

Mining for Development Conference 2013

Sydney, Australia
20 - 21 May

▲ **MAXIMISING BENEFITS FOR COMMUNITIES**

EVENT SUMMARY



International Mining for Development Centre

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The 2013 Mining for Development Conference brought together a diverse group of leaders and experts in mining for development to discuss and answer the big questions about how mining can contribute to positive development outcomes, built on a developing country's sound stewardship of their peoples' mineral and energy resources.

The Mining for Development Conference was hosted by the International Mining for Development Centre (IM4DC) and is part of an integrated IM4DC program. The program includes education and training, research and analysis, and facilitates networks, linkages and partnerships.

The University of Western Australia and The University of Queensland are proud to be partners of IM4DC, with the support of the Australian Government through AusAID.

IM4DC works closely with AusAID and others in building mining for development activities that make a lasting difference to resource-rich developing countries seeking to make the most of their natural endowment, for the benefit of their nations and communities.

This summary presents an overview of the conference proceedings with full session details available at www.im4dc.org



“With soaring global demand and ever better technology, extractives can be a much bigger part of the development story for more of the poorest countries than has been previously considered.” Mr Mark Lowcock, Permanent Secretary, Department for International Development, United Kingdom



“Australia has an obligation to share its mining experience with developing nations. If developing countries can benefit from their minerals then the payoff will dwarf anything we might hope to deliver through foreign aid.” Former Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, the Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP

SNAPSHOT

The Mining for Development Conference took place on 20-21 May 2013 in Sydney, Australia. Some 600 delegates from 69 countries attended the event, which provided a unique opportunity for developing nations, governments, civil society, the private sector and the international donor community, to discuss the challenges and opportunities that developing countries face as they build their resources sectors.

The strong engagement with the IM4DC conference by mining for development stakeholders, reflects a global momentum towards assisting developing nations to leverage their mineral and energy endowments to achieve positive development outcomes.

Featuring prominent speakers from around the globe, the conference tackled the critical issue of inclusive development - with a focus on gender. Other key topics included building good national and sub-national governance, conflict resolution, effective agreement making, building sustainable local enterprise and employment frameworks, and developing human capacity and leadership.

Government representatives from Afghanistan, Mozambique and Ethiopia presented examples of how they are tackling improvement to **national and sub-national governance**. The biggest issues identified were transparency, negotiation capacity, long term planning, corporate social responsibility and the inclusion of women. Political leadership and economic and ethical factors were identified as determinants of how successfully a country exploits its wealth.

Presentations on **inclusive development and gender** were sobering, and covered the serious issues facing women and the critical need for their participation in mining negotiations. A gender impact assessment tool was presented by Oxfam, which could assist mining companies to understand and address impacts on women.

The presentation on **conflict resolution** opened with an acknowledgement that resources management can cause conflict, and that good governance and communication are the keys to reducing conflict. The underlying causes of conflict were identified as economic and environmental factors, together with poor social cohesion, resettlement and land issues.

Discussions on **effective agreement making** identified that many developing countries and communities lack the capacity to negotiate the most beneficial outcomes from mining. The World Bank and IM4DC are aiming to support negotiation capacity building.

Smart procurement practices were the focus of discussions on **building sustainable local enterprise and employment**. Mining company, Anglo American, outlined how it is increasing local investment in Africa and South America through its procurement policies, demonstrating how companies can positively impact development in local communities.

Discussions on **developing human capacity and leadership for change** included a focus on support for individuals and groups to enact change and achieve progress in their own countries through positive leadership. Also discussed was the need for human capacity beyond traditional mining skills, such as negotiation and long term planning skills.

Following the conference, IM4DC hosted an **Alumni Forum** to review the IM4DC program, discuss country issues and build an alumni support network. The M4D Link, an online community of practice to support mining for development alumni, was launched at the event to support today's and tomorrow's leaders charged with creating better futures for their nations and communities.





BUILDING GOOD GOVERNANCE

Building good governance in developing nations was a central theme at the conference. One session focused on sub-national governance, and delegates heard of the steps being taken by Afghanistan, Mozambique and Ethiopia towards a more transparent, engaging and inclusive approach to mining for development.

A vision for Ethiopia

Her Excellency Mrs Sinkinesh Ejigu, Minister of Mines in Ethiopia and Chair of the Bureau of African Union Mining Ministers, stated that as relative latecomers to minerals development, Ethiopia can take advantage of the experiences of others and put controls in place for good governance.

“In my country, we have a vision to take our people out of poverty,” said Mrs Ejigu. “Our mining sector contributes to 20 percent of our export revenue but its contribution to GDP is very low, only five percent - this we are trying to enhance.”

Ethiopia’s government is active in its management of minerals and petroleum exploration and there are very clear and transparent laws in place, she said. It also has strong involvement in negotiating fair and transparent agreements, and places high importance on building the capacity of its people.

The challenges for government include lack of capacity in negotiation and lack of sufficiency in information. A mineral resources database is a priority to address these. Other challenges include protecting local communities from negative impacts and environmental degradation.



Mrs Ejigu said that the mindset of mining companies needed to change. **“Just extracting and going is no longer good enough. The wealth that can be generated can be viewed as a critical part of our growth and will support poverty reduction.”**

Human rights and governance

Her Excellency Ms Gudrun Kopp, Germany’s Parliamentary State Secretary of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, said good governance lies in political stability and transparency.

Taking a human rights approach ensures that each development is assessed for its risk and impact on human rights.

Mr Erik Solheim, Chair of the OECD Development Committee, said there are three key factors which will determine how successful a country is in exploiting its wealth – political leadership, economic factors and moral factors.

“Good governance also requires transparency and tax, which is set in a fair and just manner, and is the key to distribution of wealth,” concluded Mr Solheim.

Afghanistan: realising the opportunities and meeting the challenges

The potential for economic prosperity together with the security and social challenges hindering mining in Afghanistan was discussed in a presentation by His Excellency Mr Wahidullah Shahrani, the Minister of Mines for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Mr Shahrani said the vast mineral wealth within Afghani soil has the potential to contribute up to \$1.5 billion annually within 10 years to the country’s economy, and help create 500,000 long-term jobs.

However, mining sector growth has been hindered by Afghanistan’s history of conflict, its land-locked nature, the limitations associated with state ownership, and centralised planning.

With a focus on attracting private investment, the government has made changes to its legal and regulatory environment and embarked on a program of transparency and engagement. It is also aiming to establish Afghanistan as a trade and resource corridor, and is working to increase the capacity of its government and workforce.

“The ultimate goal is to transform Afghanistan from a country dependent on international aid to one that can stand on its own feet,” said Mr Shahrani.

However, two of the biggest challenges are the inclusion of women in the engagement process and ensuring transparency, he added.

Revenue Watch Institute and transparency

According to Mr Daniel Kaufmann, President of the Revenue Watch Institute (RWI), 80 percent of mining nations were not meeting satisfactory governance standards. Mr Kaufmann highlighted this through the findings of the RWI Resource Governance Index (www.revenuewatch.org/rgi).

“The most resource-dependent countries are the ones doing less well on balance in terms of transparency and accountability,” said Mr Kaufmann.

His recommendations for countries that wanted to improve included disclosing signed contracts, providing timely reports on oil, gas and mining operations, extending transparency to resource funds and sub-national transfers, making concerted efforts to control corruption, and adopting international standards.

Mozambique: mining and equitable development

Mozambique represents a good example of a resource-rich developing country aiming to maximise the benefits from mining, said Her Excellency Dr Esperança Bias, Minister for Mineral Resources for the Republic of Mozambique. Dr Bias informed delegates on the approach her country is taking to achieve this goal.

“Firstly, Mozambique needs to establish mining and petroleum fiscal regimes that are fair to investors but also maximises returns to the community,” said Dr Bias.

“Secondly, we encourage companies to include corporate social responsibility programs in their development agreements to benefit communities in the locality where development takes place.

“Thirdly, we develop and encourage the development of infrastructure. This will have a broader impact on local communities.”

Dr Bias added that the impact of developing Mozambique’s resources must be assessed in the early years to ensure that the citizens benefit for the long-term, and that environmental impacts are limited.

She pointed out that opportunities to link and optimise mining with other economic and infrastructure projects was crucial. “This is particularly important for mega projects in the areas of transport and utilities to prevent over-development of natural resources,” added Dr Bias.

Other steps taken in Mozambique include becoming a compliant member of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in 2012, and developing a 10-year training plan and strategy to encourage technical and education improvements.

Corporate social responsibility was highlighted as an area needing greater recognition by industry and communities, with Dr Bias concluding that exploitation of revenues must be based on sustainable practices and boosting the development of local communities.

Strengthening sub-national governance

Good sub-national governance provides an opportunity to empower citizens and make demands on their governments, says Professor David Brereton, Deputy Director Research Integration, Sustainable Minerals Institute, The University of Queensland.

“Sub-national governance is especially critical for mining nations, making it easier for the affairs of the land and the people to be managed effectively,” said Professor Brereton.

The introduction of extractive industries into developed nations presents the opportunity for capacity building. With a focus on sub-national regions, the strengthening of skills, competencies and abilities of people and communities in developing countries can help overcome conflict and exclusion, and enable communities to take advantage of development opportunities.

Mr Carlos Monge, Latin America Regional Coordinator, Revenue Watch Institute, said sub-national governance was very complex, and challenges included:

- environmental and economic considerations
- citizen participation
- fiscal regimes and contracts
- rent management instruments and capacities
- transparency and accountability
- sub-national well-being and social conflicts

He added that a lack of good sub-national governance impacts on local legitimacy of the extractive industry and can contribute to a national political crisis, pointing out that two Prime Ministers of Peru resigned because of extraction industry conflicts.

Professor Carlos Casas Tragodara, Chair, Economics Department, Universidad del Pacifico in Peru, said the mining boom had enhanced the importance of the extractives industry in many countries. In Peru, for example, mining exports represent nearly 60 percent of all exports, and mining represents 25 percent of tax revenues – up from five percent 12 years ago.

However, huge disparities are created when mineral resources are not evenly distributed, while some regions lack the capabilities to spend effectively. The Pacifico University is working with others to develop capabilities for managing investment projects.

“Mineral resources are not renewable and how they are removed will forever impact the natural and economic environment of Mozambique.”

Her Excellency Dr Esperança Bias, Minister for Mineral Resources, Republic of Mozambique



BUILDING SUSTAINABLE LOCAL ENTERPRISE AND EMPLOYMENT

“Building sustainable local enterprise and employment starts with changing terms and conditions, changing contract packages or payment terms, and could include supplier development programs and building capacity of new and potential suppliers.” Mr Jonathan Samuel, Head of Social Performance, Anglo American

This conference session discussed how smart procurement practices by mining companies can achieve a greater and more immediate impact in local communities.

Mr Jonathan Samuel, Head of Social Performance at Anglo American, said companies such as his have an obligation to three different groups – government, communities and investors. “Unless we meet the aspirations of the communities we operate in, we won’t be able to run our business in a way our investors would want us to,” said Mr Samuel.

Anglo American’s preferred approach is to take advantage of procurement policies as a starting point for the planning of contributions to local communities. Last year, the company turned over almost \$30 billion worldwide, with about half that revenue going to suppliers. Of the \$15 billion procurement budget, around \$7.3 billion was spent in Africa and \$4.8 billion was spent in South America.

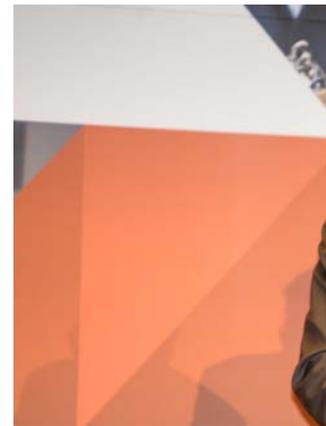
“Those are large numbers and they are substantially larger than many governments’ contributions to bilateral aid projects,” he said, adding that how the money was applied was also important.

Ms Ainsley Butler, Chief Investment Officer at Building Markets, is also a believer in the power of procurement.

“One problem is the rotation of staff in and out of developing markets, which means they lack time to build local knowledge,” said Ms Butler. “Other issues include having access to information about local opportunities and being unfamiliar with the approaches of international companies operating on international standards.”

Dr Hudson Mtegha from the University of Witwatersrand’s School of Mining Engineering, said governments can realise significant opportunities by working with smaller and mid-tier companies. “If we paid particular attention to the low end, we could create employment which links up with agriculture and other parts of the community,” he concluded.





INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

Three conference sessions covered the issue of inclusive development, with particular emphasis on gender issues and the effects of mining on women in Papua New Guinea.

Impacts of mining on women

Ms Ume Wainetti, Program Coordinator for the Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee of Papua New Guinea (PNG), gave a sobering presentation on the serious issues facing women in the context of mining.

"It is critical that women be more involved in negotiations relating to the impact of mine activity on local communities," said Ms Wainetti.

The relatively primitive nature of some local communities has meant that programs designed to share the benefits of mining are not having their intended benefits, and women in particular are missing out, she explained.

"We do not have the skills or education to participate. All we see is outside people coming in being employed in our province," she said. "Life for women since 2007 has not changed - in fact I think it's worse.

Instead of being empowered and their lives improved, these people have become the poorest in PNG."

Ms Wainetti highlighted the Women in Mining Action Plan, which considered 12 basic topics for development for women, including strengthening women's networks, improving education and literacy, and ensuring health and family planning information is distributed.

Ms Katherine Heller, Social and Community Development Specialist, Oil, Gas and Mining from The World Bank, agreed that women hold an under-appreciated role in developing countries. "They are the social caretakers, yet are often not consulted in the agreement process, and receive an unequal distribution of benefits," said Ms Heller.

The PNG community mining consultations in 2001 were attended by local women, but none spoke, she added.

"It was only when they were consulted privately... that their perspective could be understood. This perspective is essential in sustaining the local community," she explained, adding that the subsequent Women in Mining Program had been instrumental in the development of mining in PNG.

Dr Helen Szoke, Chief Executive of Oxfam Australia, said women were often the homemaker, finding food and water for their family. If their farmland was affected through mining and they were moved on, they could not feed their family. There was also the threat of violence and sexual harassment to women from transient men working on new mining developments.

"It is important that women are made to feel safe," said Dr Szoke.

Oxfam has created a gender impact assessment tool that gives voice to women and assists in understanding how women are impacted by mining. The tool helps with consultation and to identify potential gender impacts, and introduces approaches that companies can use to combat negative impacts.



Corporate social responsibility and inclusive development

Professor Paul Collier CBE, Director for the Centre of the Study of African Economies and Professor of Economics and Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government at The University of Oxford, considered inclusive development through a focus on corporate social responsibility, saying mining companies could do much for their country, and should see it as part of their role.

“Extractive companies are instrumental in the development of their country and can support developing countries to create an economically sustainable country,” said Professor Collier.

Citing the example of a malaria outbreak and the Ashanti Goldfields in Ghana, he said that the company’s management had recognised that they needed to treat the whole neighbourhood, not just their employees. Their organisational competence in dealing with this issue led to government recognition, and Ashanti Goldfields were charged with helping to manage the outbreak of malaria across the whole of Ghana.

“By using the same organisational competence that was used to manage the organisation, Ashanti Goldfields was also able to reduce the prevalence of malaria country-wide.”

Professor Collier said mining companies in developing countries often developed roles outside their core competence and needed to take a long term view if they were to succeed. Governments must also help correct problems with money laundering and ethical issues, and work together to provide transparency of information, he concluded.

“Extractive companies are instrumental in the development of their country and can support developing countries to create an economically sustainable country.” Professor Paul Collier CBE, Director, Centre of the Study of African Economies and Professor of Economics and Public Policy, Blavatnik School of Government, The University of Oxford

PREVENTING CONFLICT

Mining can create economic and social prosperity. However, it can also create conflict in some developing nations. This session considered what causes conflict and the key factors in resolving conflict.

Dame Meg Taylor DBE, Vice President and Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO) at the World Bank Group, says this is the century of extraction, but with it can come conflict.

“Population increase is creating more competition for resources. We are seeing development of agriculture and infrastructure, and often it is the communities that are forced to make way for this development.” Dame Meg Taylor DBE, Vice President and Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO), World Bank Group

Dame Meg said that half of the issues that the Compliance Advisor Ombudsman office deals with are related to the oil, gas and mining industries, and include concerns regarding:

- socio-economic issues
- disclosure of information
- land rights
- water
- indigenous issues
- labour issues
- cultural issues



Conflicts occur when the interests of both parties are incompatible, and in extreme cases can result in violence, stated Mr Aidan Davy, Deputy President and Senior Program Director of the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM).

“Conflict prevention is an important aspiration, but there is an inevitability of conflict, so steps should be made to ensure it is constructive rather than deconstructive,” said Mr Davy, adding that fragile states face severe development challenges, and are often affected by violence.

“In 2012, there were 42 incidents of conflicts in 26 countries, most in developing nations.”

Significantly, economic and environmental factors have been cited as the primary and underlying issues for conflict. Other factors include poor social cohesion, resettlement and land issues.

“Companies need to recognise these issues and set agendas to avoid conflict escalation by understanding the country and local context. There should be recognition of vulnerabilities and a grievance mechanism implemented,” said Mr Davy.

The ICMM has developed a community development toolkit for the mining project cycle as well as other guides to help build positive stakeholder relationships and address vulnerabilities and grievances.

As an emerging industry in a developing nation, there is the potential for conflict caused by the influx of mining, said Ms Doris Puiahi, Program Manager for the Inclusive Natural Resource Management Project, Live and Learn Environmental Education in the Solomon Islands.

“The nature of customary land ownership and current land disputes can also present conflict, as there is often a lack of governing mechanisms to accommodate tribal group ownership issues. In addition, a lack of confidence in the country’s leadership can also create conflict,” said Ms Puiahi.

In the Solomon Islands, corruption occurred despite the transparent logging laws. Poor literacy is also an issue, she added.

“With only 10 out of 18 Islanders able to read and write, it may take time for the people to understand all the issues of mining impacts on their communities, before they can make decisions.”

Ms Doris Puiahi, Program Manager for the Inclusive Natural Resource Management Project, Live and Learn Environmental Education, Solomon Islands

Mr Alex Benkenstein, Senior Researcher for the Governance of Africa’s Resources Program, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), said a lot can be learned from the Marikana massacre, where 34 people were killed last year in a mining related conflict.

“The shooting was the result of a massive breakdown in stakeholder relationships at the mine... and sent shock waves throughout the world,” said Mr Benkenstein, adding that flash points of conflict had complicated and drawn out underlying issues that needed to be appreciated.

He explained that employees living in poor communities faced high levels of sexual violence at night. The mining company operating the Marikana platinum mine installed large light towers to help address the problem, however, failed to maintain them. The violence returned and the community was left with large, broken monuments, which they saw as representing the company.

Communication is the key. With the coming decade of extraction, communication will help people in the community feel less marginalised. An enhanced regulatory environment will help manage the rapid development across Africa, as well as help manage stakeholder relationships and rebuild trust.



“Countries with the weakest institutions are most vulnerable to instability and violence.”
Mr Aidan Davy, Deputy President and Senior Program Director, International Council on Mining and Metals



DEVELOPING HUMAN CAPACITY AND LEADERSHIP FOR CHANGE



How can we ensure that an extractive industry based on non-renewable resources can become a sustainable force for development? How can we develop capacity and leadership to effect positive change? These questions were the focus of a session that discussed leadership skills, approaches, innovation and social dynamics.

Mr Antonio MA Pedro, Director of the United Nations Economic Commission for the Africa Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Africa, said the skills needed in developing nations were beyond traditional mining skills and included those that could help a country plan better for its future.

He said the Africa Mining Vision (AMV) implementation program included a Minerals Skills Initiative (MSI) to develop skills, such as strengthening the capacity to negotiate deals. The AMV agenda was designed to help countries develop their own mining vision, taking into account the different social dynamics and political considerations across countries.

One AMV objective is support for the development of resource corridors, especially when mining is located in remote areas, including studying how

infrastructure in those corridors might be better utilised and synchronised with mining development. A Challenge Fund has also been established to invite institutions to develop innovative means of creating new skills.

“It is possible to enter into public private partnerships where mining companies are part of an effort to develop skills to address their own needs and needs of the local constituencies,” said Mr Pedro.

He added that a Mineral Development Framework had been developed to manage the differences in perceptions of value across different parties. Its goal is to reduce the different views that otherwise lead to situations where the social license to mine is eroded, potentially leading to conflict.

Dr Ernesto Sirolli, Founder of the Sirolli Institute, said the first principle of aid is

respect. “If you don’t respect them, you can’t help them,” he said, adding that it was important to leave people alone if they did not want to be helped.

Dr Sirolli said when seeking to build capacity, it is important to take a bottom-up approach. “We have to close the gap from the grass roots – if you want to capture the passion and energy of entrepreneurs, you need to create an entirely different system.”

Calling for accountability

Professor Michael L Ross, Director of the Centre for Southeast Asian Studies at The University of California, stated that over the last decade, governments in developing nations had embraced the EITI, but now the time had come to shine the light of disclosure on companies.

According to Professor Ross, many are not making the kind of contribution to development that they should and some could still avoid disclosure and transparency.

“EITI company certification would allow well performing companies with high standards to get the recognition they deserve, and governments would know they were working with a partner who met the highest standards of corporate citizenship,” concluded Professor Ross.



Ms Jacky Mandelbaum, Lead Law and Policy Researcher from Vale Columbia Centre on Sustainable International Investment, said countries need resources to help them get a good deal. **“We have looked at what support is needed and what is available, and then looked at the gap. Those gaps of particular concern related to financial and legal information, equity issues and expertise on geological data.”**



EFFECTIVE AGREEMENT MAKING

Mining projects have the capacity to add significant wealth and societal infrastructure to developing countries. However, many can lack the capacity to negotiate the most beneficial outcomes for their communities - but this is slowly changing.

Dr Paulo de Sa, the World Bank’s Manager of the Sustainable Energy Department, Oil, Gas and Mining Unit, says building negotiation capacity in resource-rich developing countries is crucial.

“We believe there are a lot of opportunities for governments to increase internal revenue mobilisation from extractive industries, but they are not always in the best position to make the most of the development,” said Dr de Sa, adding that the World Bank is helping build negotiation capacity.

“This goes from the very extreme aspects of minerals development - the world of contracts and licenses - to building capacity with government.”

“Finance models are needed to help governments understand the impacts of what they are negotiating. Environmental and social aspects are just as important.”

Dr Paulo de Sa, Manager, Sustainable Energy Department, Oil, Gas and Mining Unit, World Bank

Professor Fabien Nkot, Senior Advisor, Office of the Prime Minister in the Republic of Cameroon, said many African countries experience enormous problems implementing mining projects due to the lack of negotiating expertise. Cameroon imports those skills to overcome this issue.

Mr Bruce Harvey, Global Practice Leader, Communities and Social Performance at Rio Tinto, said his preferred approach was agreement building rather than negotiation. “Our primary concern in the long run is societal stability”, said Mr Harvey.

Ms Rhonda Jacobsen, Senior Legal Officer for the North Queensland Land Council Native Title Representative Body, says there is now a dialogue around the process of implementing agreements.

“Communities want to envisage the future by developing a business or community plan,” said Ms Jacobsen. “Such a plan allows them to articulate and prioritise their aspirations and to identify resources needed to achieve those aspirations.”

ALUMNI FORUM

Following the conference, IM4DC hosted an Alumni Forum for 70 energised participants. With the benefit of knowledge gained at the conference from world leaders in mining for development, participants spent the day examining and discussing the IM4DC program and their country issues. They also learned more about the online M4D Link community of practice, launched at the forum.

The Alumni Forum began with a welcome from Mr James Gilling, First Assistant Director General of AusAID, who said they represented a force for considerable change in their countries.

“Your capacity, your insights, your quality, will have a big influence on how things turn out in your countries,” said Mr Gilling, who urged alumni to use technology to stay in touch, and to build a habit of sharing information and ideas.

“IM4DC will continue to work closely with its country partners and alumni on specific priorities and issues, and develop its program further to meet their mining for development needs.”

Mr Ian Satchwell, Director, International Mining for Development Centre



Summary of feedback on IM4DC program

Alumni participated in a feedback session on the IM4DC program and identified their perceived priorities, gaps and what they wanted more of to build their capacity in mining for development.

Combating corruption, technology transfer, and geo-data management were among their highest priorities. Gaps included policy development, training for women, regulation and implementation of laws, and financial management of revenue. Participants were also keen to see more capacity building at all levels of government, more web-based learning, and more events and education opportunities in their home countries.

Summary of country issues

Alumni worked in country groups and identified their key priorities and issues, what needed to be done, and how they would achieve their goals.

Common priorities included: minerals policy, regulation and agreements; sub-national governance; environmental regulation and management; and transparency.

Continued capacity building in governance was identified as the pathway forward, supported by continued training, collaborative research and education, and enhanced linkages and networks.

Participating countries



Summary of alumni roundtable

Alumni participated in a robust roundtable discussion on new approaches, key challenges and opportunities, and how they could create greater impact. Governance, education and training, and greater collaboration all strongly featured in the discussions.

Call to action

Professor Paul Collier CBE, Director for the Centre of the Study of African Economies and Professor of Economics and Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government at The University of Oxford, issued a call to action to participants at the forum.

Relating his experience in Botswana, Professor Collier said the country had once been an arid, impoverished, land-locked African country. However, it had harnessed its diamond resources so successfully that for a period it was the fastest growing country in the world.

By contrast, he said, Sierra Leone, which was fertile but not land-locked, had fallen to the bottom of the development ladder after the discovery of diamonds.

“The choice between those two outcomes for any nation required certain things being known and done, and capacities had to be built within individual countries,” said Professor Collier.

“You’ve got to build the capacities. You’ve got to be the catalysts in your countries for building the critical mass of informed people.”



“You’ve had wonderful opportunities to learn from Australians, but now learn from each other.”

Professor Paul Collier CBE, Director, Centre of the Study of African Economies and Professor of Economics and Public Policy, Blavatnik School of Government, The University of Oxford





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