



Civil society and the petroleum sector

Agents for transparency and accountability

An extended workshop in Norway
November 25th – December 5th, 2019

hosted by



In co-operation with Petrad

OIL FOR DEVELOPMENT

OIL FOR DEVELOPMENT (OfD) is Norway's programme for assistance to developing countries in their effort to manage petroleum resources in a sustainable manner.

In collaboration with partner countries, the OfD Programme targets poverty reduction through responsible management of petroleum resources.

The main approach of the OfD Programme is support for capacity development through institutional collaboration. This involves Norwegian public institutions entering into long-term cooperation agreements with public institutions in partner countries. There are 14 OfD partner countries in 2019: Angola, Colombia, Cuba, Ghana, Iraq, Kenya, Lebanon, Mozambique, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

The programme is managed by the OfD secretariat in Norad. Norad is the Norwegian agency for development cooperation.

<https://norad.no/en/front/thematic-areas/oil-for-development/>



PETRAD is the Norwegian foundation for capacity development for national management of petroleum resources. Petrad provides courses and other events building on Norwegian and international insights in the management of oil and gas. Petrad organizes the workshop by agreement with the Oil for Development programme.

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Why this workshop?

Most countries have legislated that oil and gas resources in the ground belong to the nation. The resources, when exploited, should benefit the host nation. Most countries have also concluded that commercial enterprises – the international oil and gas companies – can provide the capabilities for effective exploitation of the resources. The interactions between the host government and international oil and gas companies are therefore central to successful management of the nation's petroleum. Transactions between them can have far-reaching consequences and involve large sums of money. Petroleum operations and installations are often physically large, costly and have significant impacts on their environments. These impacts and associated risks must be managed.

The petroleum sector has a history sometimes involving inadequate governance, power abuse, misappropriation of wealth, environmental degradation and neglect of affected parts of the population. *Transparency and accountability* have long been recognized as essential principles to counter such adverse developments. Effective interactions between national authorities and commercial firms are not enough, since power can be abused by those holding public office and by those pursuing commercial profit. A third group of agents can act against such abuses: Civil society, which broadly includes elected representatives, NGOs, labour organisations, media and academia.

Learning and sharing

This extended workshop is intended to strengthen civil society organisations in their capacity to work effectively with the petroleum sector. The general aims are transparency of transactions and accountability for decisions, actions and omissions which touch the public interest. This event is intended primarily for personnel working with NGOs in the *Oil for Development* partner countries. It is conceived partly as an educational event, partly as an opportunity for exchange of insights from several countries.

The educational aspect of the workshop entails learning about petroleum operations and how they are managed. Knowledge about the sector helps NGOs relate effectively to it. Exchanges of experience and insights will come from meetings with Norwegian institutions, including public institutions and NGOs, and from interactions between participants.

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Workshop objectives

Participants will strengthen their capabilities for contributing to transparency and accountability in the national management of the petroleum sector and the impacts of petroleum operations on society and the environment. This entails the following objectives:

1. Recognize the main work, decision processes and time scale for extracting petroleum resources (*the value chain of petroleum extraction*).
2. Recognize the main challenges and tasks of the national management of the petroleum sector to obtain lasting benefits for the host nation, including mitigation of negative effects.
3. Recognize important current challenges for transparency and accountability related to the petroleum sector.
4. Understand key internationally recognized norms for transparency and accountability in the petroleum sector. Recognize international institutions providing support and guidance in this respect.
5. Be introduced to relevant Norwegian institutions and practices.

Intended participants

The Oil for Development secretariat wishes to invite participants who work in OfD partner countries. They should be affiliated with non-governmental organisations which contribute to promoting transparency and accountability in the petroleum sector and in public management of it.

Applicants will be requested to write a short essay explaining their interest in the course and their engagement with issues that are relevant for the workshop. They will also be required to present a statement of recommendation from the organisation with which they work. Participants must be able to communicate well in English, which will be the language of the event (no translation service).



Two cities: Value chain and institutions

The event will take place in two Norwegian cities, Stavanger and Oslo, which in their different ways are highly relevant to the workshop theme. Stavanger is the location of much of Norway's petroleum industry and some authorities with specific industry responsibilities. Oslo is the capital city where ministries and other key institutions are located.

The first week, in Stavanger, will focus on understanding the oil and gas business in terms of its main activities (*the value chain*), decision processes and national governance. It will include sessions of Oilsim¹, an educational game where participants work in teams simulating oil business processes. Experts with strong industry backgrounds will help participants understand key aspects of the industry. Stavanger offers an opportunity to gain an impression of a community which has, by and large, done rather well from the petroleum industry.

After a transfer during the week-end, the last four days will be spent in Oslo. Selected non-governmental and governmental institutions will be visited, and we shall hear from professionals from different backgrounds addressing issues of sector governance and challenges with accountability. This will include fiscal issues and revenue management, transparency in licensing processes, environmental management of petroleum operations, and the role of NGOs in Norway.

There will be time for discussions between participants, and some social events with opportunity to develop contacts with other participants.



¹ <http://www.nexttraining.net/immersive-learning-programs/OilSim.aspx>

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When & How

Opening: Monday, November 25th, 2019 at 09:00 am in Stavanger, Norway.

Closure: Thursday, December 5th, 2019 at 03:00 pm in Oslo, Norway.

The transit from Stavanger to Oslo is expected to take place on Sunday, December 1st.

The event will be hosted by the Oil for Development programme. There is no attendance fee. Transport from and to home country, accommodation, meals and local logistics will be provided.

Admission will be subject to application and screening. Priority will be given to applicants conforming with the intended participation as described on page 4, as well as considerations of gender balance etc. Norad and Petrad reserve the right to reject any application without particular cause.

Applications to participate can be made on www.petrad.no. The application deadline is September 23rd, 2019. It is also possible, on www.petrad.no, to submit a non-binding expression of interest for participation at either this course or a similar course to be held in the future (no firm date as of yet).

Questions can be sent to: civilsociety@petrad.no.



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