



The  
Ceylon  
Chamber of  
Commerce



Mineral  
Technologies

# MINERAL SANDS TECHNICAL CONFERENCE 2026

Hosted by The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce  
in partnership with Mineral Technologies

**17 JUNE  
2026**

**9.00 AM - 4.30 PM**

**GRAND BALLROOM  
GALLE FACE HOTEL COLOMBO**

**FOLLOWED BY A NETWORKING COCKTAIL 4:30 P.M. - 6:00 P.M**

# AGENDA

<b>08:30 A.M- 08:45 A.M</b>	<b>Arrival of Guests</b>
<b>09:00 A.M- 09:10 A.M</b>	<b>Welcome Address</b> <i>Andrew Foster – Managing Director, Mineral Technologies – Australia</i>
<b>09:10 A.M- 09:25 A.M</b>	<b>Opening Address</b> <i>Unlocking Sri Lanka’s Mineral Sands Potential</i>  <b>Hon. Sunil Handunneththi</b> <i>Minister of Industry &amp; Entrepreneurship Development</i>
<b>09:25 A.M- 09:40 A.M</b>	<b>National Minerals Policy</b> <i>Enabling a Globally Competitive Mineral Sands Sector</i>  <b>C.N.B. Wijerathna</b> – <i>Senior Geologist, Geological Survey &amp; Mines Bureau</i>
<b>09:40 A.M- 10:05 A.M</b>	<b>Mineral Sands Economics</b> <i>Project Economics &amp; Impact on Resource Development</i>  <b>Phil Murphy</b> – <i>Director, PWM Consulting – USA</i>
<b>10:05 A.M- 10:30 A.M</b>	<b>Exploration &amp; Resource Development</b> <i>Resource to Reserve: Optimising In-Ground Mineralisation</i>  <b>Greg Jones</b> – <i>Head of Geology &amp; Mining, Mineral Technologies –Australia</i>
<b>10:30 A.M- 10:50 A.M</b>	<b>Hydrogeology</b> <i>Understanding Groundwater Systems in Coastal Mineral Sands Projects</i>  <b>Mark Robertson</b> – <i>Owner &amp; Director, Geo-Eng – Australia</i>
<b>10:50 A.M- 11:20 A.M</b>	<b>Morning Break</b>
<b>11:20 A.M- 11:40 A.M</b>	<b>Site Investigation</b> <i>Site Characterisation: Foundations for Successful Development</i>  <b>Simon Burgmans</b> – <i>Director &amp; Principal Dredging Engineer, in2Dredging – Australia/Netherlands</i>
<b>11:40 A.M- 12:05 P.M</b>	<b>Dredging</b> <i>Dredge Mining in Mineral Sands: Efficiency, Recovery and Scale Advantages</i>  <b>Shameeka Nanayakkara</b> <i>Project Engineer, in2Dredging – Sri Lanka/Australia</i>

**12:05 P.M- 12:25 P.M**

### **Water Management**

*Environmental Water Management Considerations*

**Nadeeka Rathnayake** – Senior Scientist, Hydrobiology – Sri Lanka/Australia

**12:25 P.M- 13:25 P.M**

### **Lunch Break**

**13:25 P.M- 13:45 P.M**

### **Metallurgical Testwork & Processing**

*From Sand to Saleable Product: The Role of Testwork and Flowsheet Design*

**Sibasankar Patra** – Technical & Business Development Manager,  
Mineral Technologies – India

**13:45 P.M- 14:10 P.M**

### **Sustainable Processing**

*A Sustainable Approach to Processing*

**Matthew Allen** – General Manager, Business Development,  
Mineral Technologies – Australia

**14:10 P.M- 14:35 P.M**

### **Global ESG Standards**

*Applying Global ESG Standards in Mineral Sands Development*

**Anneli Becker** – Founding Director, Sustain Consulting – South Africa

**14:35 P.M- 15:00 P.M**

### **Environmental Protection & Rehabilitation**

*Progressive Rehabilitation: Returning Land to Nature or Productive Use*

**Ted Avis** – Business Development Executive, Coastal & Environmental  
Services – South Africa

**15:00 P.M- 15:30 P.M**

### **Evening Break**

**15:30 P.M- 15:55 P.M**

### **Market Insights**

*Global Mineral Sands Market Dynamics*

**Gavin Diener** – CEO, TZMI – Global

**15:55 P.M- 16:30 P.M**

### **Panel Discussion**

*Building a World-Class Mineral Sands Industry in Sri Lanka: What Needs to  
Happen Next*

Moderator: **Matthew Allen**

Panel: **Gavin Diener, Phil Murphy, D.M.Kumara Rathna Bandara**

**16:30 P.M- 18:00 P.M**

### **Networking Sundowner**

# SPEAKERS



## PHILIP MURPHY

Director, PWM Consulting, USA

Mr. Philip Murphy, BSc (Hons), MSc, GDE (Mineral Economics), is a seasoned mining professional with over 30 years of experience in commodity analysis, stockbroking, mineral consultancy, and executive leadership. He began his career in Johannesburg focusing on titanium minerals, base metals, and industrial minerals. In 1999, he joined TZMI, serving as principal consultant, executive director, and Managing Director over 17 years. He has held directorships in private and listed companies. As CEO of World Titane Holdings, he led the successful sale of the Toliara Sands project. He later headed Zirco Resources and is currently CEO of Rio Grande Mineracao (since 2021).

**Presentation Title:** Mineral Sands Project Economics and Impact on Resource Development



## GREG JONES

Head of Geology & Mining, Mineral Technologies, Australia

Mr. Greg Jones is a highly experienced resource geologist and mineral sands specialist with over 30 years of expertise in exploration, resource development, and project evaluation. He has held senior roles with major mineral sands producers and engineering groups, contributing to resource estimation, geometallurgy, and project studies across Africa, Australia, Asia, and the Americas. He is recognised for integrating geology, mineralogy, metallurgy, and mining to support technical and investment decisions. Mr. Jones is a Fellow of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and has authored technical papers and presented at international mineral sands conferences.

**Presentation Title:** Resource to Reserve: Optimising the in-ground mineralization



## MARK ROBERTSON

Owner & Director, Geo-Eng, Australia

Mr. Mark Robertson, MASc (Geological Engineering), is a highly experienced Geotechnical Engineer and Hydrogeologist with over 30 years in the mineral sands industry. He specialises in groundwater management, numerical modelling, and geotechnical engineering, contributing to projects across Australia, New Zealand, the USA, Brazil, Senegal, Bangladesh, Mozambique, and Sri Lanka. His expertise includes sand and dredge mining, mine dewatering, slope stability, tailings management, and groundwater resource development. At Consolidated Rutile, he developed innovative water and tailings systems widely adopted in the industry. He currently leads GEO-ENG, focusing on mineral sands consultancy.

**Presentation Title:** Understanding Groundwater Systems in Coastal Mineral Sands Projects



## SHAMEEKA NANAYAKKARA

Project Engineer, in2Dredging, Sri Lanka / Australia

Ms. Shameeka Nanayakkara is a dredging and marine engineer with over eight years of experience in marine infrastructure projects. She holds an MSc in Civil Engineering from Liverpool John Moores University and a BEng from Changsha University of Science and Technology. Currently a Senior Dredging Engineer at in2Dredging, she has contributed to over 20 international and Australian projects across ports, marine works, and offshore wind sectors. Her expertise includes dredging optimisation, pipeline hydraulics, estimating and tendering, and technical reporting. She is known for her strong problem-solving skills, adaptability, and ability to collaborate effectively in multidisciplinary engineering teams.

**Presentation Title:** Dredge Mining in Mineral Sands: Efficiency, Recovery and Scale Advantages



## SIMON BURGMAN

Director & Principal Engineer, in2Dredging, Netherlands / Australia

Mr. Simon Burgmans is an experienced dredging and offshore engineering professional with over 20 years of expertise in dredging, mining, and offshore sectors. He holds an MSc in Civil Engineering (Coastal Engineering) from Delft University of Technology. He began his career at Van Oord, working on major dredging projects and innovative technologies, and later became a recognised expert at Wood Group Kenny, contributing to projects such as Gorgon and Browse LNG. In 2016, he founded in2Dredging Pty Ltd, offering consultancy in engineering, project execution, estimating, dispute resolution, and training for international dredging and offshore clients worldwide.

**Presentation Title:** "Site Characterisation: Foundations for Successful Development"



## NADEEKA RATHNAYAKE

Senior Scientist in Environmental Chemistry and Geochemistry, Hydrobiology  
Sri Lanka / Australia

Dr. Nadeeka Rathnayake is a Senior Scientist in Environmental Chemistry and Geochemistry with over 15 years of experience across academia, government, and consultancy. She currently works on complex projects within Australia's mining and water sectors, delivering solutions for government and industry both nationally and internationally. Her expertise includes water and sediment quality, geochemical processes, and environmental risk assessment, particularly in mining contexts. She has led major studies on mining impacts, using advanced methods to assess trace metal behaviour and bioavailability, supporting informed decision-making and sustainable environmental management practices.

**Presentation Title:** Environmental Water Management Considerations



## SIBASANKAR PATRA

Manager, Technical & Business Development (Asia), Mineral Technologies, India

Mr. Sibasankar Patra is an experienced mineral processing professional with over 18 years of expertise in process metallurgy, beach sand beneficiation, technical services, and business development. He holds an MTech in Mineral Processing and is currently the Technical & Business Development Manager at Mineral Technologies, where he has worked for over 12 years. Based in India, he leads business growth initiatives across Asia in the mineral sands and critical minerals sectors. He has strong experience in test work programs, flowsheet development, product innovation, and process optimisation, contributing from early-stage studies through to full-scale operations and plant performance improvement.

**Presentation Title:** : Understanding the Resource: The Foundation of Successful Mineral Sands Projects



## MATTHEW ALLEN

Business Development, Mineral Technologies, Australia

Mr. Matthew Allen is an experienced mechanical engineer with over two decades of expertise in delivering innovative plant designs and process solutions for the global mineral sands industry. Throughout his long-standing career with Mineral Technologies, he has played a key role in the design, construction, and commissioning of zircon-producing mineral separation plants across multiple international projects. His extensive experience covers all stages of project delivery, from engineering design to operational implementation, giving him strong technical and practical insight. With more than twenty years at Mineral Technologies, he now focuses on strategic growth initiatives and supporting clients in developing effective mineral sands solutions worldwide.

**Presentation Title:** : A Sustainable Approach to Processing



## ANNELI BECKER

*Director & Founder, Sustain Consulting, South Africa*

*Ms. Anneli Becker is the Founding Director of Sustain Consulting and architect of SustainIAP, an advanced sustainability assurance platform integrating leading international ESG standards. With over 25 years of global experience, she specialises in embedding ESG into mining operations with a strong focus on practical implementation, assurance, and measurable performance outcomes. She has over seven years of consulting experience in the mineral sands sector, supporting ESIA's and helping clients secure IFC-based equity funding. Ms. Becker has led ESG due diligence on transactions exceeding US\$10 billion and delivered sustainability assessments across mining, energy, and agriculture. She also contributes to UNCTAD ISAR initiatives and previously served as Vice Chair in developing one of the first ESG minerals codes globally.*

**Presentation Title:** : *Applying Global ESG Standards in Mineral Sands Development*



## TED AVIS

*Business Development, Coastal & Enviro Services, South Africa*

*Mr. Ted Avis is a highly experienced environmental consultant with over 35 years of expertise in Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs), having managed large-scale projects to international standards across more than 12 African countries. He has led 15 feasibility-level ESIA studies in the minerals sector and is well recognised for his contributions to impact assessment practice. He holds a PhD in Botany from the South African Association of Botanists and received a bronze medal for research on coastal dune ecology and management. He is also published in rehabilitation ecology, focusing on post-mining landscape restoration, and is the founding partner of Coastal and Environmental Services.*

**Presentation Title:** : *Progressive Rehabilitation: Returning Land to Productive Use*



## GAVIN DIENER

*CEO, TZMI Global*

*Mr. Gavin Diener is an experienced minerals processing professional with extensive technical, management, and business expertise across plant operations, pilot plant test work, plant design and commissioning, process optimisation, operations management, and product development. Prior to joining TZMI in 2008, he spent sixteen years with the Anglo American Group, working across mineral sands, gold, and iron operations. He held key responsibilities at the Namakwa Sands project, managing ilmenite smelting and minerals processing operations. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Natal. His career demonstrates strong operational leadership, technical development capability, and strategic industry analysis experience.*

**Presentation Title:** : *Global Mineral Sands Markets: Demand, Supply and Strategic Positioning*

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**Sri Lankan Participants – LKR 16500**  
**Foreign Participants – LKR 80000**

*For more details:*  
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