Introducing the Inaugural CEO and Technical Committee

New appointments to drive the scale up of the Institute, including implementing an audit and certification process for tailings safety.

Last week marked seven years since the Brumadinho tailings dam collapse, which claimed 272 lives. The anniversary is always a stark reminder of the devastating consequences of tailings facility failures. Thoughts remain with everyone who lost loved ones or were impacted by this tragedy.

That day—25 January 2019—was a turning point for the industry and the start of a vital journey to make tailings facilities safer for people and the environment. The Global Tailings Management Institute (GTMI) was established to oversee the implementation of, and conformance with, the Global Industry Standard on Tailing Management, and help prevent such a tragedy from happening again.

Today, two crucial milestones in driving the Institute's work forward have been reached with the appointment of the GTMI's Chief Executive Officer and Technical Committee.

Introducing the GTMI's CEO and Technical Committee.

Introducing Chief Executive Officer, Ed Toms

A welcome to Ed Toms, who has been appointed inaugural Chief Executive Officer of the GTMI. He will be responsible for spearheading the Institute's five-year strategy to scale the organisation and create sustainable change across mine tailings facilities globally.

Ed brings more than 40 years of experience advancing complex organisations and delivering high-consequence infrastructure programmes that strengthen resilience and sustainability across the energy, water, and mining sectors. He is known for turning strategy into measurable outcomes by aligning governance, finance, risk, and operations to deliver safe, resilient, and community-positive results.

"It is an honour to lead the Global Tailings Management Institute as its first Chief Executive Officer. The establishment of this Institute serves as a critical turning point for responsible tailings management. As the inaugural CEO, I'm looking forward to ramping up the Institute's core activities, helping to appoint qualified auditors, and welcoming Signatories and Supporters."

- Ed Toms, Chief Executive Officer of the Global Tailings Management Institute

View Ed Toms' profile and read the full press release to learn more about his role as inaugural CEO.

Welcoming the GTMI Technical Committee

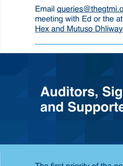
Another significant development is the formation of the first GTMI Technical Committee, which will oversee all technical matters related to the audit and certification process, including accreditation and training programmes.

The committee includes board members and other technical experts, and is supported by acting Chief Technical Officer and Board Member, Janis Shandro.

The GTMI welcomes the following experts to the Technical Committee:

- **Vicente Mello**
  - GTMI Deputy Chair
  - Senior Vice President at AECOM
- **Janis Shandro**
  - GTMI Acting Chief Technical Officer, Board Member
  - Owner/Managing Director at Arrowsmith Gold Inc.
- **Jeronimo Covacevich**
  - GTMI Technical Committee Chair, Board Member
  - Tailings Subject Matter Expert at ICMM
- **David Cooling**
  - Private Consultant, Geotechnical/ Tailings Engineer
- **Theo Gerritsen**
  - Principal Tailings Engineer at BGC Engineering
- **Naomi Hodgkinson-Lee**
  - Senior Risk Engineer at Zurich Resilience Solutions
- **Kristin Pouw**
  - Principal of Water & Waste at Newmont Corporation

Learn more about the Technical Committee and view the full press release.



A word from the Board Chair

Since the launch of the GTMI there has been a focus on establishing foundations for the Institute's core programmatic activities. The co-founders followed a rigorous process of review and selection before appointing the multi-stakeholder Board, and the same level of due process was followed in selecting the GTMI's CEO and Technical Committee.

Appointing Ed Toms as full-time leader means the Institute can now rapidly scale and deliver on its long-term strategy and vision for the responsible management of tailings facilities across their entire lifecycle. Ed's deep expertise in high-consequence infrastructure, together with his experience working with diverse stakeholders, will position the Institute for success.

In parallel, the Technical Committee brings a powerful mix of strategic insight, technical depth and industry perspective, providing the rigor and credibility required for a robust audit and certification process.

The next few months will be crucial as we work towards our goal of achieving zero harm to people and the environment.

- Mark Cutifani, Chair of the GTMI Board of Directors

See you at Mining Indaba in South Africa!

CEO, Ed Toms, and representatives from the GTMI Board will be at Investing in African Mining Indaba in Cape Town, South Africa, from 9 to 12 February 2026. This will be Ed's first public appearance as GTMI CEO, and he will use the time to connect with key stakeholders.

Email queries@thegtmi.org if you would like to arrange a meeting with Ed or the attending board members: Jacqui Hex and Mutuso Dhliwayo.

Auditors, Signatories and Supporters

The first priority of the newly appointed Technical Committee will be to develop an assurance framework and establish a database of independent third-party auditors.

If you are interested in becoming an auditor, please **sign up here** and be the first to know when applications are open.

After that, there will be a call for Signatories and Supporters.

Signatories are mining companies or government owned enterprises that have an operational responsibility for tailings facilities. They will commit to:

- Implementing and conforming with the GISTM
- Undergoing independent auditing and certification
- Continuously improving their tailings management practices
- Publicly disclosing information about their facilities and auditing outcomes.

Sign up for the Signatory mailing list **here**.

Supporters are those individuals, organisations, and communities that do not have an operational responsibilityfor tailings facilities but still have a stake in their management. They will be invited to share expertise, host or attend roundtables, and participate in other collaborativeefforts to improve tailings management.

Sign up for the Supporters mailing list **here**.

The new GTMI website is live!

The new GTMI website with more comprehensive information is now live. Key updates will continuously be added to the website and remember to follow the GTMI on LinkedIn for news and other important information.