

Why SOMP matters – Voices of the Community

The SOMP community has been instrumental in my professional growth, providing invaluable opportunities for collaboration and knowledge sharing.



Serkan Saydam

Professor at UNSW, Australia

SOMP Deputy Secretary General and SOMP President 2023–2024

What is your most memorable experience with SOMP?

My **most memorable experience** with SOMP was presenting at the 2009 AGM in Sydney alongside Professor Vladislav Kecojevic, our distinguished Secretary General. That event marked the beginning of my journey with SOMP and **has been a source of inspiration ever since.** I was also deeply honoured to serve as the President last year, which was a **significant milestone in my career.**

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“What trends do you see shaping the future of mining?”

There is a strong alignment between stakeholders on the need for **low-impact mining methods** that support downstream value creation and the supply of certified green products, which will facilitate the deployment of **net-zero technologies** to meet global decarbonisation targets. However, meeting this demand while reducing environmental impact is challenging. Strategic minerals are often found in low-grade deposits, at low concentrations and/or in extreme environments, requiring **innovative approaches** to create the next generation of mining activities.

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Which topics or discussions are you most excited about?

I am particularly excited about discussions on innovative mining methods that support **downstream value creation** and the **supply of certified green products**. These topics are crucial for the deployment of net-zero technologies and meeting global decarbonisation targets. Additionally, I look forward to sessions on mastering **digital competencies, shaping tomorrow's professionals through modern education** and fostering global connections to advance **international collaboration**.

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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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