

## **METALLOGENY OF NORTHEAST ASIA: AN INTERNATIONAL PROJECT ON THE EASTERN RUSSIAN TERRITORY AND ADJACENT COUNTRIES**

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Northeast Asian metallogeny is being interpreted using modern concepts of plate tectonics, and analysis of terranes and overlap assemblages by constructing new geodynamic and metallogenic maps at a scale 1:5 M. The study is named Mineral Resources, Metallogenesis, and Tectonics of Northeast Asia and is being conducted from 1997 through 2002 by geologists from Russia, Mongolia, Northeast China, South Korea, Japan, and the USA. Information about the project is available from a Web site at <http://minerals.usgs.gov/web/projects/minres.html>. A major part of the study is defining and describing metallogenic belts, each of which consists of a group of coeval and genetically-related mineral deposit types that formed in a specific geodynamic environment. Examples of geodynamic environments are active and passive continental margins, island arcs, sedimentary basins, interplate rifts, and collisional zones. Metallogenic belts are characterized by a narrow age of formation, and include metallogenic zones, ore districts, mineral deposits, and occurrences. The metallogenic belts are being defined for the main structural units of the North-Asian Craton and framing orogenic belts. These units consist of the North Asian Craton core (Siberian platform), exterior passive continental margin units (Baikal-Patom, Enisey Ridge, Southern Taimir, and Verchojan areas), the early Paleozoic Central Asian orogenic belt, and the Mesozoic Verchojan-Kolym fold belt. Other major structures that are a factor in regional metallogeny are interplate rifts, strike-slip faults, and the active continental margin of Mongol-Okhotsk paleocean.