

VETIVER ON THE ANDES

Paul Truong is currently working with Fundacion Chile, a semi governmental non profit research center in Santiago, to introduce VS to the Chilean mining industry in the short term and other applications to Chile and Latin America in the long term.

In March 2006 a mission of seven officials from the Fundacion and mining executives came to inspect Paul's mining rehabilitation project in Queensland and one of the engineers from the Fundacion, Rocio Fonseca, stayed on the for one month to work with him to gain experience on various VS applications in Queensland.

This was followed up by Paul's visit to Chile in May-June to inspect several pilot projects established by the Fundacion at various copper mines in northern and central regions of Chile.

The following photos show two of these pilot sites, one at Coldelco Andina, at about 2 500m altitude, right below the snow line and the other at Lo Aguirre. The objectives of these pilot studies are to:

- determine whether vetiver can grow on highly contaminated copper tailings**
- find out whether vetiver can grow on these extreme climatic conditions: high altitude, cold and wet winter, very hot and dry summer**
- ascertain whether vetiver is effective in stabilising the tailings ponds wall (built with copper tailings material only) against wind and water erosion**
- determine whether vetiver is effective in preventing wind and water erosion in fresh and old tailings ponds.**

Full details will be presented at ICV4 in October 2006

Codelco Andina, at about 2 500m altitude





**Tailings pond dam built
only with copper tailings**

3 6 2006



**Strong and gusty wind
blew tailings on top of
dam wall**

3 6 2006



3 6 2006



Six weeks after planting

3 8 2006



**Jorge Munoz Naranjo,
mine Environmental and
Safety Manager,
Carolina Diaz and Paul
Truong on site**



**Reasonable growth after
6 weeks on this very
cold site**

3 6 2006



Very happy with the results, Biotech engineers Rocio Fonseca and Carolina Diaz

3 6 2006

Waste rock dump at Lo Aguirre copper mine near Santiago



Three months after planting





**Six months after
planting**