

NEWS RELEASE

OLYMPUS COMMENCES TREATMENT OF HIGH-GRADE PHUOC SON ORE AS PLANT UPGRADES NEAR COMPLETION

Toronto, March 17, 2009 – Olympus Pacific Minerals Inc. (TSX: OYM, OTCBB: OLYMF, and Frankfurt: OP6) (the "Company" or "Olympus") is pleased to announce that the Company has commenced trucking its Phuoc Son high grade ore for treatment at its Bong Mieu Gold Plant as recently commissioned plant upgrades near completion.

In December, the Company successfully concluded a three-month trucking and treatment trial of ore through its Bong Mieu plant from its second mining operation at Phuoc Son Company CEO, David Seton said, "It now makes sense for us to truck and treat the Phuoc Son high grade ore at Bong Mieu and generate positive cash flow for the Company until the main Phuoc Son plant is commissioned".

During the last six months the Company has installed a series of shaking tables, a second intensive leach reactor and an additional float bank to increase the capacity of the existing plant.

Olympus is an equal opportunity employer operating two gold mines in central Vietnam near the port city of Da Nang. The Company employs some 485 Vietnamese representing 90% of Olympus' work force; the Company injected 20 million USD into the local economy during 2008.

Olympus Pacific Minerals Inc., as first mover in Vietnam, is positioned to become a leading gold producer and explorer in Southeast Asia. Olympus is committed to its vision of producing gold from its reserves and making major discoveries in the region and increasing shareholder wealth.

OLYMPUS PACIFIC MINERALS INC.

David A. Seton
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Certain of the statements made and information contained herein is “forward-looking information” within the meaning of the Ontario Securities Act, including statements concerning our plans at our Vietnamese mineral projects, which involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties, and other factors which may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of the Company, or industry results, to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking information. Forward-looking information is subject to a variety of risks and uncertainties which could cause actual events or results to differ from those reflected in the forward-looking information, including, without limitation, failure to establish estimated resources or to convert resources to mineable reserves; the grade and recovery of ore which is mined varying from estimates; capital and operating costs varying significantly from estimates; delays in obtaining or failure to obtain required governmental, environmental or other project approvals; changes in national and local government legislation or regulations regarding environmental factors, royalties, taxation or foreign investment; political or economic instability; terrorism; inflation; changes in currency exchange rates; fluctuations in commodity prices; delays in the development of projects; shortage of personnel with the requisite knowledge and skills to design and execute exploration and development programs; difficulties in arranging contracts for drilling and other exploration and development services; dependency on equity market financings to fund programs and maintain and develop mineral properties; risks associated with title to resource properties due to the difficulties of determining the validity of certain claims and other risks and uncertainties, including those described in each management discussion and analysis. In addition, forward-looking information is based on various assumptions including, without limitation, the expectations and beliefs of management; the assumed long-term price of gold; the availability of permits and surface rights; access to financing, equipment and labour and that the political environment within Vietnam will continue to support the development of environmentally safe mining projects. Should one or more of these risks and uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those described in forward-looking statements. Accordingly, readers are advised not to place undue reliance on forward-looking information.

Except as required under applicable securities legislation, the Company undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise forward-looking information, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.