



# Uranium industry 'politically choked'



**MIKE EXELL**

*mike.exell@kalminer.com.au*

9022 0534

The removal of prejudice towards the industry was the theme of the 2013 Paydirt Uranium Conference held in Adelaide yesterday.

The annual conference is attended by industry professionals, stakeholders and investors and hears from a wide range of speakers about the condition of uranium in Australia.

Australian Uranium Association chief executive Michael Angwin said the local industry has been politically choked by fear.

"I think there has been a political fear there will be a public backlash party if there is any support for the uranium industry," Mr Angwin said.

"A lot of this fear has been sparked by non-government organisations running scare campaigns in the media.

"The good thing is the fear is starting to subside and political support has increased, highlighted by our last three prime ministers.

"Politicians have, for the most part, done a pretty good job supporting the industry, and now it's time to treat uranium as any other commodity, because the safety standards in Australia are among the best in the world."

Mr Angwin said uranium is becoming important as a mean of building trade relations with developing countries, especially India.

Keynote speaker, former Australian Deputy High Commissioner to India, Rakesh Ahuja said India was facing an energy security crisis which could not be ignored.

"It is right up there with water shortages as a barrier to development," Mr Ahuja said.

"The current backbone of India's energy is coal but the fact is it's going to be very scarce very quickly at the country's present rate of economic growth.

"In three or four years time India will be facing a shortage and it is time to look at alternative energy sources, namely uranium.

"It is all the more reason why that after 40 years of being in the nuclear wilderness, India is set to become a global player in nuclear-related trade, investment and technology transfer.

Mr Ahuja said Australia was in a very strong position to become a key trading partner with India in the future.

"Australia has secure uranium supply at a far better grade than its own poor quality uranium ore," he said.

"India has one of the world's most advanced nuclear energy sectors, has a large well trained workforce in the nuclear industry, has mature technological infrastructure and is providing nuclear related services to foreign entities.

"Australia's decision to open up

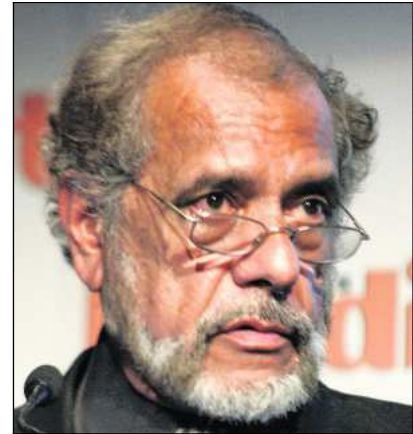
uranium sales to India is a game changer and is in the driving seat to harvest millions of dollars in sales."

Mr Angwin said the Australian public should be very excited at the opportunity this partnership could provide.

"Australian's are no longer scared of uranium mining and production," he said.

"They know Fukushima was a freak accident and the Australia industry operates with some of the safest regulations in the world.

"India is one of the biggest developing nations in the world and we should be excited by trade possibilities with the country."



**Rakesh Ahuja**