

## Proceedings of the International Workshop on Rock Mass Classification in Underground Mining

### Information Circular (IC) 9498

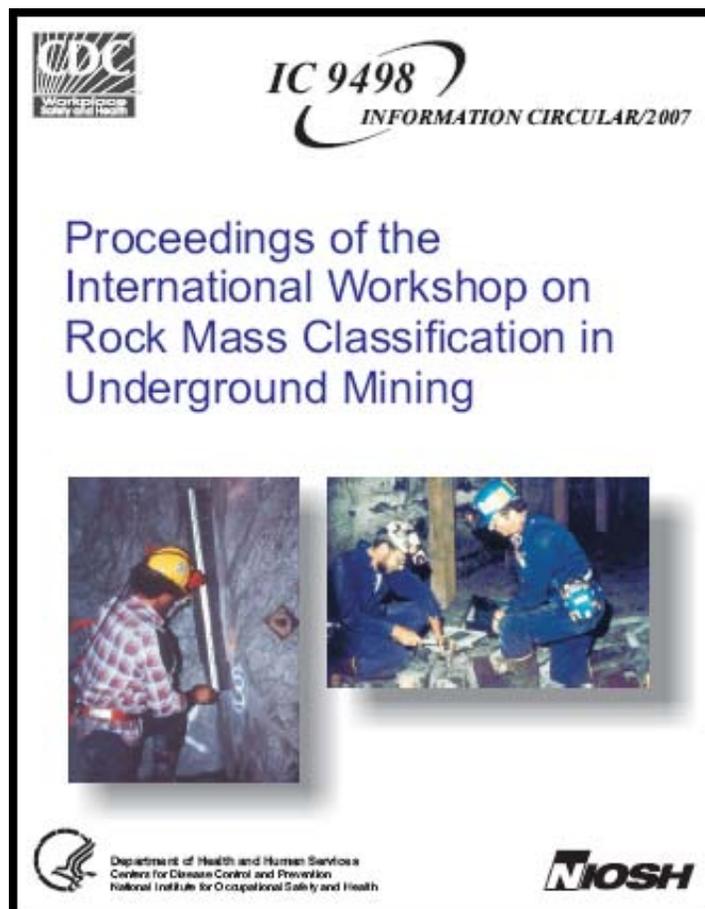
Rock mass classification is widely used throughout the underground mining industry—in both coal and hard-rock mines. The technique has been successful because it—

- Uses simple measurements to rate rock mass strength.
- Helps mine planners to make the best use of geologic information in mine design.
- Makes it possible to compare ground control experiences between mines, even when the geologic conditions are very different.

The International Workshop on Rock Mass Classification in Underground Mining provided a forum for leading practitioners of rock mass classification from around the world to come together and share their methods and experiences with the technique. The workshop was held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, on May 31, 2007. It was co-chaired by Christopher Mark of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Pittsburgh, PA, and Rimas Pakalnis of the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.

The proceedings of the workshop contain 16 invited papers from 9 countries, reflecting the international depth and breadth of current practice. Applications in both hard-rock and coal mining are well represented. Some of the topics that were addressed at the workshop include:

- Major rock mass classification systems used in mining and their variants
- Collection of input data through observation, rock testing, and geophysics



- Design of mine layouts and rock support systems using classification
- Estimation of rock mass strength and other input parameters for numerical models
- Applications in weak rock, raise boring, cavability assessment, and other special topics
- Risk assessment using rock mass classification

Contributors to the proceedings included leading international experts in the field such as Nick Barton, Z. T. Bieniawski, Paul Marinos, and Evert Hoek.

The proceedings may be downloaded from the NIOSH Mining Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/pubs/pubreference/outputid2437.htm>

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### DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2007-149

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