

**DRAGAN MITROVIĆ**

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BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Dear Chairperson, dear Ministries, Deputies of Ministries, Directors, colleagues, ladies and gentleman

My name is Dragan Mitrovic and I am the director of the Geological Survey of the Republic of Srpska, one of two geological surveys in small European country Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It is my big pleasure joins you today and speech in this one important event as China Mining Forum 2016.

Despite the fact that I represent small geological institution in small South-Eastern Europe country, geographically so far from China, we now that geology do not recognize boundaries, as we also know that each square kilometer on the Earth is, in geological sense, very valuable.

My Geological Survey has long tradition, more than 100 years. It is established in Sarajevo in 1912, from Austrian-Hungarian monarchy. During the pest the Survey passed true numerous difficult periods, especially during the war between 1992-1995.

Despite these obstacles, the survey provides the results from the key importance for country developing before, and its renewal, after the Bosnia war.

Today, the Survey has jurisdiction under 26000 km<sup>2</sup> with very complex geology. As results of the hard working in the past, geologists were found more than 60 different mineral resources and some of these are important on the regional, even European scale: bauxite, zinc, lead, iron etc.

The territory is in 60s, 70s and 80s of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century entirely covered with geological maps in scale 1:100000 and represents, under opinion of numerous colleagues from the Europe and the World the best one map of this kind.

Also, it is very important emphasize that geological survey and geological explorations were represented, represent and will represent driving force of the sustainable development of the Republic of Srpska.

My colleagues in the Republic of Srpska have huge experience in exploration of the mineral resources in different areas: ophiolitic rocks, karst terrains, Neogene sediments, igneous rocks

but also in explorations and prevention of the natural disasters (in the first order landslides), providing of the enough quality drinking water for our population, explorations of the thermal and mineral waters, geothermal energy, geoheritage etc.

However, in this moment, we recognized that we need stronger networking and help of colleagues all over the world to improve our methods of the explorations and make strong support for weak national economy.

More concrete, we recognized necessity of the cooperation with Chinese colleagues after it's the first visit to the Republic of Srpska and Geological Survey in spring 2014.

In meanwhile, we negotiate about possible modalities of the cooperation and results of the efforts of the both sides will be signing of the Memorandum about Understanding between the ministries responsible for geological explorations in the countries during this so important mining and geological event.

Regarding the cooperation there are huge possibilities in: geochemistry, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, non-metallic mineral resources, energy, geothermal energy, hydrogeology, natural hazards-especially landslide, information system etc.

We sincerely hopes that knowledge and experience of the China colleagues will be key trigger for new achievements in geology in my country, with overall aim of strong economy improvement in the next two decades and achieving of better life standard for the citizens of the Republic of Srpska.

At the end I want to express big gratitude to the Geological Survey of the PR of China for invitation to visit this forum and this beautiful country and sincerely hopes that we will be good host to our Chinese colleagues in December of this year.