Translating Values into Action: Guiding Principles for Improved Community Engagement

This report builds on a previous project* which presented the perspectives of a selection of community members at two mine sites about their experience of social conflict with the Peruvian state and with mining companies. The experiences of these men and women are varied but have given rise to a common belief that neither the government nor the companies hold any respect for the values, beliefs and needs of community members. The results of the first project were presented as a set of guidelines which laid out the key areas for improvement needed to create equitable negotiations in the future. The current project aimed to deepen the context of these guidelines by gaining feedback about the guidelines from the same communities as well as exploring how companies and Governments who have positive relations with communities, appear to have applied them, or from the perspective of the communities, could do so in the future.

The objective of this report is to provide some meaningful direction about what needs to change in the values and behavior of companies, governments, communities and non-government organisations (NGOs) to develop more equitable approaches to community engagement in the future; it aims to “develop translation and mediation tools for helping make visible the difference of interests, access, power, needs, desire and philosophical perspective” of those people at the center of mining economies.

Along with the results of interviews and identification of key change areas, recommendations on how strategies could be implemented and a set of Guiding Principles are provided.

Two short films have been made by filmmaker Eric Feinblatt, intended for use as pedagogical tools in teaching and learning for engineering students, government personnel and mining companies.

* The companion report ‘Mining and Community Engagement in Peru: Communities Telling Their Stories to Inform Future Practice’ is available on the IM4DC website or from the authors (see left).