

International Conference

Emerging Oil, Gas and Mining Countries - Opportunities, Risks and Pitfalls

Introduction

The conference aims to bring together government representatives, civil society organizations, private sector, practitioners and researchers from Denmark and other countries to discuss the opportunities and challenges for emerging oil, gas and mining countries.

New countries around the world are experiencing opportunities for attracting billion dollar investments in the oil, gas and mining sectors. These emerging resource-rich countries face prospects of rapid economic growth but also significant challenges when trying to ensure that the economic potential is unleashed and transformed into a sustained and inclusive growth. Particularly governance issues such as building up institutional capacity in the oil, gas and mining sectors, formulating adequate policies and legislation as well as gathering sufficient information on their mineral deposits are challenging. Well-designed policies and legal frameworks will attract the most qualified investors and balance a fair distribution of benefits for all stakeholders.

Sharing lessons learned from different countries can be useful for new resource rich countries in the process of developing solid and transparent legal frameworks. The conference will focus on the opportunities and pitfalls that exist when developing a balanced and efficient legal framework that maximizes government revenues while still being able to attract investments. Moreover, it will explore the challenges of developing adequate institutional capacity and the impacts of improved transparency and accountability.

Objective of the Conference

The objective for the conference is to share experiences and discuss different possibilities to develop responsible, fair and transparent policies and legal frameworks that will bring development for citizens in countries initiating large-scale extraction of oil, gas and minerals.

Guiding questions for the conference:

- What possibilities exist to design solid extractive industry policies and tax regulations when a country has limited experience with large-scale natural resource extraction?
- How can lessons learned from different countries be used by emerging resource-rich countries?
- How can international initiatives and standards such as EITI and Natural Resource Charter be employed by national governments as a useful framework?
- What are the pitfalls in the negotiations of contracts for new resource-rich countries?

Date: May 14, 8:30 – 16:00, 2014

Place: National Museum of Denmark, Ny Vestergade 10, 1220 Copenhagen

Conference Programme

8:30-9:00	Registration, coffee, tea	
09:00-9:05	Welcome <i>Vagn Berthelsen, Secretary General, IBIS</i>	
09:05 – 09.15	Opening remarks <i>Martin Bille Hermann, State Secretary for Development Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark</i>	
09.15 - 10:00	Five key elements to achieve resource-intensive development strategy in emerging mining countries <i>Lisa Sachs, Director of Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment</i>	
10:00-10:45	The importance of a transparent and accountable framework for extraction of oil, gas and minerals <i>Jonas Moberg, Head of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Secretariat</i>	
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee & tea break	
11:00 – 12:00	Break-out Sessions: Striking the balance for fair taxation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Mohammed Amin Adam, ACEP</i> - <i>Lars Koch, Policy Director, IBIS</i> - <i>Søren Bo Nielsen, Professor, Copenhagen Business School.</i> - <i>Peter Helmer Steen, Director, Nordsøfonden</i> Chair: <i>Rebekka Knudsen, Senior Consultant, Copenhagen University.</i>	Transparency in mining policies, contracts and operations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Jonas Moberg, EITI</i> - <i>Lisa Sachs, Columbia Center</i> - <i>Claude Perras, Head of Sustainability, London Mining Plc.</i> - <i>Rodolfo Bejarano, LatinDADD</i> Chair: <i>Morten Blomqvist, IBIS</i>
12:00-13:00	Lunch break	
13:00 – 13:20	Perspectives from Greenland – achievements and challenges <i>Minik Rosing, Professor in Geology at University of Copenhagen and Chair of the Committee for Greenlandic Mineral Resources for the Benefit of Society</i>	
13:20 – 13:40	Transparency and decentralized budgets – recent trends from Peru and Latin America <i>Rodolfo Bejarano, Network Specialist, Latin American Network on Debt, Development and Rights - LATINDADD</i>	
13.40 – 14:00	Emerging oil countries in West Africa – turning the curse into sustained and inclusive development <i>Mohammed Amin Adam, Director of African Centre for Energy Policy</i>	
14:00-14:30	Coffee & tea break	
14:30-15:30	Panel Debate: Prospects of emerging mining countries – where do we go from here? <i>Claude Perras, Jonas Moberg, Mohammed Amin Adam & Lisa Sachs, Moderator: Martin Breum, DR2 Deadline</i>	
15:30 – 15.45	Re-cap and closure <i>Morten Blomqvist, Sr. Policy Advisor on Extractive Industries, IBIS.</i>	