



ICSOBA

International Committee for the Study of Bauxite, Alumina and Aluminium

PRESS RELEASE

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Recently the International Committee for the Study of Bauxite, Alumina & Aluminium (ICSOBA) held its 18th Symposium in Zhengzhou, China. The recent dam failure of a red mud storage basin near Ajka in Hungary was high on the agenda.

ICSOBA, as independent organization of professionals involved in the bauxite-alumina-aluminium value chain, trusts that relevant parties will carry out a thorough and transparent investigation of the Ajka tragedy and will make outcomes and recommendations available to the public.

Based on available information, it is ICSOBA's opinion that injuries and the tragic loss of lives were caused by the sudden release of an enormous amount of water and by the caustic soda content of that water. At this stage there is no evidence of harm that was caused by red mud solids, also named bauxite residue.

The use of modern bauxite residue storage technology would have avoided the Ajka calamity and ICSOBA advocates that governments re-examine applicable legislation. Due consideration should be given to the use of modern technology, such as dry storage of residue, rehabilitation & utilisation of closed storage areas and the use of bauxite residue as feed-stock for further processing.

To promote the safe and sustainable management of bauxite residue worldwide, ICSOBA is organising a Bauxite Residue Seminar in the second half of 2011. This Seminar will bring together experts from academia, industry and other parties from all over the world. The agenda includes:

- Washing, de-watering and neutralization of bauxite residue slurries
- Dry storage of residue solids, avoiding hazardous discharges to the environment.
- Rehabilitation and safe utilisation of storage areas once they are full.
- Re-working of outdated residue storage areas, to meet today's environmental standards.
- The use of bauxite residue as feed-stock for further processing.

ICSOBA welcomes all suggestions that may help to shape a productive agenda and asks interested parties to submit their papers. Further details, such as timing and location of the Bauxite Residue Seminar, will be published on ICSOBA's website (www.icsoba.org).

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ICSOBA, the International Committee for Study of Bauxite, Alumina & Aluminium, was formed in 1963 in Zagreb, Yugoslavia. The goal of ICSOBA, a non-profit organization, is to promote exchange of ideas and results of work from different fields of research related to bauxite exploration & exploitation and alumina and aluminium production.

Over the past 48 years ICSOBA has developed into a prestigious, international organization. In total 18 symposiums and 10 congresses were organized, in various parts of the world. The most recent ICSOBA symposium, held late November 2010 in Zhengzhou, China, was attended by more than 300 delegates from 20 different countries whilst some 100 papers were presented.

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