

## **PREFACE**

MININ 2008, held on 6-8 August in Santiago, is the third of a series of international conferences on mining innovation initiated in 2004 by Gecamin Ltd., Mining Engineering Department of the University of Chile and Mining Centre of the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile.

Main objectives of MININ conferences are twofold:

1. To exchange the knowledge and experience on mining innovation as applied to or derived from Sampling, Ore Deposit Evaluation, Geomechanics and Geotechnics, Mine Planning, Mine Unit Operations, Maintenance Planning, Information and Automation Technologies and Integrated Mine Management.
2. To promote the international collaboration and technical exchange among professionals dedicated to develop, operate and maintain production systems for the mining industry.

46 technical papers written by authors from 15 countries and published in this volume discuss the emerging concepts, models, developments, technologies and successful innovation practices in the mining industry. The thematic distribution of articles is as follows: Sampling and Ore Deposits Evaluation (8), Geomechanics and Geotechnics (8), Information and Automation Technologies (7), Mine Planning (8), Mine Unit Operations (7), Integrated Mine and Maintenance Management (8).

This book should be of interest to the mining, minerals and processing industry professionals, including managers, technicians, engineers, supervisors, operators, project evaluators and service providers, academics, researchers, and anyone with an interest in mining industrial matters.