

Press release, July 2009

**Dr. Michael S. Krzemnicki, Director of SSEF,
visits sapphire deposits in Sri Lanka**





Larger alluvial mining operation for corundum northwest from Ratnapura, Sri Lanka.

Dr. Michael S. Krzemnicki, Director SSEF, with Dr. Gamini Zoysa at a mining shaft near Pelmadulla, Sri Lanka.

Recently, after an intense training for the staff gemmologists of Gem-TED Ltd., a local gemmological laboratory in Colombo, Dr. Michael S. Krzemnicki, Director of SSEF, took the chance to visit a number of sapphire mining places in Central Sri Lanka (Elahera) and around Ratnapura.

„It was a great experience for me to visit these places where sapphires are dug out from the alluvial gravels and to talk with small-scale miners and gemstone dealers directly at the mine“, summarizes Dr. Krzemnicki his latest travel to gem deposits.

By combining geological sampling with acquisition of gemstones directly from the soil in the mines, such visits are the backbone of our research activities with the aim to constantly update our knowledge for origin determination of coloured stones. This last visit enabled Dr. Krzemnicki to add a number of valuable samples to the long-established, large and well-documented SSEF reference collection of gemstones.

The SSEF would like to thank Dr. Gamini Zoysa and the Sri Lankan Gem Authority for their kind organisation of the Sri Lanka tour.

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For more information, contact: gemlab@ssef.ch

Get the "blues" at the gem market in Ratnapura, Sri Lanka.



Small scale mining operation near Elahera, Central Sri Lanka.

