Programme

Beyond extractive sector transparency: driving prosperity and stability through good governance

Wednesday 26 – Friday 28 March 2014 | WP1268

Weak governance of the extraction and management of natural resources can have far-reaching consequences for the countries holding the resources, hampering economic growth as governments lose revenues. There are many difficulties in addressing the issue and these challenges require complex solutions, based around better governance, increased capacity building by governments, civil society organisations and extractive sector companies themselves.

Transparency of revenues and contracting will play a part in improving the situation by moving economies along the ‘golden thread’ of economic and social development: well managed natural resources, transparent systems of governance, implementation of the rule of law, anti-corruption measures, well-defined property rights and robust legislative oversight. Good governance can therefore be seen as fundamental to the socioeconomic development of resource-rich countries. Equally, can a well-managed extractive sector promote diversification and growth in countries with low economic and technological development activity? What might be the development impact of efficient allocation of natural resource revenues, if aid to structure local institutions and taxation regimes was targeted accurately?

Effective management of natural resources by developing countries should enable their economies to implement and achieve the governance-related elements of the UN’s new Sustainable Development Goals and meet the proposed targets within the time stated.

This conference will enable governments, extractive sector companies and civil society actors to debate a blueprint for best practice in natural resource management at local, national and regional levels. It will examine the issue of transparency within a broader context and seek to identify some practical solutions to perceived or real constraints in delivering better outcomes through better governance.

In association with BG Group, Rio Tinto and Shell

Wednesday 26 March

1500  Participants arrive and tea available

1545-1600  Welcome and opening remarks

Kathryn Hingston, Director
Programme Director, Wilton Park, Steyning

1600-1645  1. Keynote speech

Richard Oliver
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs, Port of Spain

1645-1730  Photograph followed by tea and coffee
2. Robust and transparent governance: the key to equitable extractive sector management?

Host countries and companies operating in established and new markets alike can benefit from regular assessment of the structures of governance, capacity to enforce and ensure transparency throughout the value chain of resource extraction and transformation. There are many examples of global good practice that can provide useful tools for officials, civil society stakeholder organisations and companies alike to benchmark against and aspire towards, whilst maximising competitiveness and protecting local economies. What is likely to be the role of international institutions and multistakeholder initiatives in influencing and evolving global, national and local standards of governance?

Tony Burdon  
Head, Growth and Resilience Department, Department for International Development, Glasgow

Paul Stevens  
Distinguished Fellow, Chatham House, London

1900  
Reception followed by dinner with after dinner speaker

Clare Short  
Chair, Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, London

Thursday 27 March

0800-0845  
Breakfast

0900-1030  
3. Case study panel: Bahrain and Zambia

The Revenue Watch Institute’s Resource Governance Index monitors and measures the link between extractive sector activity and socioeconomic development in many countries across the board, from the most developed to the newly emerging actors in the sector. What impact does this initiative, along with EITI assistance, have on countries and stakeholders alike in developing better governance in the sector to deliver prosperity and stability for the local economies?

Shigeki Sumi  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Japan to Bahrain, Manama

Richard Musukwa  
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Mines, Energy and Water Development, Lusaka

Joseph Williams  
Senior Advocacy Officer, Revenue Watch Institute, London

1030-1100  
Tea/coffee

1100-1230  
4. Facilitated discussion groups I

Participants will divide into smaller working groups to explore what tools and measures are needed for countries to make their way along the path of socioeconomic development through harnessing the wealth generated by the extractive sector. Beyond simple reporting transparency, what metrics might best serve the goal of improving lives and outcomes for the host countries?

Facilitators:

Eddie Rich  
Deputy Head and Regional Director for Africa and the Middle East, Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), Oslo
1230-1400
Lunch

1430-1630
5. Facilitated feedback and interactive scoring
Rapporteurs from each group will summarise their findings and highlights; participants will be able to vote on and debate the tools and measures nominated by each group.

Chair: Kathryn Hingston
Programme Director, Wilton Park

1630-1700
Tea/coffee

1700-1830
6. Economic diversification and governance: the pillars that underpin success?
Public private partnerships can help local companies to upgrade skills and technologies, enabling them to participate in the value chains of extractives companies. This can be a more effective tool for creating links with the rest of the economy than blunter instruments such as export restrictions or high local content requirements. What view is taken by investors, companies and governments of this type of initiative? What role can resource-rich countries take in the development of technology used by the extractive sector?

Bennett Freeman
Senior Vice President, Sustainability Research and Policy, Calvert Investments, Bethesda

Guo Peiyuan
Board Director, Co-Founder and General Manager, SynTao, Beijing

Laurel Green
Chief Adviser, Policy – External Affairs, Rio Tinto, London

Evelyn Dietsche
Adviser, Economic Development, BG Group, Reading

1900
Reception followed by Conference dinner

Friday 28 March

0800-0845
Breakfast and checkout

0900-1030
7. Facilitated discussion groups II
In this session, participants will take the metrics developed and recommended from Session 4 to create real world scenarios for a range of country/company examples and plan strategies to move those partnerships along the curve of governance.

Facilitators:

Eddie Rich
Deputy Head and Regional Director for Africa and the Middle East, Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), Oslo

Liane Lohde
Senior Economist, International Finance Corporation World Bank Group, Washington DC

Steven Schofield
Deputy Head of Government Relations, Shell International Ltd, London
8. Feedback from discussion groups

Chair: Kathryn Hingston
Programme Director, Wilton Park

9. Delivering results beyond the data

More data collection, reporting and sharing of information could improve accountability. How could data be used more effectively to direct payments to the areas of greatest need? What reporting practices are most appropriate and what standards should be maintained? However, data alone is not enough - what else is important and can provide measurable improvements and impacts?

How much information should be accessible and to whom? Are agencies publishing enough? How can we build capacity to achieve these goals? What should be the role of international institutions and initiatives?

Rosalind Kainyah
Former Vice President, External Affairs and Corporate Social Responsibility, Tullow Oil; Founder and Director, Kina Advisory Ltd, London

Alan Carter
Senior Economist, Direct Business Taxes Team, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, London

10. Conclusions, commitments and continuity

Chair: Kathryn Hingston
Programme Director, Wilton Park

1600
Participants depart