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Press release

New publication highlights the immense appeal of the world's most precious pink diamonds

Perth, July 5, 2010 - Rio Tinto today announced the launch of its new publication, *Rare and Collectable*, which focuses on the unique market position occupied by the rare pink diamonds from Rio Tinto's Argyle Diamond Mine.

Timed to coincide with the 26th Argyle Pink Diamonds Tender, *Rare and Collectable* places the rarity of Argyle pink diamonds in the context of global supply and demand and the resulting strong price appreciation. This publication is considered timely given the increasing propensity for affluent investors and collectors to diversify their portfolios through acquisitions of rare diamonds.

Discovered in 1979, the Argyle Diamond Mine produces virtually the entire supply of the world's pink diamonds. Rio Tinto very quickly realised that the rare quality of its pink diamonds would be valued and this resulted in careful marketing to reflect their uniqueness, exclusivity and glamour.

According to Tom Albanese, Chief Executive of Rio Tinto,

"Thirty years ago there were very few people who believed Australia could hold the secret of diamonds – even fewer could foresee the discovery of the rarest of all diamonds – the Argyle pink diamond. Patience, diligence and the efforts of resource experts and investors have been rewarded, as events of the past three decades have unfolded."

Rare and Collectable also provides an insight into the separate market position held by pink diamonds in comparison to its white counterparts, along with the compelling metrics that are driving the value of pink diamonds, even in times of economic uncertainty. According to Jean-Marc Lieberherr, General Manager for the Sales and Marketing of diamonds from all Rio Tinto's mines,

“In the rarified world of Argyle pink diamonds we are continuing to see strong demand in both the mature and emerging markets. On the supply side there are no known pink diamond mines or deposits and even if another was found, it takes at least 10 years for a mine to proceed from discovery to production.”

These fundamentals are providing a catalyst for growth in investment demand and with only around a decade of remaining mine life at Argyle, these rare pink diamonds are becoming rarer.

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For further information on the *Rare and Collectable* publication, please contact:

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Notes to editors

About Argyle Pink Diamonds

Pink diamonds, produced at Rio Tinto’s Argyle Mine in Western Australia, are highly coveted as the world’s most sought after gems. The Argyle Diamond mine produces more than 90 per cent of the world’s pink diamonds, which are sold in a broad range of colours and sizes to an international customer base.

Pink diamonds’ value is directly related to their rarity. For every coloured diamond, there exists at least 10,000 colourless diamonds. The physical conditions needed to colour a diamond naturally are very rare.

The best stones from a year’s production are reserved for the annual Argyle Pink Diamonds Tender. Rio Tinto’s Argyle Pink Diamonds business is located in Perth, Western Australia, alongside its cutting and polishing factory.

Website: www.argylepinkdiamonds.com.au

About Rio Tinto's Argyle Diamond Mine

Rio Tinto's Argyle Diamond Mine (100% owned by Rio Tinto), in Australia, is the world's only consistent supplier of rare pink diamonds and provides a large proportion of the world's coloured diamonds. Production commenced in 1983 and at its peak the mine produced more than 40 million carats per annum.

The discovery of the Argyle diamond deposit is one of innovation, patience, foresight and meticulous attention to detail in an area that is remote, even for Australians. The search for diamonds in the Kimberley region began in 1972 with a number of exciting finds proving uneconomic. However, in October 1979 diamonds were found embedded in an ant hill in the East Kimberley region of Western Australia.

In a classic exploration exercise these discoveries were followed up along a creek bed and led to what is known as the AK1 pipe, the remnant of an ancient volcano and the site of the vast Argyle deposit. Today most of the valley floor is occupied by the Argyle open pit. The Argyle Diamond mine is currently transitioning from an open pit mine to an underground mine, which on current estimates will extend its life to at least 2018.

Website: www.argylediamonds.com.au

About Rio Tinto Diamonds

Rio Tinto is one of the world's major diamond producers through its 100 per cent control of the Argyle mine in Australia, 60 per cent of the Diavik mine in Canada and a 78 per cent interest in the Murowa mine in Africa. These three mines allow Rio Tinto to be present in all segments of the market. Rio Tinto also has an advanced diamond project in India. Rio Tinto's share of the production from its three operating mines is sold through its Diamonds Sales and Marketing headquarters in Antwerp, Belgium.

Rio Tinto Diamonds is a leading supporter of the Kimberley Process as well as a founding member of Responsible Jewellery Council.

Website: www.riotintodiamonds.com

About Rio Tinto

Rio Tinto is a leading international mining group headquartered in the UK, combining Rio Tinto plc, a London and NYSE listed company, and Rio Tinto Limited, which is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange.

Rio Tinto's business is finding, mining, and processing mineral resources. Major products are aluminium, copper, diamonds, energy (coal and uranium), gold, industrial minerals (borax,

titanium dioxide, salt, talc) and iron ore. Activities span the world but are strongly represented in Australia and North America with significant businesses in South America, Asia, Europe and southern Africa.

Website: www.riotinto.com