

PUBLISH WHAT
YOU PAY

ABOUT OUR CAMPAIGNS WHERE WE WORK BLOG RESOURCES NEWS



In Lebanon, academics head discussions for how to ensure extractives become a blessing

YOUR PWYP FOLLOW

LANGUAGES

By Diana Kaissy on April 28, 2015



Photo by [rabiem22](#) available under a Creative Commons license

Amidst all the delays, postponements, optimism and pessimism that have been shrouding the extractive industry's birth in Lebanon for the past two years, one university, the Rafic Hariri University decided to enter the foray from a comprehensive angle. On April 16th, RHU launched its first Mediterranean Gas and Oil international conference 2015 (MedGO). The conference lasted three days, concluding on April 18th. By hosting an impressive number of global experts, the conference managed to offer a platform for academics, EI experts, public officials, as well as Lebanese civil society, to discuss and obtain a comprehensive view of this nascent sector that may promise to become a blessing for Lebanon if managed well.

The topics covered by experts from around the globe (France, the Netherlands, USA, Libya, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Lebanon) ranged between highly technical subjects (exploration, drilling, downstream, and production techniques), to more socio-economic ones. Discussions around the geo-political implications pertaining to the management of the extractive sector in Lebanon were carried by key experts on the East Med energy policies.

Special attention was given to the key role that civil society in Lebanon needs to play in order to ensure good governance of its future wealth. Publish What You Pay shared lessons from international experiences of how civil society from around the globe strives to play a key role in turning natural resource revenues into sustainable development. The Lebanese Oil and Gas Initiative (LOGI) was show-cased during the conference as an example of the role that civil society in Lebanon could play in the good governance of this sector. With the objective of offering a platform to liaise with the wider Lebanese public on issues that will enable them to become more informed about their natural wealth, LOGI is set on building the capacity of civil society in Lebanon and empowering it to become a decision maker and a policy influencer.

Over all, the conference was unique in the sense that it is the first international assembly to be organised by the academic body in Lebanon. With the Lebanese Petroleum Administration (a government consultative body) taking the lead so far in organising such conferences (with a heavy presence of the private sector represented by the International Oil Companies), it is eye-catching to notice the sudden interest from the academic world in this nascent sector. Other university led discussions are now occurring within the different campuses in Lebanon. The Notre Dame University hosted last month a seminar with speakers from PWYP, NRG1 and LCPS. The topic centred around the key role that civil society needs to play to ensure proper management of its natural resources. A substantial interest from the student and academic body has resulted in the creation of a working group at Notre Dame University, focused on building a network within the Lebanese universities that can help inform and empower the greater civil society in Lebanon to get engaged in the sector.

With the ever evolving definition of civil society, which now transcends NGOs to include academic body, unions, and the media, Lebanon may well present a unique model of having its civil society's engagement in this challenging sector being spearheaded by the rigour the academic world would offer!

Previous post

Next post

0 Comments

PWYP

1 Login ▾

♥ Recommend

↗ Share

Sort by Best ▾



Start the discussion...

Be the first to comment.

ALSO ON PWYP

Extractive industries in a resource and climate constrained world

1 comment • 3 months ago



Johnny West — PWYP potentially has a *vital* role to play in linking climate change to extractives. the carbon ...

Nigeria's freedom of information bill – great on paper, less so in practice

1 comment • a year ago



joeseph Ononamadu — This is apt, an open truth as well as open sore on managers of extractive sector in ...

✉ Subscribe

ⓓ Add Disqus to your site Add Disqus Add

🔒 Privacy



SEARCH THE BLOG

SEARCH

Categories

WHY TRANSPARENCY

Subscribe to our newsletter

ENTER YOUR NAME

ENTER YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

SUBSCRIBE

PUBLISH WHAT
YOU PAY



Publish What You Pay is a registered not-for-profit company in Wales and England (No. 9533183).

© PWYP 2016. Please seek permission from us before reproducing content from this site

Site design and development by **Zerofee**

ABOUT

Objectives
The Secretariat
The Team
Business Plan 2016-2018
Our Activists
Governance
Global Council
Board
Transition
Africa Steering Committee
Funding
Funding 2013
Funding 2012
Funding 2011
Vision 20/20 Strategy
Chain for Change
Strategy Development
Process
History
F.A.Qs

OUR CAMPAIGNS

Changing the Rules
Contract Transparency
Mandatory Disclosures
EITI
Using the data

WHERE WE WORK

Africa
Asia Pacific
Central Asia and Caucasus
Europe
Latin America
Middle East and North
Africa
North America

BLOG

RESOURCES

NEWS

YOUR PWYP

Newcomer
PWYP Member
Researcher
Journalist
Transparency Geek

[Join the coalition](#)

[Contact us](#)

[Work with us](#)