SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF THE VETIVER SYSTEM TECHNOLOGY IN MINING AREAS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

*Presenter: Dr Paul Truong, Technical Director, The Vetiver Network International (TVNI)*

Vetiver grass can replace concrete, steel, and chemicals in some mine site rehabilitation. It is an innovative, green, low-cost, low-tech, and environmentally friendly approach now being used in developing countries.

A series of case studies illustrate how the Vetiver System Technology has been employed to stabilise and rehabilitate mine overburden and highly contaminated tailings as well as to protect infrastructure. Local communities have benefitted socially and economically.

The technology is based on Vetiver grass, which has a deep and extensive root system. Vetiver grass tolerates extreme climatic variations, a wide range of soil pH, soil salinity, sodicity, acidity, and heavy metals.

Dr Truong is the Technical Director at The Vetiver Network International and a consultant. He has worked with CMLR on mine rehabilitation projects in Queensland and Chile.