

Donors Pledge Continued Support to NEITI

Donors supporting the promotion of extractive revenue transparency in Nigeria have expressed satisfaction with the steady strides recorded in the last four years by the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) and have pledged more support.

“We are particularly impressed with the work done by NEITI,” said Mr. Onno Ruhl, country director of the World Bank. “Nigeria is today seen as a leading EITI-implementing country.”

As part of its outreach programme, NEITI had a meeting with the donor community on April 1, 2008 at the NEITI Secretariat in Abuja. The meeting was facilitated by the World Bank.

The meeting was designed to update the donors and development partners about the strategic direction of the new board, which was inaugurated on January 29, 2008 by President Umaru Yar’Adua.

At the meeting, the chairman of NEITI, Professor Assisi Asobie made a presentation entitled “Taking NEITI to the Next Level,” detailing the progress made by NEITI so far, the challenges, the new direction set by the new board after its strategic retreat in mid March and how donors can assist.

“NEITI wouldn’t have achieved much without the critical support from donors,” said Professor Asobie. “We appreciate this. But as we contemplate the next level, we crave for more.”

The meeting was attended by representatives of the American, Germany, Norwegian, Swiss, and Dutch embassies and of the British, Canadian and Australian high commissions. Also in attendance were the representatives of development partners such as the World Bank, DFID, USAID and PACT.

Also in attendance were representatives of government agencies such as FIRS and DPR, who threw light on work required to deepen the capacities of their respective agencies.

The donors took turns to express delight with the progress made by NEITI and their willingness to provide further technical and financial support. The donor roundtable is planned as a continuous outreach activity.