

Briefing Note: Natural Resource Charter Capacity Building

The Natural Resource Charter is developing training modules for government decision makers and oversight actors from resource-rich countries. During 2013, the Natural Resource Charter will deliver a high-level course with the Blavatnik School of Government at the University of Oxford, which will be targeted at Ministers. It will also deliver regional trainings in partnership with the Revenue Watch Institute.

1. Background

Good governance of extractive resources and their revenues is crucial for the development of many low income countries. This challenge demands that governments have a detailed understanding of a set of interlocking issues relating to the management of natural resource wealth. It also requires an informed and active citizenry that is able to scrutinize policy making processes and hold government to account.

To support these goals the Natural Resource Charter (NRC) is developing a range of advanced and intermediate courses to strengthen the knowledge and skills of government decision makers, and to build the oversight capacity of civil society groups, members of parliament, academics and journalists. Recognizing the need to take a comprehensive approach to capacity building work, all courses use the Charter as a guiding framework. To support dissemination and use around the world, finalized course materials will be posted as part of a knowledge bank that will be hosted on the NRC website.

2. Executive Training

In partnership with the Blavatnik School of Government at the University of Oxford, the NRC is organizing an advanced training course for Ministers and senior civil servants from resource-rich countries. Taking place in Oxford over six days in September 2013, this course will be open to around 20 participants. It will provide a complete overview of the policy decisions that governments face in the management of their extractive resources. Instruction will come from leading experts, including members of the NRC technical advisory group. Technical content will be supplemented by practical skills-based sessions and participants will be given the opportunity to actively apply insights gained during strategy planning sessions.

3. Strengthening Institutions and Building Oversight Capacity

During 2012-13, the NRC partnered with the Revenue Watch Institute (RWI) and the School of Public Policy at the Central European University in Budapest to deliver an advanced training course to 30 government decision makers and oversight actors from resource-rich countries. A second year of course in 2013-14 is being targeted.

The NRC is also working with RWI to create an intermediate course for government decision makers and oversight actors to be used in six regional knowledge hubs in partnership with universities in Anglophone Africa, Francophone Africa, Latin America, Eurasia, Asia-Pacific and MENA. As the first step of this process the NRC and RWI will be holding a training event in Uganda in late 2013. In the long term, it is envisaged that this engagement in Uganda could support the initiation of a seventh knowledge hub, serving East Africa.

For more information about the Natural Resource Charter capacity building programme, please contact Helen Dempsey at helen.dempsey@naturalresourcecharter.org.