Virtual Technical Courses prior to Planning for Closure 2026

Free Access for All Registered Congress Participants

Wednesday, May 27

	PRE-CONGRESS ACTIVITIES
	ONLINE
	Virtual Technical Courses | Free Access for Congress Participants
10:00 – 12:00	SPA **Legacy of Inadequate Mine Closure** Jacopo Seccatore, Professor, Universidad Católica del Norte, Chile
16:00 – 18:30	SPA **Rethinking Mine Closure for Territorial Governance** Jacques Wiertz, Environmental Rehabilitation and Ecosystem Dynamics Leader, and Nigel Wight, Senior Social Researcher, SMI-Chile

Thursday, May 28

	PRE-CONGRESS ACTIVITIES
	ONLINE
	Virtual Technical Courses | Free Access for Congress Participants

10:00 – 13:00

SPA

Geomorphological Restoration and Mine Closure

José Francisco Martín, Professor, and María Tejedor, Adjunct Professor, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain

COURSE 1: Legacy of Inadequate Mine Closure

Jacopo Seccatore
Professor, Universidad Católica del Norte, Chile

WHEN	LANGUAGE	LENGTH
May 27, 2026	Spanish	2 hours

DESCRIPTION

This course analyzes mine closure as the final stage of the mining lifecycle and evaluates the technical, environmental, and economic consequences of its absence. It examines closure planning instruments, asset negotiation mechanisms during abandonment stages, and the gaps that generate mining liabilities. The course focuses on the implicit transfer of risks to small-scale mining, which operates on sites without planned closure, and on the associated negative externalities. Criteria related to geomechanical stability, environmental control, operational safety, and deferred costs are addressed.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. Analyze the principles and tools of mine closure planning, including design, costs, guarantees, and regulatory compliance.
2. Evaluate abandonment and asset negotiation processes, identifying failures in closure by the industrial mining sector and their effect on the generation of liabilities.
3. Characterize the technical, environmental, and safety consequences derived from operating in mines without planned closure, with a focus on small-scale mining.

CONTENTS AND PROGRAM

10:00 - 10:40	**Module 1: Mining Projects and Proper Closure Planning**	Jacopo Seccatore
10:40 - 10:50	Questions and Discussion Module 1	
10:50 - 11:00	Break	

11:00 - 11:40	**Module 2: Lack of Closure and Its Legacy for Small-Scale Mining**	Jacopo Seccatore
11:40 - 11:50	Questions and Discussion Module 1	
11:50 - 12:00	**Conclusions and Closure of the Course**	Jacopo Seccatore

LECTURER(S) BIO

Jacopo Seccatore is a Civil Engineer and holds a Master's degree in Geoengineering from Politecnico di Torino, Italy (2010), and a PhD in Mining Engineering from the University of São Paulo, Brazil (2014). Since 2016, he has been a professor at the Faculty of Engineering and Sciences of Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez in Chile, where he teaches mining methods and techniques for underground and surface operations. He is the founder, former coordinator, and scientific advisor of the Experimental Mine Project at the University of São Paulo. He has experience in explosives engineering for mining and civil applications, tunneling and underground construction, open-pit and underground mining. He has served as a consultant for Politecnico di Torino; the University of British Columbia, Canada; the World Gold Council, United Kingdom; the GOMIAM Project; and various companies and public administrations worldwide. He is a full member of the International Society of Explosives Engineers (ISEE), United States; the Order of Engineers, Italy; the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, Australia; and the Society of Mining Professors (Societät der Bergbaukunde). He is a founding partner and former board member of the Brazilian Association of Explosives Engineering and serves as Associate Editor of the Revista Escuela de Minas.

COURSE 2: Rethinking Mine Closure for Territorial Governance

Jacques Wiertz
Environmental Rehabilitation and Ecosystem Dynamics Leader, SMI-Chile

Nigel Wight
Senior Social Researcher, SMI-Chile

WHEN	LANGUAGE	LENGTH
May 27, 2026	Spanish	2 hours and 30 minutes

DESCRIPTION

Like any stage of a mining project, the closure phase has a highly significant impact on the territory, understood in its geographic, environmental, economic, social, and cultural dimensions.

Mine closure and its planning are generally focused on physical aspects, emphasizing the need to ensure the physical and chemical stability of remaining facilities and to minimize the risks and environmental impacts derived from them. Additionally, rehabilitation and restoration efforts are often included as part of previously committed remediation measures. However, there is a need to incorporate a more territorial perspective, first understanding the impacts closure may have across the various dimensions mentioned, and then planning closure with a more comprehensive approach—seeking not only to minimize risks and reduce liabilities but also to identify opportunities to generate positive legacies across all possible areas.

This workshop invites participants to reflect on the different territorial dimensions in which a mining project operates, in order to rethink closure through better integration of these dimensions and to identify opportunities for creating positive legacies. It also addresses the dynamic nature of territory, which is constantly evolving, and the need to adapt closure measures and proposals accordingly, with particular attention to conditions imposed by climate change, ensuring greater territorial resilience.

The workshop aims to challenge preconceived notions about mine closure by shifting the focus from a narrow, compliance-driven perspective toward territorial transformation, governance, and legacy-building, encompassing environmental, social, cultural, and economic dimensions. Special attention will be given to future land use, avoiding imported solutions that ultimately prove unviable, and instead seeking alternatives integrated with local realities and aligned with the expectations and initiatives of local communities.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. Reflect on the different dimensions of the territory where mining projects operate and how to integrate them into closure planning.
2. Plan mine closure with the aim of generating positive legacies, analyzing closure as a stage of opportunity.
3. Identify alternatives for post-mining land use aligned with local and regional realities, incorporating stakeholder perspectives.

CONTENTS AND PROGRAM

16:00 - 16:50	**Module 1: Territorial Dimensions in the Context of Mine Closure**	Jacques Wiertz Nigel Wight
16:50 - 17:00	Questions and Discussion Module 1	
17:00 - 17:30	**Module 2: Planning Mine Closure for Positive Legacies**	Jacques Wiertz Nigel Wight
17:30 - 17:40	Questions and Discussion Module 2	
17:40 - 17:50	Break	
17:50 - 18:20	**Module 3: Future Land Use**	Jacques Wiertz Nigel Wight
18:20 - 18:30	**Conclusions and Closure of the Course**	Jacques Wiertz Nigel Wight

LECTURER(S) BIO

Nigel Wight is an Economist from Queensland University of Technology, Australia, and holds a Master's degree in Social Development from the University of Melbourne, Australia. He completed his PhD through the Sustainable Minerals Institute (SMI) at the University of Queensland, Australia. With over 15 years of experience, he has led multiple projects for government, academic, and private sector organizations, and has contributed to the social development of vulnerable communities in countries such as Australia, Chile, Scotland, and Argentina.

His areas of expertise include the design, implementation, and evaluation of projects supporting social development in vulnerable communities, the social impacts of mining activities, and the implementation of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent in projects operating in Indigenous territories.

Jacques Wiertz is a Geological Civil Engineer from the Université de Liège, Belgium, and holds a PhD in Applied Sciences from the same institution. He has more than twenty-five years of experience in the mining industry as a research engineer, academic, and consultant, with a strong commitment to sustainability. His main areas of specialization include biohydrometallurgy/biolixiviation, environmental impact assessment studies for mining projects, mine closure planning, water management, geochemical characterization of mining waste, and chemical stability of tailings deposits. His areas of interest include sustainable mining waste management, water management, circular economy in the mining industry, and sustainability indicators for the mining sector.

COURSE 3: Geomorphological Restoration and Mine Closure

José Francisco Martín
Professor, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain

María Tejedor
Adjunct Professor, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain

WHEN	LANGUAGE	LENGTH
May 28, 2026	Spanish	3 hours

DESCRIPTION

State of the art in geomorphological restoration in mine closures. A global perspective.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. Identify and explain the limitations of conventional landform reshaping methods in mine closure.
2. Explain the geomorphological alternative to conventional landform reshaping methods in mine closure, including existing methods, countries where they are applied, and examples.
3. Address real challenges to increasing the use of geomorphological restoration in mine closure.

CONTENTS AND PROGRAM

10:00 - 10:40	**Module 1: Conventional Landform Reshaping Methods in Rehabilitation and Mine Closure**	José Francisco Martín María Tejedor
10:40 - 10:50	Questions and Discussion Module 1	
10:50 - 11:00	Break	

11:00 - 11:45	**Module 2: The Geomorphological Alternative in Mine Closure**	José Francisco Martín María Tejedor
11:45 - 11:55	Questions and Discussion Module 2	
11:55 - 12:40	**Module 3: Fluvial Geomorphological Restoration Methods**	José Francisco Martín María Tejedor
12:40 - 12:50	Questions and Discussion Module 3	
11:50 - 12:00	**Module 4: Geomorphological Restoration in Rock Faces and Slopes / Closure of the Course**	José Francisco Martín María Tejedor

LECTURER(S) BIO

José Francisco Martín is a Professor of Geomorphology at Universidad Complutense de Madrid. He has more than 30 years of academic and professional experience in geomorphological restoration in mining, where he is recognized as one of the leading global experts. He is the author with the highest number of scientific publications worldwide in the field of geomorphological restoration in mining. His international experience includes countries such as Germany, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Chile, the United States, Israel, the United Kingdom, Paraguay, Portugal, and Sweden. He has been the principal investigator of three European Union LIFE projects on geomorphological restoration in mining. His work has been recognized by the European Union, which included geomorphological restoration as one of the best available techniques for managing extractive industry waste.

María Tejedor holds a degree in Geology from Universidad Complutense de Madrid and is an Adjunct Professor at the same institution. She is an expert in geomorphological restoration design, implementation monitoring, and training in geomorphological restoration in mining, with more than 15 years of experience. In design, she is considered one of the leading international experts, with direct experience in projects in Australia, Canada, Colombia, Spain, Portugal, and Sweden for both government and private sector clients. She is co-author of numerous scientific publications in this field and has been a contracted researcher in three European Union LIFE projects on geomorphological restoration in mining.