



Kingsgate Consolidated NL

ACN 000 837 472

Kingsgate Consolidated NL
Level 17, 33 Bligh Street
Sydney, NSW. 2000.

PRESS RELEASE

CHATREE GOLD MINE OPENED IN THAILAND

The Prime Minister of Thailand, Mr Thaksin, today opened the newest gold mine in the world in Pichit Province, Central Thailand.

The Chatree Gold Mine is situated approximately 280 kilometers north of Bangkok and is the first commercial gold mine in modern times in Thailand. The exploration for Chatree began in 1987 and construction commenced on the actual mine itself in November 2000. The mine was completed on schedule and under budget. The first three year's production is estimated to be 140,000 ounces per year at an estimated cash cost of USD100 per ounce.

The highlight of the opening ceremony was the presentation of a 9 kilogram bar of gold and a 9 kilogram bar of silver to the Prime Minister who will present the gold and silver to the King of Thailand later in the month as a celebration of the King's birthday.

The Chatree Gold Mine is owned and operated by Akara Mining Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Kingsgate Consolidated NL, a listed mining company based in Sydney. The capital cost to develop and build the mine was approximately USD32 million which was debt funded by Macquarie Bank Limited.

The Chairman of Kingsgate Consolidated NL, Mr Ross Smyth-Kirk, in thanking the Prime Minister for presiding over the opening ceremony said that Akara was proud to be associated with this new gold mine which will bring new technology, training and employment to the local area as well as US dollar foreign exchange revenues to Thailand.

The successful development of the Chatree Gold Mine demonstrated the long history of friendship and co-operation at many different levels, between Thailand and Australia.

Mr Smyth-Kirk made an undertaking on behalf of Kingsgate and Akara to be model corporate citizens and stressed that as well as the stringent environmental safeguards undertaken at the mine and locality, the health and safety of the workforce is paramount to the Company.

The Executive Vice President of Akara Mining, Khun Surapol, spoke about the 14 year history of the development of the Chatree Gold Mine.

In front of an audience of in excess of 10,000 local Thai villagers, the Minister of Industry, the Deputy Minister of Industry, the Governors from adjacent provinces and the Australian Ambassador to Thailand Mr Miles Kupa, Mr Thaksin in welcoming the project said that it was an excellent example of foreign investment particularly in relation to the environmental measures taken by Akara Mining Limited. He had seen the site from the air and was most impressed.

Akara has gone above and beyond the regulatory requirements in looking after the environment and co-operation with the local community said Mr Thaksin. He was pleased to see the company making such a long term commitment in Thailand and which was a boost to Thai exports.

In conclusion he said that the mine had an admirable environmental focus and he wished Akara every success.

-----000000000-----

For further information contact Ross Smyth-Kirk, Chairman of Kingsgate Consolidated NL, on 02 9223 5273.

[Kingsgate Consolidated N.L](#)

Mine Opening Announcement 13 December 2001