

PROJECT DETAILS

Country(ies):	Ghana
Duration:	April 2009 – June 2011
Budget:	US \$468, 000
Funder:	Revenue Watch Institute (RWI) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Partner(s):	Parliament of Ghana
Status:	Active

About the Parliamentary Centre

The Parliamentary Centre is a Canadian not-for-profit, non-partisan organization that supports parliaments around the world. Our assessment, strategic planning and training programs, combined with research products and networking channels, help legislatures measure their performance, build capacity, tackle key issues and promote mutual learning.

In short - we help legislatures better serve their people.

About the Project

In 2007 Ghana pronounced its most significant and viable oil discovery, aptly called Jubilee. The need for tighter reins on the transparent, accountable and prudent management of extractive sector revenues as the oil sector emerges soon became apparent. In April 2009, Revenue Watch Institute (RWI) in partnership with the Parliamentary Centre launched the joint project *Strengthening Parliamentary and Civil Society Oversight of Oil, Gas and Mining Revenues in Ghana* with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The initiative has also benefited from budget support from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale

Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The project is aimed at improving the use of extractive resources (petroleum and minerals) for the public good by strengthening parliamentary oversight during all parts of the extractive sector value chain, from the decision to extract, establishing the fiscal terms and legal frameworks, to overseeing that revenues from extractive industries are spent well and in the interest of the people. The project also focuses on building a strong and effective collaboration with civil society actors and the media in Ghana. Through the project, the Parliament of Ghana has been offered the most comprehensive training and technical support around issues of extractive governance yet.

Accomplishments

Within the relatively short life of the project it has had several important accomplishments:

- The knowledge of five target committees (Mines & Energy, Finance, Public Accounts, Lands & Forestry and Local Government & Rural Development) has been increased considerably in extractive governance and thus improved the quality of debate on such issues;



Group of MPs and Facilitators attending a workshop

- A team of experts has been assembled that have been able to provide technical support and expert analysis on various bills on petroleum under parliamentary consideration. The team has supported parliamentarians to make the appropriate amendments and in one case even moved to withdraw a bill (the Ghana Petroleum Exploration & Production Bill) for redrafting.
- Following the training on Oil & Gas Governance, the participating MPs requested that the Parliamentary Centre be invited to make a special presentation to all MPs of the House, given the importance of the subject. This was the first time an outside organisation was permitted to make such a presentation on the floor of Parliament.
- The project has also developed a short guide on oil and gas sector for parliamentarians (click [here](#) for more information).



MPs discussing extractives governance during a break-out session

Testimonials

“... The findings reported in the presentation are an eye opener. Minerals should act as an eye opener for us as we go into oil production. When the petroleum bills come, we should be more vigilant to secure the best interest of the nation.”

Hon. Alfred Abayateye, Member of the Public Accounts & Finance Committees

“In fact this training has opened our eyes to a lot of things that we have hitherto not been privy to about Ghana’s oil find. The general impression among the majority of Ghanaians is that the oil has come to solve all our problems so there is a lot of work for us to do in educating the public and managing public expectations. It is because of this that I am calling for the establishment of a Network of Reporters of Extractive Industries in order to share knowledge and information in pursuit of this national course”.

Issah Shaibu, Chief Editor, Radio Ghana (Ghana Broadcasting Corporation, Ghana’s only electronic media house with national coverage).