

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>

