

Why SOMP matters – Voices of the Community

SOMP represents a global community of like-minded academics and professionals who are passionate about shaping the future of mining education and research.



Seher Ata

Professor at UNSW, Australia

Co-Coordinator of the Capacity Building Committee

“How has the SOMP community influenced your career or research?”

SOMP has broadened my academic and professional horizons by **connecting me with experts across the globe**. These connections have **inspired new research directions** and even influenced the way I approach teaching and mentoring the **next generation of mining engineers**.

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“Why is international collaboration crucial for the mining industry?”

Mining challenges—such as sustainability, supply chain resilience, and resource efficiency – are global by nature. International collaboration fosters the **exchange of ideas, technologies, and best practices**, which is **essential for innovation** and for tackling complex, cross-border issues effectively.

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Which topics or discussions are you most excited about?

I'm particularly excited about discussions on **digital transformation** in mining education, and strategies to **attract and retain young talent in the industry**. I believe these conversations are critical to **shaping a resilient and forward-thinking mining sector**.

I'm also particularly interested in the work of the Capacity Building Committee, especially in the context of **enhancing mining education in developing countries**. Strengthening local expertise and academic infrastructure is crucial for long-term, sustainable development, and I look forward to engaging in these important discussions at SOMP 2025.

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Join us at SOMP 2025 in Aachen

<https://www.amt.rwth-aachen.de/en/somp-2025.html>



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