



UNITED NATIONS  
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# **Past and Future Activities of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane (CMM)**



presented by  
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# **CMM: The Problem and Solution**

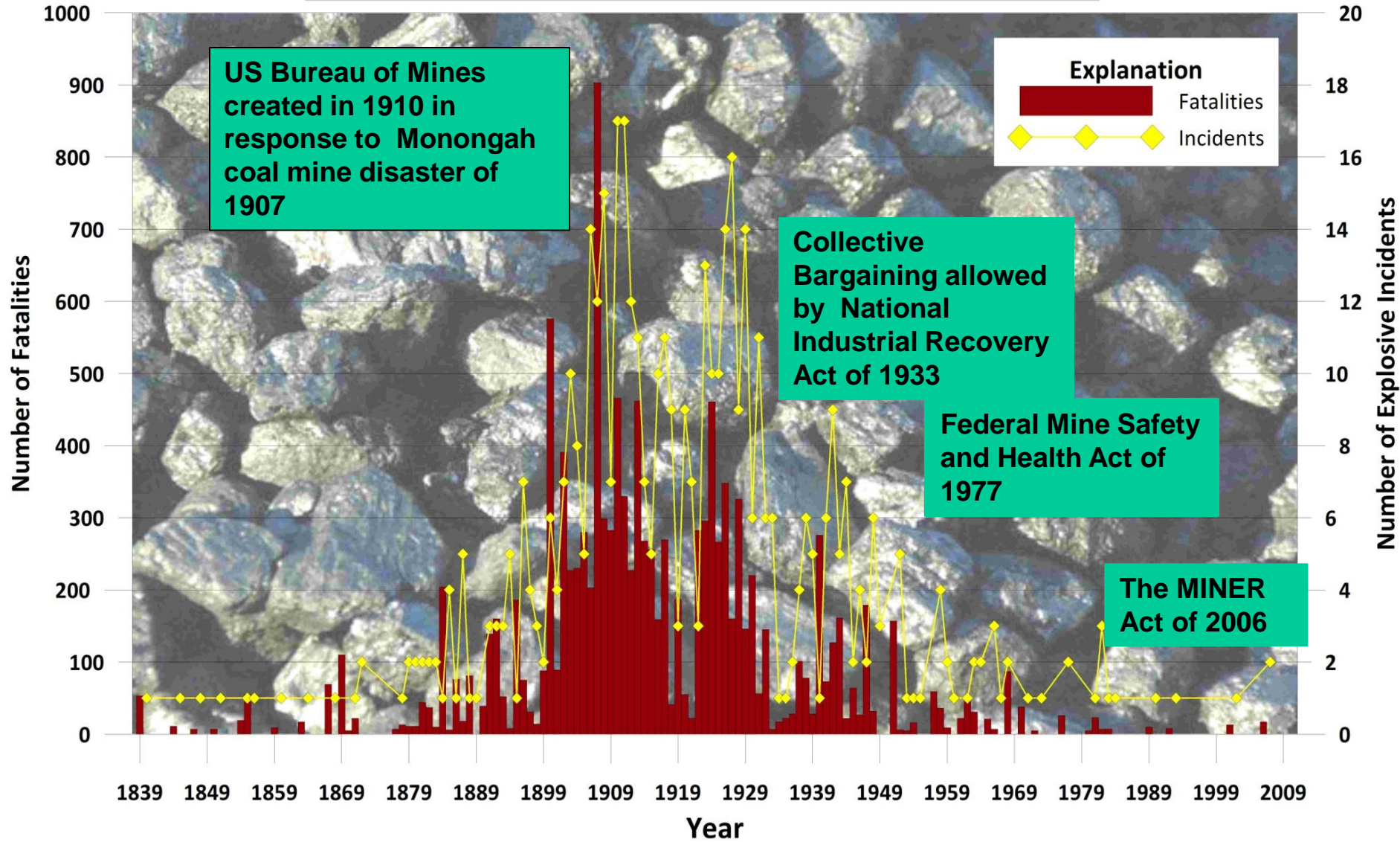


**Methane released during coal mining (CMM) is the cause of a significant number of accidents and is a powerful GHG**

- **Risk factors and barriers to widespread effective methane drainage and use have been identified by Ad Hoc Group of Experts:**
  - **Difficult geological conditions**
  - **Underinvestment in methane drainage and utilisation**
  - **Poor operational practices**
  - **Ineffective or counter-productive regulatory standards**
  - **Inadequate enforcement of safety regulations**
- **Control and use of CMM improves environmental, social and economic conditions**



# U.S. Coal Mining Fatalities as a Result of Explosive Incidents\*



\*Note: Data presented here only reflects incidents with 5 or more fatalities.  
 Source data: NIOSH Mining Safety and Health Research

# Mining Accidents at Gassy Coal Mines Continue



- 5 April 2010—Upper Big Branch Mine, West Virginia, USA: coal dust and gas explosion, 29 deaths.
- 19 November 2010—Pike River Mine, South Island, New Zealand: gas explosion, 29 deaths.
- 29 August 2012—Xiaojiawan Coal Mine, Sichuan Province, China: gas explosion, 46 deaths
- 24 November 2012—Xiangshui Mine, Guizhou Province, China: gas explosion 24 deaths.





# Best Practice Guidance Project



## Objectives

- Provide a global set of recommended principles and standards for methane recovery and utilisation
- Coordinate with ILO and UNFCCC to maximize relevance and minimize duplication of efforts—help to save lives while reducing GHG emissions to the atmosphere

## Results

- Developed a guidance that is principle based that can be adapted to varying mining conditions
- Provided document and training to managers, mine operators, regulators, government officials and technical professionals that can implement change
- Provided tools for effective change measured in terms of lives saved, reduced carbon emissions, improved productivity and economic performance



# Deliverables



- Publication of “*Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines*”
  - Detailed objectives and principles, NOT prescriptive
  - Available in multiple languages
- **ECOSOC invited member states to adopt the best practices**
- **Workshops-- AHGE provided experts to organize and conduct workshops in China, Kazakhstan and Ukraine**



# Support for publication and workshops



- UN Economic Commission for Europe – Secretariat Committee on Sustainable Energy, publication Support
- US Environmental Protection Agency-funding support and expertise
- Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane-volunteer experts to manage projects, draft and edit documents, find funding sources
- Methane to Markets Partnership (now Global Methane Initiative)-funding support forum for discussion and co-sponsor of meetings and training



# Future



**Secure funds for additional activities that include:**

- **Providing workshops to promote extraction and use of CMM use and adoption of mine disaster life protection systems**
- **Developing and drafting case studies based on ongoing projects which exhibit benefits gained from implementing best practices**
- **Develop a center for excellence that trains technical and managerial professionals and engages policy makers**

