

COMMUNIQUÉ
of the South East Stakeholders Road Show of the Nigeria
Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI)
Enugu, Enugu State.

August 24-25, 2006

The Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) held a Stakeholders Road Show involving about two hundred participants drawn from civil society organizations across the South East Zone as well as representatives from other zones, from the 24th – 25th August, 2006 at the Protea Nike Lake Resort, Enugu, Enugu State.

Speakers and discussants were drawn from the NEITI National Stakeholders Working Group (NSWG) and Secretariat, Development Partners (DFID, PACT/USAID, World Bank), the Academia, Oil Industry and Civil Society Organisations, such as Women's Groups, Faith Based Organisations, Youth Organisations, Non-Governmental Organizations, and several Trade Unions. Others include the Ministry of Solid Minerals Development (MSMD), the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) and other Government Agencies.

Several presentations were made in a participatory manner that allowed robust and productive discussions to take place.

After extensive discussions and deliberations, the participants reached a consensus on the following:

- Participants welcomed the opportunity of the Road Show to learn about the operations of the extractive industries sector of the Nigerian economy and lauded the extension of the NEITI coverage to the Solid Minerals Sector alongside the Oil & Gas sector. This development will increase opportunities for revenue generation, employment creation and economic diversification in the country.
- Participants welcomed the repositioning of the Solid Minerals Sector for private sector led development in a manner that will enable it to compete with the oil and gas sector as a revenue earner and contributor to sustainable development of the Nigerian economy.
- Participants welcomed the completion of the audit of the oil and gas industry and sharing of the report and urged that the recommendations be diligently implemented.
- Participants welcomed the abolishment of discretionary licensing in the solid minerals sector and the revalidations and reprocessing of mining licenses, as well as financial incentives for participation of small scale miners in Nigerian rural communities.

- Participants called upon the National Assembly to speedily pass into law the NEITI Bill and the bill to repeal the Mining and Minerals Act 1999.
- Participants urged the government to pay particular attention to community issues, conflict prevention and environmental management issues in the on-going reforms in the solid minerals sector.
- While noting the limitations of the current bill, participants welcomed the readiness of CSO groups and several professional bodies to support the NEITI Bill and the passing of the Solid Minerals Bill into law.
- Participants urged the NASS to provide them an opportunity for making an input before final passage of the NEITI Bill.
- Participants called for increased inter-agency information sharing among government agencies and oil and mining companies.
- Participants were encouraged to actively participate in the newly liberalized solid minerals sector to take full advantage of the opportunities available.
- Participants requested for more programs like the NEITI Road Show to deepen the transparency and accountability message and to enable Nigerians learn more about the extractive industries.

- Participants welcomed the mainstreaming of transparency into the 2005 Oil Block Bidding and the 2006 mini-bidding processes and requested for increased Civil Society participation and input into future processes.
- Participants commended the Federal Government for the initiative, and appreciated the hospitality of the government and people of Enugu State.

SIGNED

Prof. H Assisi Asobie

President, Transparency in Nigeria (TIN)

Rev. David Ugolor

Publish What You Pay Campaign

Prof. H.I. Ezeigbo

Council of Mining Engineers and Geoscientists

Princess Frances Mgbada

NEPAD, Ebonyi State

Dr. Bright Okogu

Ag. Executive Secretary NEITI

Obiageli Ezekwesili

Minister of Education and Chairperson, NEITI