

A host of minerals at Acoje

THE Philippines sits on the cusp of a mining resurgence. From copper, gold and polymetallic mineral deposits and prospects, nickel laterites and nickel sulphides there is no doubt the Philippines will be host to some of the world's most exciting mineral discoveries in the decade to come.

Among the projects with potential to be developed will be Rusina Mining's Acoje nickel sulphide, platinum project in the Zambales Province on Luzon Island in the northern Philippines.

What makes Acoje particularly spectacular is the structure of the deposit which hosts a mineralisation not unlike the platinum deposits in South Africa's Bushveld region, Stillwater in the USA and Norilsk in Siberia.

In particular the drilling true thickness at the Acoje project of 2.5m average is much wider than that in Africa (0.80m). Bushveld grades are 4.14g/t - 4.92g/t platinum, palladium, gold and rhodium [4E PGM]). Drilling results have proved the uniqueness of the Acoje deposit with intercepts such as 6.5m grading 9.87g/t platinum palladium plus gold (3E PGM) plus 0.67% nickel.

Acoje is located 150km north-west of Manila and for almost 60 years until 1993, this brown-fields site was a leading world supplier of high quality, metallurgical chromite. Nearby parallel horizons were mined for PGM nickel sulphide from 1970-1975 producing 543,000 tonnes of nickel sulphide ore with high levels of PGM. During the past 18 months to the end of October 2005, a total of 34,000 metres had been drilled at the Acoje project site to assess part of the 12km strike length.



Acoje's structure is not unlike the platinum deposits of South Africa's Bushveld region.

Currently a scoping study for the project is under way and is expected to be completed by the middle of 2006.

Late last year Rusina contracted Paramina Earth Technologies of Manila for the first stage of underground access and rehabilitation work to be started. The work involves the refurbishment of the portal and drive of the 413 metre (1250 foot) level to gain access for deeper resource definition drilling.

Rusina Mining managing director Rob Gregory says that after stabilization of some wall and roof sections, safe access can be achieved for extensive geological mapping and sampling.

"The next step is identifying locations for cutting development drives and drill caddies for an underground diamond drill exploration program," Rob Gregory says.

"This work is expected to take several

months."

The continued drilling at site has proved that the polymetallic nickel, copper and PGM mineralisation in primary rocks is now shown to extend more than 9.7km of strike length from the southern limit in the South Block of drill testing to the northern limit in the North Block.

The North Block is showing potential of hosting a large resource with occurrences of extensive, multiple, low sulphur, nickel-copper-PGM mineralized zones beneath soil anomalies. Drilling results are up to 68 metres averaging 0.3% Ni including 64 metres averaging 0.3 g/t 3E PGM

Rusina has recently released its first JORC compliant resource of 1.2 million tonnes grading 1.53g/t 3E and 0.34% Ni (using a 0.50 g/t 3E cut-off) that only covered the central 1.2 km section to an average depth of 80m. Rob Gregory is confident that the 2006 drill program will significantly add to the resource with the mineralisation open 3.5km to the south, 5km to the north and at depth.

With all new mining projects comes increased infrastructure in the region. A microwave tower is being constructed at Acoje for land line and mobile phone communications. Furthermore an Australian-built galvanized steel 250,000 litre water tank has been shipped to site to provide a permanent water supply for employees and residents.

Rusina Mining NL is now listed on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) in London and intends to develop the Acoje project and become a significant nickel-platinum producer in the near future.

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