched in December 2014, and IUCN continues to host the standard setting process until August this year. The appointment of the new Executive Director is part of a planned handover process with IUCN over the next 5 months.

“The creation of ASI underscores the power of business and NGOs working together to address today’s growing demand for natural resources, such as aluminium. IUCN is proud to have led this effort, which not only provides a foundation for ensuring that future operations will be more equitable and ecologically sustainable, but also provides a platform for advancing material stewardship commitments throughout the entire value chain,” said Giulia Carbone, Deputy Director, Business and Biodiversity Programme, IUCN, who has led the ASI process on behalf of IUCN since 2012.

Prior to joining ASI, Fiona Solomon was the Director – Standards Development for the Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) for over seven years. There she established the first and only large-scale independent third-party certification system for gold, diamonds and platinum group metals from mine to retail. RJC’s standards are implemented by over 600 companies internationally through the supply chains of these metals and minerals. She was a Board Member of the ISEAL Alliance, and a founding member of the OECD Multi-Stakeholder Steering Group for the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for mineral supply chains.

Previously, Fiona led a team of researchers focused on social and sustainability issues of the minerals industry at Australia’s Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) for more than ten years. She was seconded to WWF to manage the Mining Certification Evaluation Project during 2002-2004, which was an international first to assess feasibility of certification programs for mine sites.

Fiona has a Bachelor of Engineering (Hons 1) and a PhD in philosophy of technology both from the University of Queensland, Australia. She was the recipient of a four-year undergraduate full scholarship from Comalco Smelting, which included annual work and training opportunities at aluminium smelters and bauxite mines, and is looking forward to contributing back to the aluminium sector in her new role. She will be based in Melbourne, Australia.

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About the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI)

ASI was launched in 2012 to establish and promote responsible environmental, social and governance practices across the aluminium value chain.

Stakeholders participating in the ASI Standards Setting Group since 2012 have included As You Sow, CII – Godrej Green Business Centre India, Cleaner Production Center South Africa, Ecofys, EMPA – Materials Science and Technology, Fauna Flora International, Forest Peoples Programme, Fundacion Para la Promocion de Conocimientos Indigenas / Asociacion Indigena Ambiental en Panama, IndustriALL, IUCN, Transformando Conflictos Partners El Salvador, Social Accountability International (SAI), Transparency International, and WWF.

Participating companies in the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative include Aleris, AMAG/Constantia Flexibles, AMCOR Flexibles, Audi, Ball Corporation, BMW Group, Constellium, Jaguar Land Rover, Hydro, Nestlé Nespresso SA, Novelis, Rexam, Rio Tinto Alcan and Tetra Pak. ASI warmly welcomes more interested companies from all parts of the AI value chain to become involved in the 2015 work program.

<http://aluminium-stewardship.org>

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