Abstract:

Around 1400 tonnes of mercury are used per year by approximately 16 million artisanal gold miners in more than 70 countries. This talk will describe the environmental and health effects of mercury pollution, and it will suggest methods to reduce and eliminate mercury use in artisanal gold mining. The lack of enforcement, practical regulations, and educational initiatives are some of the main reasons why mercury use continues to prevail in artisanal gold mining. Education is highlighted as the main method to encourage miners to change their methods.

About the presenter:

Dr. Marcello Veiga is a professor of the Norman B. Keevil Institute of Mining Engineering of the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. He has worked for the past 35 years as a metallurgical engineer & environmental geochemist for Governments, Universities, International agencies, NGOS & companies all over the world on these issues.