

# USGS Mineral Resources Program International Activities

**T**he USGS is the country's leading earth science organization. Since 1879, USGS scientists have gathered and analyzed data and disseminated the results of their research on the geology, cartography, hydrology, and, more recently biology, of every continent and ocean on Earth. Multidisciplinary research both in the United States and in the international arena has been an important part of the USGS mission. The USGS Mineral Resources Program is the sole Federal agency program that provides high-quality scientific information, objective resource assessments, and unbiased research results on mineral issues.

Mineral issues can be grouped into three broad categories related to basic human needs for resources. Program activities provide information in three areas of public concern:



- **Environment and Public Health**  
Identify sources of naturally occurring contamination from mineral deposits and quantify environmental impacts of mining, processing, using, and eventual disposal of mineral products.
- **Sustainability and Societal Need**  
Identify availability of mineral material needed to sustain our high standard of living without unacceptable degradation of the environment.
- **Economy and Public Policy**  
Provide unbiased information to government policy makers who balance the need for economic supplies of minerals with environmental protection, responsible management of public lands, and national security.

Mineral issues extend beyond U.S. borders. The Program supports a wide range of international activities with program funds as well as funds from the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, U.S. Agency for International Development, the Asian Development Bank, Trade and Development Agency, U.S. Department of State, and the private sector. Opportunities for Program scientists to work abroad facilitate the exchange of information with a diverse group of colleagues and enhance the shared knowledge base.

## Minerals Information Team

**T**he Minerals Information Team (MIT) is the organization within the Mineral Resources Program that is responsible for collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information on the domestic and international supply of and demand for minerals and mineral materials essential to the U.S. economy and national security. USGS commodity and country specialists are experts on mineral industries and markets. Every month these scientists answer more than 2,000 inquiries from Federal and State agencies, domestic and international organizations, foreign governments, and the general public. Information on more than 100 commodities located in more than 185 countries is available on the World Wide Web and fax copies or reports are available from the MINES FaxBack system.

# USGS Mineral Resources Program

## Collaborative Activities

In addition to international minerals information (IMI), the Program supports a number of collaborative international mineral resource activities. (See back page for specific contacts.)

### USGS Mission in Saudi Arabia

For more than 35 years, the USGS has maintained a mission in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the auspices of the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, and has worked cooperatively with the Deputy Ministry of Mineral Resources (DMMR). As part of an international effort to understand the geology and mineral resources of the Kingdom, USGS scientists have produced regional geologic maps, evaluated base-, precious-, and industrial-mineral deposits, and identified terranes and deposit model types not found in the United States. Knowledge gained by studying mineral deposits from around the world enables USGS scientists to better understand global mineral-resource issues as well as improving the Program's ability to carry out its domestic mineral-resource mission.



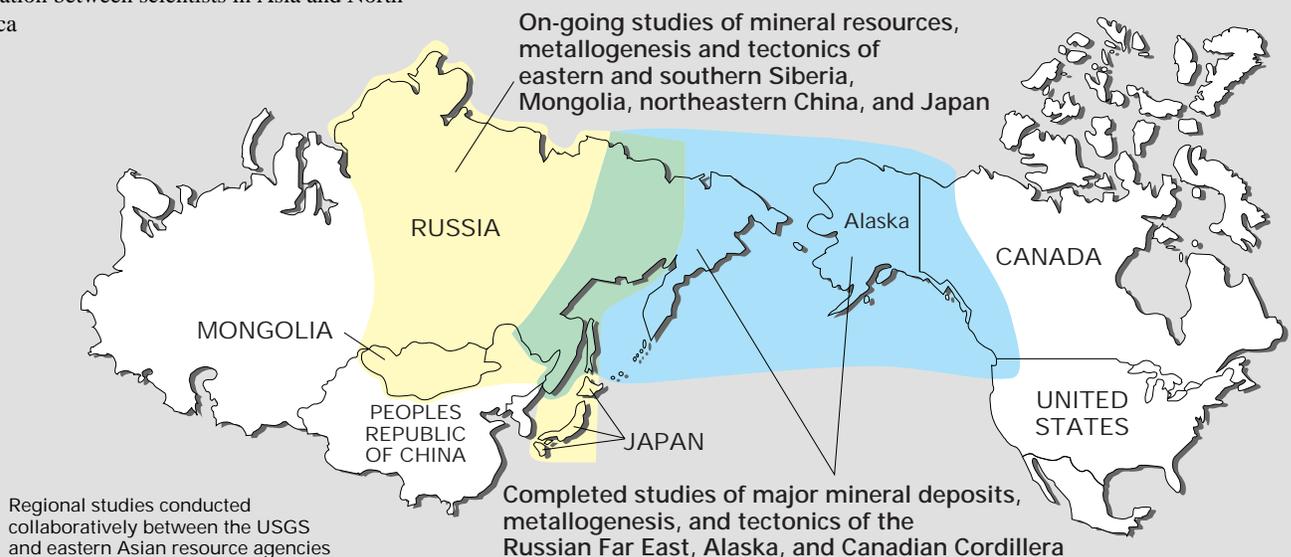
Examination of rock core, Ad Duwayah, Saudi Arabia

### Siberia, Mongolia, and Northeastern China

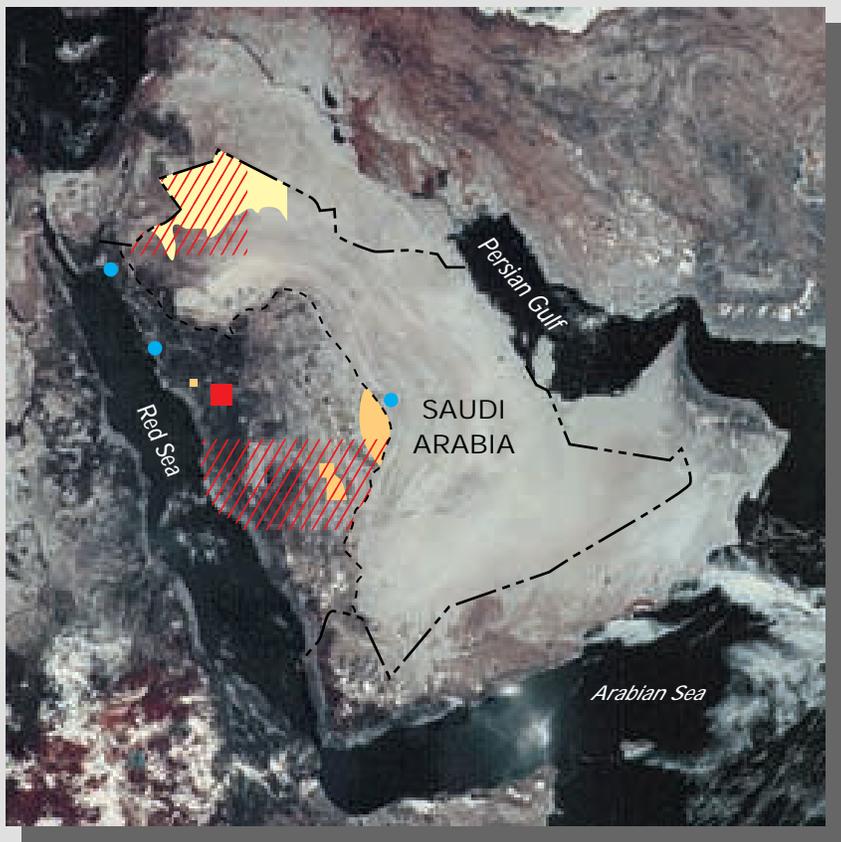
A 5-year collaborative project between the USGS and eastern Asian resource agencies is designed to collect information on the mineral resources, metallogenesis, and tectonics of eastern and southern Siberia, Mongolia, and northeastern China. The project objectives are as follows:

- Provide a comprehensive data base on the mineral resources of the region
- Develop new interpretations of the origin and crustal evolution of mineralizing systems and their host rocks
- Promote the exchange of scientific and technical information between scientists in Asia and North America

This project in Siberia, Mongolia, and northeastern China is an outgrowth of previous research on the major mineral deposits, metallogenesis, and tectonics of the Russian Far East, Alaska, and the Canadian Cordillera, an area that has potential for large identified and undiscovered mineral deposits. A summary of the previous work and some of the major reports are available on the World Wide Web.



# International Activities



Current field studies of USGS Mission on the Arabian Shield in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

- |   |                       |   |                              |
|---|-----------------------|---|------------------------------|
|  | Mapping projects      |  | Base metal exploration       |
|  | Gold exploration      |  | Arabian Shield boundary      |
|  | Phosphate exploration |  | Approximate Kingdom boundary |
|  | Seismic studies       |   |                              |

## U.S. Borderlands

The U.S. Department of the Interior sponsors the U.S.–Mexico Border Field Coordinating Committee that coordinates U.S. participation in collaborative studies along both sides of the U.S.–Mexico border with counterpart Mexican agencies. Using resources from all DOI agencies, the committee's goal is to develop a comprehensive understanding of factors necessary to conserve and protect the shared natural and cultural resources.

USGS scientists are studying the geology and mineralization of the San Pedro and Santa Cruz River basins. In conjunction with the University of Sonora, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Arizona Department of Water Resources, and Fort Huachuca Garrison (U.S. Army), USGS scientists are developing detailed geophysical interpretations of the subsurface and studying the water quality of both river basins.

## Cooperative Projects

### India—Department of Agriculture

In 1987, the U.S. Department of Agriculture asked the USGS to participate in developing cooperative projects with the Central Arid Research Institute in Jodhpur, India, focusing on dryland agriculture. This cooperative project has resulted in information transfer about Indian agrogeology, mined land reclamation in desert regions, and land-use management practices in arid regions.

### Latin America

Program scientists have been active in large government-to-government cooperative projects in Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Peru, and Venezuela. These projects were designed to provide technical assistance and transfer technology for assessing the mineral resources in specific regions. The English-language reports about the geology, geophysics (including remote sensing), geochemistry, and mineral deposits were used by governments to encourage foreign investment in the mineral sectors of their economies. As cooperators, local universities and counterpart resource agencies shared in learning the most up-to-date methods of resource assessments.

### Strategic Mineral Issues (ISMI)

The USGS along with earth science and mineral resource agencies in Australia, Canada, Germany, the Republic of South Africa, and the United Kingdom is a participant in the International Strategic Mineral Issues (ISMI) working group. Program scientists are active members of the working group, which addresses global issues related to mineral resources and the supply of mineral commodities needed to sustain economic development. These issues must be balanced with environmental concerns and the needs of a growing world population. ISMI has produced reports on strategic minerals, mineral-producing regions, and concise overviews of mineral topics to assist policy analysts.

For more information on USGS international mineral-resource activities please contact:

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