

Press release

Further update on Simandou

11 December 2008

Rio Tinto has received correspondence from the Guinean Minister of Mines which appears to indicate that the Council of Ministers has instructed the Ministry of Mines and Geology to effect a compulsory relinquishment of the northern half of the Simandou Mining Concession whilst confirming Rio Tinto's entitlement to the southern half of that Concession.

Rio Tinto has been in active negotiation in good faith with the Government of Guinea since August 2008 following receipt of correspondence from the President of Guinea purporting to rescind the Simandou Mining Concession.

Rio Tinto remains of the view that it has complied with all its obligations in relation to the Concession such that it is entitled to hold and retain the entire Concession, and will continue working in good faith with the Government of Guinea to seek to resolve this matter on that basis.

About Rio Tinto

Rio Tinto is a leading international mining group headquartered in the UK, combining Rio Tinto plc, a London and NYSE listed public company, and Rio Tinto Limited, which is a public company listed on the Australian Securities Exchange.

Rio Tinto's business is finding, mining, and processing mineral resources. Major products are aluminium, copper, diamonds, energy (coal and uranium), gold, industrial minerals (borax, titanium dioxide, salt, talc) and iron ore. Activities span the world but are strongly represented in Australia and North America with significant businesses in South America, Asia, Europe and southern Africa.

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For further information, please contact:

Media Relations, Australia

Amanda Buckley
Office: +61 (0) 3 9283 3627
Mobile: +61 (0) 419 801 349
Ian Head
Office: +61 (0) 3 9283 3620
Mobile: +61 (0) 408 360 101

Media Relations, Americas

Tony Shaffer
Office: +1 202 393 0266
Mobile: +1 202 256 3667

Investor Relations, Australia

Dave Skinner
Office: +61 (0) 3 9283 3628
Mobile: +61 (0) 408 335 309

Simon Ellinor
Office: +61 (0) 7 3867 1607
Mobile: +61 (0) 439 102 811

Investor Relations, North America

Jason Combes
Office: +1 801 204 2919
Mobile: +1 801 558 2645

Email: questions@riotinto.com

Website: www.riotinto.com

High resolution photographs available at: www.newscast.co.uk

Media Relations, London

Christina Mills
Office: +44 (0) 20 7781 1154
Mobile: +44 (0) 7825 275 605
Nick Cobban
Office: +44 (0) 20 7781 1138
Mobile: +44 (0) 7920 041 003

Investor Relations, London

Nigel Jones
Office: +44 (0) 20 7781 2049
Mobile: +44 (0) 7917 227365

David Ovington
Office: +44 (0) 20 7781 2051
Mobile: +44 (0) 7920 010 978