

SEPON WINS HUMAN RESOURCES EXCELLENCE AWARD

Congratulations to Oxiana's Sepon Operation for winning the Human Resources Excellence Award at the Asia Mining Congress Sustainability Awards last week.

In receiving the Award the Sepon operation was commended for its approach to maximising local employment and its extensive training programs, which include the commencement and ongoing development of a Pre-employment Technical Training Program and the Sepon Rio Tinto/Oxiana Apprenticeship Training Program – both the first of their kind in Laos.

Oxiana's Executive General Manager Asia, Mr Peter Albert accepted the award on behalf of all LXML employees.

On accepting the award Mr Albert said: "Oxiana and LXML are extremely proud of this award and I accept it on behalf of all of our employees. At Sepon we live and breathe the Oxiana core values of Respect, Action, Performance and Openness and this award is a reflection of the mutual commitment to those core values between the company and all staff at Sepon".

Sepon narrowly missed out on winning the overall Sustainability Award to Freeport but were congratulated for their ongoing progress and development particularly in the area of community support and development.

This is an outstanding achievement for all at Oxiana and especially everyone working at the Sepon Operation.

Some facts about the Sepon Operation

- The Sepon gold and copper operation is located in Savannakhet Province in south-central Laos.
- Oxiana has been producing gold at Sepon since December 2002 and copper since early 2005.
- Oxiana currently employs more than 5,000 employees and contractors at the Sepon gold and copper operations of which 84% of our total workforce are Lao nationals, with approximately 45% drawn from villages in the immediate vicinity of the mine.
- In 2006 the LXML Oxiana Apprenticeship Training Program was launched at Sepon, the first apprenticeship program of its kind in Laos. Oxiana has contracted RMIT University to conduct training for the apprenticeships, which are linked to Australian certification.
- The Pre-employment Technical Training program is jointly funded by Rio Tinto – discoverers of the Sepon deposits. In 2007, nine students successfully completed the first year of their training in the Pre-employment Training Program. The program is designed to develop safety and engineering skills so that graduates can go on to participate in the Sepon Apprenticeship Program.

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Students from the Sepon Rio Tinto/ Oxiana pre-employment technical training program.

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