

September 2010

[Blacksmith Institute](#) works in some of the world's worst polluted places to solve pollution problems and clean up contaminated sites in order to save lives. Blacksmith is currently engaged in over 40 projects in 19 countries.

Blacksmith
INSTITUTE WEBSITE

Donate

You can save
a life for as
little as \$42

KEY PROGRAMS

[Health and Pollution Fund](#)

[Global Inventory Project -
Database of the World's Worst
Polluted Places](#)

[Lead Poisoning and Car Batteries](#)

[Artisanal Gold Mining \(Mercury
Poisoning\)](#)

[World's Worst Polluted Places](#)

ENDING POLLUTION

"This is a finite problem. There are a finite number of toxic hotspots around the world. We just have to find them and

RIVER REHABILITATION - ACTION ON E-WASTE IN GHANA - GOLF BENEFIT - INTERNSHIPS

PHILIPPINES: Blacksmith Commended for River Rehabilitation

Blacksmith Institute was recently recognized by the Republic of the Philippines government for its decontamination work in the [Meycauayan-Marilao-Obando](#) (MMO) river system, a key arterial that is among the world's worst polluted places.

"This award reminds me that our work is making a difference and an impact on all the communities that depend on the river, and that is most gratifying,"

said Blacksmith Philippine coordinator Jenny Sunga-Amparo, who received the "Environmental Partner" commendation at the Regional Industrial Ecowatch Recognition Night.

Rehabilitation of the MMO started in February of 2008, when the waterway was declared a 'water quality management area.' In partnership with the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Blacksmith drove efforts to control pollution of the MMO from small-scale industries, including gold smelting operations and tanneries, which regularly dump untreated industrial waste into the river system.

Before clean-up efforts began, the MMO showed excessive levels of heavy metals such as lead, chromium and cadmium, as well as a zero level of dissolved oxygen and exorbitantly high levels of organic pollution.



clean them. We can end life-threatening pollution in our lifetime."

Richard Fuller, founder, Blacksmith Institute.

Life-threatening pollution has already been eliminated in many wealthier nations. Now Blacksmith is leading the fight to end it in low and middle income countries.

- **Identify:** Blacksmith is building the world's first comprehensive [global inventory](#) of polluted sites, where lives are at risk. Once identified, these hotspots will be ranked in order of priority for cleanup. Blacksmith investigators are currently crisscrossing the globe to assess some 3000 sites in more than 60 countries.
- **Implement:** Blacksmith is working to create the [Health and Pollution Fund](#) - a proposed \$500 million public health fund to support the cleanup of the world's worst polluted places identified by the global inventory project.

2009 REPORT



[Download the 2009 Blacksmith report:](#) World's Worst Polluted

The MMO is the source for drinking and agricultural water supplies for an estimated 250,000 people living in and around Manila.

GHANA: Pending Action on E-Wasteland

The New York Times published a [photo essay](#) of the e-wasteland of Agbogbloshie market in Ghana, which Blacksmith Technical Advisory Board member Dr. Jack Caravanos recently surveyed ahead of an intervention slated for Autumn 2010.

[Read his personal account and watch a video here.](#)

This "Sodom and Gomorrah," as local inhabitants call it, is a dumping ground for unregulated e-waste shipped in from around the globe. Many make a living "recycling" metals contained within mountains of computers, phones, appliances and other discarded electronics. To extract the valuable metals, workers incinerate electronic devices, releasing poisonous chemicals into the air and soil.

Toxic as they are, e-waste sites can be remediated. In Ghana, Blacksmith is working with the Ghana Health Service to organize e-waste workers, improve e-waste processing techniques, and offer occupational health interventions to create both a sustainable source of social protection and increased economic benefits.

Blacksmith's Annual Golf Benefit in Tuxedo Park, NY

Blacksmith's 3rd Annual Golf Fundraiser will be held at The Tuxedo Club on Monday, September 27, 2010. This charity golf event brings together sponsors and advocates to help advance Blacksmith's international, collaborative efforts against toxic pollution.

"The opportunities to unite our allies and supporters are few, so we are eager to share details of our work and successful cleanups in an environment where we can relax, network,

Places: 12 Cases of Cleanup and Success.

NOMINATE

[Nominate a Polluted Site](#)

and forward our shared goal – the elimination of life-threatening pollution.” said Richard Fuller, president of Blacksmith Institute.

The event will begin at noon, with a catered lunch and a presentation highlighting Blacksmith’s strategies and successes in global pollution remediation. A 1:30 p.m. ‘shotgun’ start will then be followed by a buffet dinner, raffle, and awards ceremony, recognizing industry pioneers and leaders who have significantly contributed to fighting life-threatening pollution worldwide.

The Tuxedo Club is located at 126 South Gate Road in Tuxedo, New York. Individual tickets are \$600, and \$2,000 for a foursome. Sponsorship opportunities and more information on the event are available [here](#).

Call For Interns

An internship at Blacksmith is ideal for students or recent college graduates who are interested in exploring the intersections between man-made toxicities, stakeholder collaboration and environmental health. Internship hours are flexible and may be applied toward university credits. Please send inquiries and resumes to info@blacksmithinstitute.org.
