



# In the field

## FLOODS, QUAKES AND STRIKES NO MATCH FOR MINE SIGHT

*MineSight serves clients all over the planet. We take you there, as MineSight personnel report back on their work in the field. The last few months have been particularly busy for Mintec's Perth office, which saw Kristin Trappitt and Mark Gabbitus dodging floods, earthquakes, and Qantas industrial action, to visit clients in Papua New Guinea and Japan.*



*A small quake by Japan's standards rolled through Tokyo during Mark Gabbitus's visit to the city.*

### Mark Gabbitus in Japan

I'm just on my way home from Tokyo where I was meeting and training clients. The trip was supposed to be added onto the end of MineSight's annual Bangkok Seminar, but that had to be cancelled because of flooding.

I had arranged a Wednesday morning meeting with one of our clients, Mitsui, and to make that I had to get the red-eye from Perth on Monday night to Hong Kong and up to Tokyo, getting into Tokyo at 2 p.m., bleary eyed but with a night to rest up before my meeting.

Mitsui is a mining and smelting company with mining interests in Peru and Canada, and a smelter in Japan. I gave my hospitable host, Mr. Kazuhiko Yamanaka, and his staff a demo of MineSight, and we discussed training and purchasing options. One of their guys was in Tucson for training and another is coming over soon.

The next day was a holiday in Japan. However, the Sumitomo guys I was training had agreed to come in to get the training. Sumitomo is a huge company and its mining history is pretty old (they have some great pictures of copper mining in Japan in the 1600s on the office walls). They are involved in joint ventures at many sites, including Morenci, Chile and Batu Hijau, Indonesia, so they are very familiar with MineSight and Tucson. They also own Hishikari, the world's richest gold mine, located in Japan's northern Kagoshima prefecture. They mine ounce dirt from UG stopes and have been doing so for about 20 years.

They wanted training in MineSight Data Analyst, (MSDA) so we spent the next two days going through some MSDA basics. They were good students and had lots of questions.

Thursday night I experienced my first earthquake, a special moment for me as a geologist. It was pretty small, (magnitude 4 in a prefecture north of Tokyo and felt as a magnitude 3 in Tokyo) but it made my room on the 16<sup>th</sup> floor move in a most peculiar way.

We set aside Saturday morning to do some demos of new features and to look at Sumitomo's data. They were very impressed with the geomap tool and draping an image to a surface.

I think this will be my last trip for the year so thanks for reading, and I'll no doubt be back on the road in 2012.

#### **Kristin Trappitt in Lihir Mine, Papua New Guinea**

My flight from Perth to Lihir, via Uluru was nice and smooth, and I missed Qantas's industrial action by two days. Lihir is in Papua New Guinea's New Ireland province, and is the site of Newcrest's gold mine, one of the world's largest gold resources.



*Newcrest's Lihir mine in Papua New Guinea's New Ireland province is one of the world's largest gold resources.*

My visit was the second part of a MineSight Axis implementation and training trip.

The first weekend on site was spent doing some revision, training and documentation for the ore control process. I'd spent time with most of the departments using MineSight at Lihir. That included time spent with the short-term planning (STP) guys, and helping them to set up MineSight Interactive Planner and their Daily Dig project. Both STP and Ore Control do a Daily Dig setup, but at different times of the day.

I worked with the Geothermal group to help them set up a thermal model for the site. Survey required help with using LGOs, surfaces, data imports and using MineSight Planning Database. The priority throughout was to ensure all Ore Control requests were satisfied while helping the Process Manager users with their validation requirements.

During the final weekend I taught a MineSight Foundations course to six attendees. They had all used MineSight3D in some capacity prior to the training, but were still at the beginning end of the novice scale.

The last day was spent finalizing details with some of the groups I had worked with, backing up data and passing out final documentation.



*A busy day at Newcrest's Lihir gold mine in Papua New Guinea's New Ireland province.*