

“NEWS RELEASE”

For Immediate Release
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March 2, 2009

**ECUADOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL STATES THAT ALL SUSPENSIONS OF
MINING ACTIVITIES ARE LIFTED**

VANCOUVER, CANADA, March 2, 2009 - Corriente Resources Inc. advises that in a presentation given earlier today at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada Conference (Toronto, Canada), Dr. José Serrano Delgado, Sub-Secretary of Mines in the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum of Ecuador (the “MMP”), announced that the MMP has lifted all suspensions on mining activities in Ecuador, and that formal letters to this effect are in the process of being sent to mining companies.

Corriente will provide further information on the above as it becomes available.

ABOUT CORRIENTE

Corriente controls a 100% interest in approximately 49,000 hectares located within the Corriente Copper Belt, Ecuador. The Belt currently contains four known copper and copper-gold porphyry deposits that are being strategically developed as the Mirador Project (which includes Mirador Norte) and the Panantza-San Carlos Project, and six additional copper exploration targets. Together, these targets represent a potential long-term district development opportunity for large-scale copper-gold mining.

“Dan Carriere”

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**For further information, please contact Mr. Dan Carriere, Senior Vice-President,
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Certain statements contained in this News Release, which provides an update on the status of the Mining Mandate and current suspensions of mining activities in Ecuador constitutes forward-looking statements within the meaning of the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and applicable Canadian securities legislation. Forward-looking statements include among other things, statements regarding projected production rates and capital costs, estimates regarding copper prices, mineral resources and anticipated grades and internal rates of return. Forward-looking statements are statements that are not historical facts and that are subject to a variety of risks and uncertainties, which could cause actual events or results to differ materially from those reflected in the forward-looking statements, including, but not limited to, risks related to the exploration stage of the company's projects; discussions with prospective joint venture partners and related potential outcomes; market fluctuations in prices for securities of exploration-stage companies; uncertainties about the availability of additional financing; uncertainties related to fluctuations in copper prices; the possibility that Corriente may change its plans with respect to one or more properties; and other risks and uncertainties described in the company's Annual Information Form for the year ended December 31, 2007, and registration statement on Form 40-F filed with Canadian securities regulators and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, respectively. Although we believe the expectations reflected in our forward-looking statements are reasonable, results may vary, and we cannot guarantee future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements.