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Press release

Iconic Argyle Pink Diamonds Tender is showcased for the first time in China

Hong Kong, September 14, 2010. Rio Tinto today announced the inaugural showcasing of its Argyle Pink Diamonds Tender in mainland China.

This exceptional collection comprises 55 of the rarest diamonds in the world and will be available for viewing in China by a select group of diamantaires, collectors and connoisseurs. Following its initial previews in Hong Kong and at the Australian pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo, the Argyle Pink Diamonds Tender will be showcased in Shanghai and Beijing in conjunction with iconic Chinese retailer, Chow Tai Fook.

Commenting on the inaugural China viewings, Jean-Marc Lieberherr, General Manager for the sales and marketing for all diamonds from Rio Tinto's mines said,

"Pink diamonds from Rio Tinto's Argyle Diamond Mine represent the finest in their class and are Australia's most beautiful export. We are delighted to be presenting the Argyle Pink Diamonds Tender in China. It is a reflection of the growing appreciation for rare coloured diamonds in this market."

Rio Tinto's Argyle Diamond Mine in remote Western Australia produces virtually the entire supply of the world's rare pink diamonds. The annual Tender is a much anticipated event on the calendars of diamond collectors, connoisseurs and investors around the world. Titled "Earth Magic", this year's Argyle Pink Diamonds Tender includes a magnificent 2.02 carat round brilliant fancy vivid purplish pink diamond named Argyle Mystra™, which is set to intrigue bidders with its depth of colour and unparalleled beauty.

Pink diamonds are among the most intriguing and highly valued gems in the world both because of their richness of colour and their rarity. In recognition of their limited edition status, and to coincide with the inaugural China viewings of the 2010 Tender, Argyle Pink Diamonds has released a new publication, *Rare and Collectable*. This publication places the rarity of

Argyle pink diamonds in the context of global supply and demand and the resulting strong price appreciation.

After its debut in China the Argyle Pink Diamonds Tender will travel to New York before concluding in Australia in October.

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For further information on the Argyle Pink Diamonds Tender and the *Rare and Collectable* publication, please contact:

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Notes to editors

About Argyle Pink Diamonds

Rio Tinto's Argyle Mine in Western Australia is the world's only consistent producer of rare pink diamonds. As a result Argyle pink diamonds are highly coveted as the world's most sought after gems. They are sold by Rio Tinto's Argyle Pink Diamonds in a broad range of colours and sizes to an international customer base.

The best diamonds from a year's production are reserved for the annual Argyle Pink Diamonds Tender. Pink diamonds' value is directly related to their rarity. Medium quality pink diamonds attract prices 10 times higher than their white diamonds counterparts. This gap widens for higher qualities of pink diamonds where prices are between 20 and 50 times higher than comparable white diamonds.

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. 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 2019.

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