
PRESS RELEASE

October 1, 2009

VISIT OF EITI'S CHAIRMAN TO NIGERIA

Prof. Dr. Peter Eigen, Chairman, Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, EITI, will be visiting Nigeria from 8th to 9th October 2009. While in Nigeria, Eigen will meet with key stakeholders to discuss major issues concerning the EITI process in Nigeria.

Prof. Eigen is a lawyer by training. He has worked in economic development for 25 years, mainly as a World Bank manager of programmes in Africa and Latin America; from 1988 to 1991 he was the Director of the Regional Mission for Eastern Africa of the World Bank. Under Ford Foundation sponsorship, he provided legal and technical assistance to the governments of Botswana and Namibia.

In 1993 Eigen founded Transparency International (TI), a non-governmental organization promoting transparency and accountability in international development. From 1993 to 2005 he was Chair of TI and is now Chair of the Advisory Council. In 2005, Eigen chaired the International Advisory Group of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and became Chair of EITI in 2006. In 2007 he founded the Berlin Civil Society Centre and chairs its Board.

Eigen has taught law and political science at the universities of Frankfurt Main, the John F. Kennedy School of Government/ Harvard, SAIS/ Johns Hopkins, University of Washington and Bruges College of Europe. Since 2002, he is teaching as an Honorary Professor of Political Science at the Freie Universität, Berlin. In 2000, he was awarded the 'Honorary Doctor' degree at the Open University, UK, in 2004, the Readers Digest Award "European of the Year 2004" and in 2007 the Gustav Heinemann Award.

Eigen is member of the board of the NGOs Kabissa, building the capacity of African non-profits, and the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), providing environmental legal services. Since 2007 Eigen is a member of Kofi Annan's Africa Progress Panel (APP). In 2009 he joined the Management Board of the African Legal Support Facility of the African Development Bank.

For further information please contact:

Mary-Anne Ikoku at maryanne.ikoku@gmail.com or on 08033051651

Jide Arowosaiye at jide.arowosaiye@gmail.com or on 08036471575