

The Natural Resource Governance Institute has established six regional “knowledge hubs” in partnership with academic institutions to offer training and support for multi-stakeholder groups to help them analyze issues linked to oil, gas and mining and build dialogue for collective action.

The need

Good governance in countries rich in oil, gas and minerals requires well designed policies that are effectively executed by governments. It also requires an informed, active citizenry to provide critical oversight of government decisions. Ideally, engagement between citizens and governments begins from the time a decision is being made whether to authorize exploration for oil, gas or minerals and continues as authorities decide how to spend the revenues. In practice, however, there may not be opportunities available for such interaction, and many stakeholder groups lack in-depth knowledge of these industries and how best to measure and manage the economic and social impacts.

Governments, civil society organizations, journalists and MPs, need to understand the fundamental governance issues in the decision chain of natural resource governance – including the allocation of rights, the contract development process, tax policy, the mitigation and management of environmental impacts, the management of revenues from natural resources - in order realize the benefits of resource extraction. They also need to better appreciate each other’s roles and how to best work together in the public interest.

NRGI has established six regional knowledge hubs in partnership with academic institutions

and policy institutes to offer training and support to multi-stakeholder groups, encouraging them to share the knowledge and skills they need to conduct their own analyses of issues linked to oil, gas and mining and to develop robust governance and oversight mechanisms.

These knowledge hubs focus on learning through participants' own experiences, as well as through sustained debates and policy labs that allow participants to apply the knowledge they gain to their professional roles. They facilitate debates about the pros and cons of policy decisions. Using a comprehensive approach covering the resource governance decision chain, knowledge hub training will increase the number and expertise of stakeholders focused on prudent management of natural resources, and help lead to policies for sustainable economic development.

The approach

NRGI creates a knowledge hub in partnership with an established tertiary institution or policy institute. As host institutions, NRGI’s partners assign staff to manage activities, endow knowledge hubs with scholarly expertise and ensure that the knowledge hubs can support alumni over the long term.

NRGI's first knowledge hub partnership was launched in 2008. There are now five in operation, in partnership with the [Catholic University of Central Africa](#), the [Catholic University of Peru](#), [Khazar University](#), the [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#) and the [Universitas Gadjah Mada](#).

Knowledge hubs support participants in the following ways:

- Delivering courses. These are residential one- or two-week core courses. Increasingly, knowledge hubs work with host institutions to introduce relevant subjects and coursework at bachelor's, diploma and master's degree levels within existing programs, or as part of new ones.
- Providing mentorship. In some hubs, students that successfully graduate from core courses are assigned mentors, who offer expert advice for a given period of time around projects and research.
- Training trainers. In some hubs, talented alumni receive training that helps them to train others. The focus is on strengthening abilities to communicate key messages to groups new to the oil, gas and mining sectors, and to develop materials for beginner-level courses.
- Generating policy analysis and debate. Experts from the regional hubs write op-eds, policy papers to analyze new legislation and policies as they emerge. Hubs convene regular conferences and roundtables to discuss policy issues, build policy consensus or reflect on the state of the field in their regions.
- Hosting resource centers. Some knowledge hubs are equipped with research libraries and internet access, allowing students to download web-based materials. Some knowledge hubs create specialized collections on the oil, gas and mining sectors as part of the host institution's library system.
- Creating and supporting regional networks. Knowledge hubs actively promote the creation of regional networks of experts to help civil society organizations, MPs and journalists analyze policies, legislation and contracts. Some hubs also organize and manage regional multi-stakeholder networks including hub course alumni.

For more information

Go to www.resourcegovernance.org/issues/regional-hubs for further information on the knowledge hub program. The knowledge hubs make up one part of NRGI's training programs. For more information on NRGI's other offerings please visit <http://www.resourcegovernance.org/training>.

The Natural Resource Governance Institute is a non-profit, international, independent organization that helps people benefit from their countries' oil, gas and mineral endowments.