

Rio Tinto Diamonds
India Representative Office
117 Maker Chambers VI, Nariman Point
Mumbai
T (91 22) 2284 3481
F (91 22) 2284 3486
E rtd.india@riotintodiamonds.com

Press release

Iconic Argyle Pink Diamond Tender is showcased for the first time in India

Mumbai, August 9 - Rio Tinto's 2009 Argyle Pink Diamond Tender is celebrating the 25th anniversary of its iconic offering of rare pink diamonds with its first ever viewing in India.

This exceptional collection comprises 43 of the rarest diamonds in the world and has been showcased in Mumbai to a select group of Indian diamantaires, collectors and high net worth individuals.

Commenting on the inaugural Mumbai viewings, Jean-Marc Lieberherr, General Manager for the sales and marketing for all diamonds from Rio Tinto's mines says,

"Presenting the Argyle Pink Diamond Tender in Mumbai is a reflection of the emerging importance of India as a source of demand for coloured diamonds. Whilst India has traditionally been a manufacturing centre for the champagne diamonds from the Argyle mine, we are now seeing signs of latent domestic demand for coloured diamonds in India. Earlier this year we had a great response from Indian diamantaires to our tender of rare blue diamonds from the Argyle mine and this encouraged us to look to Mumbai as a 2009 Pink Diamond Tender viewing location."

Titled *Grand Passions*, this year's tender collection comprises 43 stones, including a magnificent 2.61 carat intense pink heart shaped diamond named *Argyle AmourTM*. One of four hearts in this year's collection, the *Argyle AmourTM* is the most valuable heart shaped pink diamond ever produced from the Argyle mine. Exuding passion, romance and warmth, this extraordinary diamond captures all that is *Amour*. The two other "hero" stones set to captivate bidders are *ShalimarTM*, a 1.25 carat purplish pink round diamond named after the exotic garden sanctuary built by Indian emperor Jahangir for his beloved wife, and in the theme of legendary passions, *ScarlettTM*, a 1.10 carat red oval diamond.

Josephine Archer, Business Manager for Argyle Pink Diamonds, comments on the 2009 collection, "These diamonds are for appreciators of the truly exceptional and with around 10 years remaining of the Argyle Diamond Mine, these rare pink diamonds will be keenly contested by investors, collectors and diamond experts from around the world. "

The Argyle Pink Diamond Tender will travel to a number of other locations before concluding in Perth in late September.

ENDS

For further information on the 2009 Argyle Pink Diamond Tender, please contact:

Robyn Ellison
Communications Manager
Rio Tinto Diamonds
M: +61 417 968 359
E: Robyn.Ellison@riotinto.com

Notes to editors

About Argyle Pink Diamonds

Pink Diamonds, produced at Rio Tinto's Argyle Mine in Western Australia, are highly coveted as the world's most sought after gems. The Argyle Diamond mine produces more than 90 per cent of the world's pink diamonds, which are sold in a broad range of colours and sizes to an international customer base. The best stones are reserved for the annual Pink Diamond Tender. Rio Tinto's Argyle Pink Diamonds business is located in Perth, Western Australia, alongside its cutting and polishing factory.

Pink diamonds' value is directly related to their rarity. For every coloured diamond, there exists at least 10,000 colourless ones because the physical conditions needed to colour a diamond naturally occur very scarcely.

Rio Tinto's Argyle mine occupies the traditional land of the Gidja and Mirriuwong speaking people and neighbouring language groups who have a very different view on how the Argyle diamonds became coloured. The Aboriginal people believe that the Argyle mine was created when three women were trying to trap a barramundi fish, however the barramundi was too clever and jumped through the net and landed at the site where the mine was established. It is believed that the colours of the diamonds come from different parts of the barramundi as the fish wiggled through the net, with the pink diamonds coming from the heart of the barramundi.

Website: www.argylepinkdiamonds.com.au

About Rio Tinto's Argyle Diamond Mine

Rio Tinto's Argyle Diamond mine (100% owned by Rio Tinto), in Australia, is the world's only consistent supplier of rare pink diamonds and provides a large proportion of the world's coloured diamonds. Production commenced in 1983 and at its peak the mine produced more than 40 million carats per annum.

The discovery of the Argyle diamond deposit is one of innovation, patience, foresight and meticulous attention to detail in an area that is remote, even for Australians. The search for diamonds in the Kimberley region began in 1972 with a number of exciting finds proving uneconomic. However, in October 1979 diamonds were found embedded in an ant hill in the East Kimberley region of Western Australia.

In a classic exploration exercise these discoveries were followed up along a creek bed and led to what is known as the AK1 pipe, the remnant of an ancient volcano and the site of the vast Argyle deposit. Today most of the valley floor is occupied by the Argyle open pit. The Argyle Diamond mine is currently transitioning from an open pit mine to an underground mine, which on current estimates will extend its life to 2018.

About Rio Tinto Diamonds

Rio Tinto is one of the world's major diamond producers through its 100 per cent control of the Argyle mine in Australia, 60 per cent of the Diavik mine in Canada and a 78 per cent interest in the Murowa mine in Africa.

These three mines allow Rio Tinto to be present in all segments of the market. Rio Tinto's share of the production from these three mines was approximately US\$1billion in 2007 and sold through its Diamonds Sales and Marketing headquarters in Antwerp, Belgium.

Rio Tinto Diamonds is a leading supporter of the Kimberley Process as well as a founding member of the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices.

Website: www.riotintodiamonds.com

About Rio Tinto

Rio Tinto is a leading international mining group headquartered in the UK, combining Rio Tinto plc, a London and NYSE listed company, and Rio Tinto Limited, which is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange.

Rio Tinto's business is finding, mining, and processing mineral resources. Major products are aluminium, copper, diamonds, energy (coal and uranium), gold, industrial minerals (borax, titanium dioxide, salt, talc) and iron ore. Activities span the world but are strongly represented in Australia and North America with significant businesses in South America, Asia, Europe and southern Africa.

Website: www.riotinto.com