The Geology and Resource Potential of Myanmar (Burma)

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Executive Summary

Myanmar, with a total land area of more than 670,000 km^2, is the second-largest country in south-east Asia and has a large potential for as yet undiscovered deposits of tin, tungsten, copper, gold, silver, lead, zinc and gemstones.

Despite a handful of western companies operating in the country during the mid-2000s, foreign capital spending has been negligible, totalling about US$ 2.87bn from 1988-2015 (Oxford Business Group, 2016). This low-level of investment over nearly three decades has mainly been attributed to political unrest, outdated legal frameworks and other hurdles that make it difficult for the international mining community to commit funds for exploration and mining projects in Myanmar. After changes in the government were implemented in 2015, however, the international mining community is increasingly following the development of the country with respect to foreign investment and mining laws.

This multi-disciplinary desktop study aims to provide a one-stop information source for mineral exploration in Myanmar, and is therefore subdivided into the following sections:

1. Introduction: Aims, Objectives and Methodology
2. Geographical Setting
3. History and Political Framework
4. Culture and Communities
5. Environmental Status and Artisanal Mining
6. Economy, Business Climate and Mineral Rights
7. Operational Infrastructure and Logistics
8. Regional Geological Setting
9. Geological Provinces
10. Myanmar Mineral Resources and Metallogeny
11. Mineral Exploration Methodologies and Targeting
12. Literature Compilation

The study aims to integrate the cultural, political and legal framework of Myanmar with its resource potential and geology. This socio-economic background information (Chapters 2-6) is considered essential for the sustainable and environmentally-aware exploration and mining of mineral resources, in a country previously affected by a lack of transparency. In addition, a chapter on logistical aspects (Chapter 7) provides exploration and mining companies with an overview of operating in Myanmar.

Chapters 8-10 comprise a summary of historic and recent studies undertaken in the field of economic geology in Myanmar. The regional geology (Chapter 8-9) will set the framework for the description and evaluation of metallogenetic provinces and mineralisation potential (Chapter 10), followed by a discussion of exploration targets and methodologies (Chapter 11).

The regional data compilation includes an Access database of relevant geoscientific literature and georeferenced geological and mineral deposit information. Spatial data is delivered in ArcGIS geodatabase (.gdb) format.

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