

Room for more quality lithium miners to meet the growing supply demand imbalance

“The mining industry is well on the road to recovery” announced Andrew Thake, Head of Content at Mines and Money, as the 10th annual Mines and Money Asia event kicked off in Hong Kong this morning.

With the number of registered miners in attendance up by 15% this year, and 60% of the audience qualified investors and financiers, the mood in the audience was optimistic.

As the chair for the day, Lawrence Roulston, Managing Director, West Bay Capital Advisors, professed “When you are at the bottom of the mining cycle it looks dark and dreary, but when the markets are turning, there is no better place to be in then the mining industry”.

The theme for the morning was ‘*The growing relationship between the mining industry and the future of energy*’ and Willem Middelkoop, Founder and CIO, Commodity Discovery Fund, and Author, *The Tesla Revolution*, informed delegates that fossil fuels were dead. The market capitalization of TESLA is now greater than General Motors he noted, and the cost of wind and solar power has gone down.

Middelkoop’s themes continued throughout the morning’s keynote presentation, given by the mercurial Robert Friedland, Founder and Executive Chairman, Ivanhoe Mines. The legendary promoter declared that the “process of urbanisation is never going to stop” and that any savvy investor should be putting their money into copper, platinum or scandium, which of course is a completely unbiased view with Ivanhoe owning copper, platinum and scandium mines. Friedland’s presentation was both provocative, making several serious points about the decline of good quality grade copper.

Friedland’s scepticism of lithium claiming “the problem with lithium batteries is that they contain no lithium” was countered by Anthony Tse, CEO of Galaxy Resources, one of the up and coming lithium miners. Tse countered that there was room for more quality lithium miners to meet the growing supply demand imbalance.

Other event highlights for the first day included a panel debate on the impact of Trump where the consensus was that despite what people might think about Trump the person, he was overall a force for good, for mining, providing he keeps his finger off the nuclear button.

Assuming Trump doesn’t press the nuclear button in the next 24 hours, delegates left the conference feeling upbeat and looking forward to day 2 of Mines and Money Asia.

Mines and Money Asia runs until 7 April at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre.

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