

**LEITI 4th Reconciliation Report for Fiscal
Year July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011
Companies Sanctioned for Non-Compliance**

Forestry

- 1.Geblo Inc
- 2.Global Logging Company
- 3.New Liberia Resources International Inc.
- 4.Thunderbird International Lib.

Mining

- 1.Almetev Liberia
- 2.Charis Minerals Inc.
- 3.Demaka Mining
- 4.Global Mineral Investment LLC
- 5.H&W Trading Inc.
- 6.Investment Development Corporation
- 7.Liberia Tailing Incorporated
- 8.Nyah Bartee Corporation
- 9.Pan Liberia Resources Development Corporation
- 10.Rod Trading Inc.
- 11.Shankil Resources (Liberia) Inc.
- 12.Southern Cross Investment Limited
- 13.Spri Group Africa Limited
- 14.Superior Mineral Resources Inc.
- 15.The Libam Group
- 16.Treco Mining Company
- 17.Viola International Inc.
- 18.Winestock Development Liberia Corporation



**LEITI Hosts Historic
EITI Learning Exchange Program**



Message from the Head of Secretariat

In late December 2012, as we approached the New Year, I made a call to all stakeholders of the EITI process in Liberia to support the effective implementation of the many programs and activities designed to enable the LEITI achieve its goals in the pending year.

Key amongst the programs delineated in the 2012/13 Work Plan were the preparation and dissemination of the 4th EITI Report for Liberia and the Post Award Process Audit Report; improving the overall quality of LEITI's reports and strengthening monitoring of the extractive sectors by recruiting additional staff with the relevant technical expertise; overall capacity building programs for entire staff; expanding its communications and outreach campaign to ensure increased public involvement in the EITI process with a particular focus on youth participation; supporting the Multi-stakeholders Steering Group (MSG) of the LEITI through a systematic constituency feedback process, and the development and implementation of policy manual for the MSG.

Obviously, the list of commitments seems rationally ambitious, especially given several challenges the institution has been faced with, including human resource and budget constraints. LEITI notwithstanding was determined to build on the progress made up to that point so that real transparency is achieved and Liberians can benefit from their God-given resources.

In May 2013, Liberia achieved another victory in EITI implementation by publishing two major reports simultaneously—the 4th EITI Report for Liberia and the Post Award Process Audit Report. The former, a reconciled account of payments by extractive companies and those received by the government for the 2010/2013 Fiscal Year, shows a whopping US\$117 million contribution to the Liberian economy, a 65% increment in what was reported in the previous years. The Post Award Process Report shows lapses in the processes leading to the award of 68 material concession agreements in the oil, mining, agriculture, and forestry sectors between 2009 and 2011. Lack of stakeholder participation, procurement missteps, and conflicting legislations are some of the findings in the report.

On another front, the LEITI revised its Communications Strategy, first developed since 2008, with a focus on introducing new methods and approaches aimed at enhancing communicating the LEITI process in a more robust manner. For instance, the use of info graphics and roll-up banners have made it easier for ordinary citizens to now understand findings from various reports produced by the LEITI which are usually voluminous.

LEITI's engagement with the youth has also gained momentum in 2013. Series of activities were implemented with the LEITI e-Club Program at ten high schools in and around Monrovia. LEITI has been working with over hundred students to promote amongst them the value of integrity and increase their understanding of the extractive sector, thereby preparing them for greater leadership role in the near future.

In November 2013, the LEITI hosted the first major EITI learning exchange program that brought together three countries—Ethiopia, Tanzanian and Liberia. The South-South Learning Exchange Program, sponsored by the World Bank and LEITI, was designed to promote experience and knowledge sharing on EITI implementation amongst the three countries, focusing on Legislative Framework for EITI Implementation, Secretariat Operations, Forestry Sector Monitoring, Mining, as well as general stakeholders' involvement in the EITI process.

In the drive to boost its operations, the LEITI Secretariat recruited two new staff in 2013 including a Technical Officer and an Industry/Sector Analyst. There still exists a greater need to fill the capacity gap at the Secretariat, this initial move has undoubtedly enhanced operations, particularly in the Technical Department which is responsible to enhance report quality. Additional staffing needs were assessed and with funding support from donor partners including the World Bank and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Several local and international trainings were held at different times of the year with the goal of building staff capacities to function effectively in their respective roles.

The commitments in 2014 are even greater as Liberia moves further with implementing the EITI++.

By June 2014, Liberia is expected to publish its 5th EITI Report. The report will involve reconciliation of payments made to, and revenues received by the Government of Liberia from every oil, mining, forestry and agricultural company during the Fiscal Year July 1, 2011 up to and including June 30, 2012.

In light of the New EITI Standard and local laws, LEITI will publish its first report on beneficial ownership. Beneficial Ownership Disclosure will provide information on the ownership structure and show any conflict of interest in the assignment of material rights in the oil, mining, forestry and agriculture sectors by the government. Like the Post Award Process Audit, we expect this task to be daunting. But I am convinced Liberians are ready once again to demonstrate our commitment to real transparency. This work will further demonstrate that our collective conscience as Liberians is pointed in the right direction.

I again call on everyone to support the process, as each of us has the obligation to contribute to making our society better.

Thanks.


Samson S. Tokpah
Head of Secretariat



Another view of participants during the program



A participant from Tanzania stresses an important point during a session at the Royal Hotel in Monrovia



A view of two participants from Tanzania



Ethiopian Delegates arrive for the Learning Exchange Program at the Spring Field in Monrovia



A Tour Guide from the SRC lectures students on the process of planting and re-planting rubber



LEITI Comm. Officer Samson Wonnah gives instructions to the students shortly before departing for the trip



Participants of the South-South Learning Exchange Program during a field trip to AML operations site in Buchana



A Tour Guide from AML explains the method used to processed ores from the mines



Conference Facilitator Dr. Roosevelt Jayjay and LEITI Boss Samson S. Tokpah during a session



Another session of the program with Dr. Roosevelt Jayjay, LEITI Boss Samson S. Tokpah and Deputy Head Konah D. Karmo



LEITI Administrative Manager Hnede Berrian Sillah being certificated at the end of the exchange program



MVP Yarletei along with staff of the Trinidad and Tobago EITI during her visit to that country



LEITI Boss Samson S. Tokpah addresses local leaders and civil society representatives during the South-South field trip in Buchanan



L-R (Senate Pro-Tempore Gbehzongar Findley; Head of the Tanzania Delegation; V.P. Boikai; Ethiopian State Minister H.E. Ato Addisu Arega and LEITI Head Samson S. Tokpah)



Some participants at the closing dinner held at the Royal Hotel in Monrovia



A Representative of the World Bank addresses program participants during the opening sessions at the Royal Hotel



A view of the MSG during one of their regular monthly meetings

MSG Approves New Work Plan

The Multi-stakeholders Steering Group (MSG) of the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI) has approved a new work plan for the 2013/2014 Fiscal Year.

The Work Plan contains series of programs designed to enable the LEITI achieve its goals in the next 12 months. Key amongst these programs are the preparation of the 5th EITI Report for Liberia; conducting Post Award Process Audit of rights granted in the oil, mining, agricultural and forestry sectors in 2012-13 and the dissemination of the 4th and 5th EITI reports.

Other activities include expanding the youth engagement program; building

the capacities of the MSG and the civil society and promoting the idea of benefactor ownership so as to increase public knowledge on the ownership of companies operating in the country.

The plan, costed at around US\$2.1m, will be funded through government budgetary allocation, the World Bank, UNDP, African Development Bank and the German Development Corporation (GIZ) amongst others.

The plan was approved by the MSG during its regular meeting in September 2013.

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Mr Samson S. Tokpah

“We are Committed to Preserving Biodiversity”

--Tokpah Assures USAID Delegation

The Head of Secretariat of the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI), Samson S. Tokpah has said, LEITI is supportive of efforts aimed at preserving biodiversity in Liberia.

Mr. Tokpah made the assurance to a special delegation from the USAID who visited the LEITI Secretariat on September 10, 2013, in a bid to ascertain the impact of extractive activities on biodiversity and forest resources in Liberia. The delegation, comprised of four persons, was headed by Jim Barker, GIS (Geographic Information System) and Remote Sensing Specialist of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest

Service.

The research, according to the delegation, is intended to gather information that will inform how USDA supports economic empowerment programs in post-conflict and developing countries without undermining or endangering the forest/biodiversity.

Responding to concerns raised by the delegation, Mr. Tokpah said, as the first EITI program to incorporate Forestry and Agriculture within its report scope, LEITI has been involved in procedural awareness and other advocacy campaigns on biodiversity conservation issues through partner

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institutions such as relevant government agencies and civil society organizations.

Mr. Tokpah disclosed that while the Act that established LEITI gives the agency the leverage to engage into advocacy issues within the four covered sectors, the institution is yet to utilize this space due to capacity constraints. “Look, when we came here 21 months ago, there were only 4 professional staff and 2 drivers; now, we have 11 staff, so we are getting there gradually”, he said.

UK to publish who owns and controls companies

Monday, 4 November 2013 - 1:16pm

A register with who actually owns and controls companies in the UK will be publicly available for citizens.

Prime Minister David Cameron made the announcement during the opening session at the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Summit in London on 31 October 2013.

The register will help citizens around the world to hold their governments to account by revealing who are the ultimate 'actual' owners of assets in the UK.

During his speech Prime Minister Cameron said: “we need to know who really owns and controls our companies”.

“Not just who owns them legally, but who really benefits

financially from their existence,” he added.

At the EITI Global Conference in May this year, Prime Minister Cameron announced that the UK would implement the EITI.

The EITI Standard recommends that implementing countries maintain a publicly available register with actual owners, known as a register of beneficial owners.

Eight new Supporting Companies in 2013

Almost all public extractives companies have now endorsed the EITI Principles.

Eight new oil, mining and gas companies stated their support to the EITI in 2013: Cairn Energy, Caracal Energy, IAMGold, Implats, Lundin Petroleum, MOL Group, Paladin Energy and Swala Energy. As a result, the number of EITI Supporting Companies climbed to 84.

The EITI Principles are now endorsed by almost every major publicly listed oil, gas and mining company in the world.

Companies chose to support the EITI for many reasons. Transparency of payments to governments through the EITI levels the playing field for all companies; it helps them demonstrate the sector's contribution to a country; and provides a mechanism for dialogue with governments and communities.

“We believe that local participation in, and understanding of, the extractive resources sector plays an important role in our industry”, says David Mestres Ridge, CEO of Swala Energy.

The private sector is also a significant user of the data published in EITI Reports. Information facilitates

assessing risk and can lead to better investments decisions.

Jonas Moberg, Head of the EITI International Secretariat reminds that Supporting Companies are crucial to the EITI.

“The EITI could not function without a committed company constituency. By sitting at the table with government and civil society and finding solutions to improve accountability, companies are ensuring that the EITI process is making a difference”, Moberg concludes.

EDIT: On Monday 23 December Fleurette Group also became an EITI Supporting Company, bringing the number to 85.

Cameroon accepted as 'EITI Compliant'

the transparency requirements of the EITI movement. I hope this will lead to a process of reform that brings real benefits to the people of Cameroon.”

EITI compliance does not mean that the compliant country's natural resources are managed in a fully transparent manner, but it does mean that the country has a basic and functioning process to ensure regular disclosure of natural resource revenues. Maintaining compliance will require that the country meets all requirements in the recently revised EITI Standard.

As an EITI Compliant country, Cameroon is required to:

- Produce EITI Reports annually in accordance with EITI requirements. To maintain compliant status, the 2012 EITI Report will have to be published by 31 December 2014 in accordance with the EITI Standard.
- Be revalidated within 3 years, i.e. Validation will commence on 17 October 2016, or earlier upon request of the EITI Follow-up Committee. Validation has to be conducted in accordance with the EITI Standard.
- Publish an annual report on the previous year's activities, detailing progress in implementing the EITI.

The annual report for 2013 should be published by 1 July 2014.

Publish an updated work plan aligned with requirement 1.4 of the EITI Standard by 31 December 2013.

Further, the EITI Standard specifies that:

- Stakeholders in the process may call for a new Validation at any time within that period if they think the process needs reviewing.
- Where valid concerns exist that a country has become EITI Compliant, but its implementation of the EITI has subsequently fallen below the standard required for Compliance, the Board reserves the right to require the country to undergo a new Validation or face delisting from the EITI.



Delegates from Liberia pose for photos with Lagos State Governor Fashola and other members of the State Government

Comm. Officer Attends Regional Anti-Corruption Youth Camp

A special camp designed to empower youths in Anglophone West Africa fight corruption was held from September 23-28, 2013 in Lagos, Nigeria, with 80 youths taking part in the five-day meeting.

LEITI Communications & Outreach Officer, Samson Wonnah and seven other young people from Liberia participated in the Integrity Youth Camp which attracted youth leaders from various sectors such as business, civil society, media, academia, creative arts and religion.

The camp aimed at increasing awareness on anti-corruption issues for a more focused and proactive youth involvement in the fight against corruption. It was also intended to establish a network of youth leaders who are empowered and motivated to use their dynamism and innovative minds to promote integrity and public accountability.

To facilitate learning, the camp mainly centered on presentations made by policy analysts and veteran anti-corruption campaigners from across Africa and Europe on topics including the kinds and forms of corruption;

personal integrity and public sector accountability; the use of social media in fighting corruption and citizens actions against corruption and corrupt practices. Participants also shared insights and experiences on efforts aimed at fighting corruption in their respective countries.

As part of the event, participants of the camp paid a courtesy visit to Lagos State Governor, Babatunde Raji Fashola, SAN, who provided words of motivation, challenging the youths to engage in positive actions that will bring changes to their respective communities.

The camp was organized by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) of Nigeria in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Transparency International. It was attended by youth leaders from Liberia, Nigeria, Ghana, the Gambia and Sierra Leone.

Staffers get Training in Swaziland

Two staffers of the LEITI Secretariat, Sector Analyst Roosevelt Wreh Seedee and Finance Assistant George Dennis have completed special diploma courses in Auditing and Finance, respectively, from the Regional Institute for Training and Development (RITAD) in the Kingdom of Swaziland.

The three-week diploma course, for the Sector Analyst, focused on auditing standards; effectiveness in public sector management; corporate governance and accountability; system documentation in auditing; project estimation and evaluation and audit report writing all geared toward ensuring accountability and fiscal probity in the public sector. Training for the Finance Assistant centered on building skills in effective system analysis, managing donor accounts and project finance reporting.

The short term training, held from 3-21 December, 2013 is part of commitment by the LEITI Secretariat to build the capacity of its staff in the execution of assigned duties and responsibilities. This drive was supported by the 2012/2013 Work Plan approved by the LEITIMSG.

The training was made possible through a grant provided by the Private Sector Development (PSD) program of the UNDP. The PSD and Natural Resources Governance Programme are in consonance with the National Vision for a private sector-led growth as delineated in the Economic Transformation Pillar of the Agenda for Transformation (AFT).

The training was attended by over 10 participants from across Africa.



Mr. Eigen being welcomed to the LEITI Secretariat

Peter Eigen Pledges Increased Collaboration with LEITI

He disclosed that his organization is running a similar youth program at an international level and promised to create opportunities for collaboration between the both youth programs.

On July 24, 2013, the LEITI Secretariat received as a Special Guest, Mr. Peter Eigen, founding Chairman of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). Mr. Eigen's brief visit provided a forum for a healthy discussion with the LEITI Head of Secretariat, Samson S. Tokpah, on several issues crucial to improving operations at the Secretariat and promoting transparency and accountability in Liberia. Key amongst issues discussed were capacity building for LEITI staff and enrichment of the LEITI youth program.

Beginning the discussion, the Head of Secretariat presented to Mr. Eigen, copies of the 4th EITI Report for Liberia and the Post Award Process Audit Report published in May 2013. He then provided updates on progress made by the Initiative over the past two years, including the expansion of outreach activities and the establishment of extractive clubs in the high schools. Mr. Tokpah also highlighted efforts by the Secretariat to create a Center of Excellence to enhance research on good practices on EITI implementation.

On his part, Dr. Eigen hailed the level of progress made by LEITI in such a short period and expressed commitment to collaborate with the

Initiative especially in the area of building staff capacity and enriching the Extractive Club Program, a LEITI outreach initiative which directly targets the youth. He disclosed that his organization is running a similar youth program at an international level and promised to create opportunities for collaboration between the both youth programs. "We will be very happy to see members of your club participate in our pending youth competition on Natural Resource Management", Mr. Eigen said.

Mr. Eigen, who also teaches as an Honorary Professor of Political Science at the Freie University in Berlin said, his institution would be willing to support any staff of the LEITI Secretariat who will present a convincing proposal and demonstrates the ability to undertake a meaningful research project that contributes to the society especially on extractive resource management and governance. "Our programs are designed in such a way that suits the individual goals and aspiration of our students", Mr. Eigen concluded.

In 2005, Mr. Eigen chaired the International Advisory Group of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and was the Chairman of the EITI from 2006 to February 2011.

A lawyer by profession, Mr. Eigen has also worked with several development and governance programs for decades and has led initiatives for better global governance and the fight against corruption. In 1993, Eigen founded Transparency International (TI), a non-governmental organization promoting transparency and accountability in international development. He was the Chair of the organization from 1993 to 2005 and is now Chair of the Advisory Council.



LEITI Boss, Samson S. Tokpah

LEITI Boss Named “EITI Coordinator of the Month”

The Head of Secretariat of the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI), Samson S. Tokpah, was in October 2013 named by the EITI International Secretariat as the “EITI Coordinator of the Month”.

The EITI is a global arrangement aimed at promoting transparency over revenues from extractive resources, and is now been implemented in more than 40 countries. The award is given by the International Secretariat based in Oslo, Norway, to recognize the efforts of a National Coordinator from an EITI Implementing Country who has shown distinguished commitment in promoting the EITI process.

In a blog posted on the EITI website on October 21, 2013, the Secretariat described Mr. Tokpah's interest and commitment to advancing resource transparency in Liberia as

overwhelming.

Mr. Tokpah assumed the position of Head at the LEITI Secretariat about 24 months ago when the institution was faced with leadership and capacity constraints, but his commitment to the process has enabled the LEITI to make significant gains in discharging its functions. Mr. Tokpah led the LEITI to produce the 4th EITI Report for Liberia and the Post Contract Award Process Audit Report, a landmark report in EITI implementation. Under Tokpah's leadership, the LEITI also developed a strategic two-year work plan in which institutional priorities were identified and the stakeholder's process strengthened.

Another key achievement credited to Mr. Tokpah, is the establishment of the Extractive Club Program, a LEITI outreach initiative aimed at increasing

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in public awareness on the management of Liberia's natural resources. The program is implemented at high schools, and is designed to allow participating students learn more about the extractive sectors through activities including on-campus series, peer-to-peer discussions, inter-high school debates, mentorship and field trips, amongst others. Liberia has been a pace setter in the EITI Community, and the recent gains made by the LEITI under Tokpah's administration has been lauded by many.



Comm. Officer from the LRA discusses some of the challenges around the reporting process

Stakeholders to Synergize Efforts on Reports' Findings

Stakeholders of the LEITI process, particularly concerned reporting companies and entities, have discussed a number of issues aimed at synergizing efforts on the findings from the Post Award Process Audit Report and the 4th EITI Report for Liberia.

In a workshop conducted by the Secretariat of the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency (LEITI) in Robertsport, Grand Cape Mount County on December 13-14, 2013, representatives from transparency and accountability institutions concerned with the LEITI reporting process discussed on several issues relating to the role of each entity and how they support addressing the gap identified in and implementing the recommendations from the Post Award Process Audit Report and the 4th EITI Report for Liberia.

Amongst key issues raised, the stakeholders discussed on how to harmonizing conflicting legislations in concession award;

the role of GAC in developing and monitoring policies governing the extractive sector; and internal controls and revenue leakages. Both reports were launched by the LEITI in May 2013, and contained several recommendations aimed at improving the EITI process in Liberia and promoting resource transparency. Some of the recommendations, particularly those from the Process Audit Report, regarding the Oil and Agriculture Sectors, were approved by the LEITI Board during the November 2013 Session of its regular monthly meetings.

Participants at the workshop included representatives from concerned Ministries and agencies of government namely, the National Bureau of Concessions (NBC), the National Investment Commission (NIC), the General Auditing Commission (GAC), the Ministry of Justice, the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC),

the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) and the Internal Audit Agency (IAA). The civil society were represented by Publish What You Pay (PWYP) and the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL)

The workshop is part of activities under the project: “Strengthen Transparency, Accountability, Oversight and Participation” (STAOP) funded by the UNDP. The three-year project is being implemented by several government institutions in Liberia, including the General Auditing Commission (GAC), the Liberia Anti-corruption Commission, Governance Commission and LEITI amongst others.

The workshop is part of activities under the project: “Strengthen Transparency, Accountability, Oversight and Participation” (STAOP) funded by the UNDP.



LEITI Comm. Officer Samson Wonnah gives instructions to the students shortly before departing for the trip

LEITI E-Club Students Visit Bomi Hills

On Tuesday, August 13, 2013, over hundred students and support staff from the LEITI Extractive Club Program in ten high schools in Monrovia visited the site of the former Liberia Mining Company (LMC) in Tubmanburg, Margibi County.

The LMC was the first of four iron ore companies which produced and shipped large quantities of ore in the 1960s and 1970s. Liberia became Africa's largest iron ore exporter and even the third on the world list of iron ore exporters. The three others were the National Iron Ore Company, the Liberian American-Swedish Mineral Company (LAMCO) and the Bong Mining Company (BMC).

In 1979, the ore reserves at Bomi Hills had been depleted, and Liberia's first iron ore mine, closed its doors. Liberians, in their typical sense of humor, joked that 'Bomi Hills had become Bomi holes'. During the 1951 - 1977 period, LMC had shipped US\$540 million worth of iron ore whereas the Liberian Government has received during these 27 years some US\$84 million (excluding

rentals), or approximately 16% of LMC's sales income.

While charging the students minutes before beginning the trip, LEITI Head of Secretariat Samson S. Tokpah said, the trip has been designed to allow them appreciate what it means when it is said several of the natural resources are non-renewable. "You will see the empty holes, and I am sure you will wonder what contribution did this investment provide Liberia?" Mr. Tokpah said to the students who had gathered with excitement at the LEITI Secretariat.

The trip is the second made the LEITI e-Club as part of the first phase of the program. The first trip was taken at the Arcelor Mittal operations site in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County in April 2013.



A Tour Guide from the SRC lectures students on the process of planting and re-planting rubber

LEITI Takes Students on Field Trip to SRC

On Saturday, October 19, 2013, the LEITI e-Club made a field trip to the Salala Rubber Corporation (SRC) in Weala, Bong County. The trip involved over 100 students from the ten schools participating in the e-Club Program as well as about 10 support staff from these schools.

The SRC is the fourth largest rubber company in Liberia, established in 2007 as a merger of two stand-alone companies—the Weala Rubber Factory and the Salala Rubber Corporation. The field trip, which is the third undertaken by the e-Club this year, was designed to allow the students get practical knowledge on the rubber industry. The previous trips had been taken to sites in the mining industry—one to Arcelor Mittal operation site in Buchana in April and the other to the former Liberia Mining Company in Bomi Hills, Tubmanburg in August.

The Salala field trip allowed students to tour the facilities at the company's factory in Weala. Though operations at the factory is currently down, the students were taken to various components of the plant and explained the process of coagulating latex, weighing the coagulated rubber and purifying the product before it is marketed. At the plantation, an SRC Agronomist also explained to the students the process of planting and replanting rubber.

Field trip is an important component of the LEITI Extractive Club Program, a platform used by the institution to promote youth involvement in the EITI process. Other activities under the program include peer-to-peer discussions, on-campus speaker series, inter-high school debates and mentorship amongst others.



L-R (Senate Pro-Tempore Gbehzongar Findley; Head of the Tanzania Delegation; V.P. Boikai; Ethiopian State Minister H.E. Ato Addisu Arega and LEITI Head Samson S. Tokpah)

LEITI Hosts Historic EITI Learning Exchange Program

--Delegates Says they have learned a Lot from Liberia

A special Learning Exchange Program intended to enhance implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in the African region was held in Liberia from 17-22 November, 2013, with participants expressing gratitude for knowledge gained from Liberia's experiences in EITI implementation.

The South-South Learning Exchange Program, the first of its kind in the history of the global EITI, was sponsored by the World Bank and the LEITI, and was designed to promote experience and knowledge sharing on EITI implementation amongst Liberia, Tanzanian and Ethiopia.

Speaking on November 22, 2013 at the Royal Grand Hotel in Monrovia during a farewell dinner climaxing the program, Ethiopian State Minister for Planning and Policy Implementation, His Excellency Ato Addisu Arega who headed the Ethiopian Delegation said, the tour has enabled his country to learn a lot from Liberia's achievements in the EITI implementation.

Minister Arega, who responsibilities also include monitoring the Agriculture and

Forestry Sectors in Ethiopia said, the lessons learned from the exchange program will enhance Ethiopia's quest to become EITI Compliant.

Another participant, Victor Lyimo, a member of the Tanzania EITI Secretariat said, Liberia's experiences are unique, expressing particular interest in LEITI strategies for communicating the EITI and the legal framework establishing the LEITI. "No venue would have been better than Liberia for this program", he said with obsessed emotion.

Also speaking, LEITI Head of Secretariat Samson S. Tokpah said, the program truly supported learning amongst the three countries. He noted that while Liberia is regarded as a road model in EITI implementation, evidenced by the several gains the country has made over the years, the study tour also enabled the Liberian EITI to learn from the progress, challenges and opportunities of the other countries. "We have also learned a lot from you," Mr. Tokpah said to the Ethiopian and Tanzanian delegations in a closing

Another participant, Victor Lyimo, a member of the Tanzania EITI Secretariat said, Liberia's experiences are unique, expressing particular interest in LEITI strategies for communicating the EITI and the legal framework establishing the LEITI.

remark.

The learning exchange focused on Legislative Framework for EITI Implementation, Secretariat Operations, Forestry Sector Monitoring, Mining, as well as general stakeholders' involvement in the EITI process. It was also intended to enhance the capacity of the steering committees to lead the effective implementation of EITI; strengthen good governance of natural resources for poverty reduction as well as advance the multi-stakeholder dialogues and the participation of citizens in Natural Resource Management.

To facilitate the learning, the delegates also met with key policy makers in Liberia including Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boikai; EITI Board Member, Senate Pro-Tempore Gbehzongar Findley as well as Lands, Mines and Energy Minister Patrick Sendolo.

The delegates also paid a tour visit to Arcelor Mittal Liberia's operations site in Buchanan on Friday, November 22, 2013, to get experience of how extractive companies' operations support

EITI implementation in Liberia. In Buchanan, the delegates met with county officials, representatives of civil society organizations, chiefs, elders and other community leaders, soliciting their feedbacks on the EITI process in Liberia. Tanzanian was declared EITI compliant in December 2012 and is in process to consolidate its achievements towards greater transparency in the EITI by creating a legal framework for natural

resource management. The Ethiopian Government has expressed its desire to implement the EITI and is working to submit an application for an EITI candidate status. Liberia signed on to the EITI in 2005 and was the first African country to become compliant in 2009. The Liberian EITI has made tremendous achievements in the global EITI implementation records. Liberia is the first

country globally to include Agriculture and Forestry in its EITI program; the first country to expand its EITI scope to include Contract Transparency; and one of few countries that have regularly published their EITI Reports. Liberia also launched its Post Contract Award Process Audit Report in May 2013, the first of its kind in the EITI implementation.

LEITI e-Club Receives Praises Abroad



MVP Yarleitei along with staff of the Trinidad and Tobago EITI

A debate organized by the LEITI in June 2013. The competition involved the ten schools participating in the LEITI e-Club Program. Prior to her trip to the Caribbean in September 2013, Angel and the nine other teammates participated in a special internship program organized by the LEITI, with some serving at the LEITI Secretariat and others taking assignments at selected extractive companies and line ministries of government. Angel's departure to Trinidad and Tobago was one characterized by great excitement, as LEITI Head of Secretariat Samson S. Tokpah and Communication and Outreach Officer Samson Wonnah joined her mother and other family members at the Robert International Airport to bid her farewell.

Angel's parents, Bennett Yarlatei and Hon. Juah Lawson, were even more excited with the excitement upon her return. Her father, Bennett, in a thank you email sent to the LEITI Secretariat said: "We cannot thank you all enough for granting Angel this international exposure. We really believe this is the beginning of what will be a strong pillar in grounding her foundation of meaning, as an aspirant public servant and future community organizer who is wedded to the causes of the poor and those that are catching hell every day so as to transform not only their lives and make Liberia a better place but also for Africa and the globe".

Angel Yarleitei, 16, crowned as the Most Valuable Debater from the LEITI Inter-high School Debate held in June 2013, was sponsored by the LEITI for a two-week youth exchange visit to Trinidad and Tobago where a similar youth program is being implemented.

5th Report Process Kicks off

The process of producing the 5th EITI Report for Liberia has started. The reporting process began with a two-day workshop conducted by the LEITI Secretariat in collaboration with Ernst Young/MGI Monbo and Company, intended to address technical issues relating to the preparation of the report.

The workshop, held at the Baptist Seminary on the Robertsfield Highway from July 5-6, 2013, particularly enabled stakeholders to discuss the revised approved LEITI Reporting Templates along with the reporting requirements as well as address any issues regarding the use of the templates to prepare and submit the details of payments made and revenues received by each concerned company and relevant agencies of government.

Also, during the discussions, December 2013 was set as the deadline for the submission of reporting templates and concerned companies and agencies of government encouraged to comply with the deadline in order to enhance

timely preparation of the report. Participants at the workshop included representatives from all reporting companies in the oil, mining, forestry and agricultural sectors as well as senior technical staff of concerned reporting agencies of government, namely, the National Bureau of Concessions (NBC), the National

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Investment Commission (NIC), the National Oil Company of Liberia (NOCAL), and the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy. Other government agencies are the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC), the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA).

The 5th EITI Report for Liberia will

Additionally, the report will include In-kind Contributions made by extractive companies, Revenue Tracking, and Amount Due for all fixed amounts. In light of the New EITI Standard, the 5th Report will also substantially reflect contextual information such as the GDP per sector.

The LEITI has hired Ernst and Young, a

firm based in Ghana, as its Reconciler/Administrator for the preparation of the 5th EITI Report for Liberia.

People from the Trinidad and Tobago Extractive Industries Transparency (TTEITI) have said, they have learned a lot from LEITI engagement with the youths thanks to insights and experiences shared with them by a visiting member of the LEITI Extractive Club Program.

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While in the Caribbean, Angel participated in a special TTEITI's youth advisory forum on "Communicating the EITI" held at the Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs, where she presented on the LEITI, particularly on the Extractive Club Program, a platform used by the LEITI to engage the youth. She also met with several other stakeholders and interest groups of the Trinidad and Tobago EITI, including UNESCO, NGC and civil society organizations, learning and sharing with them LEITI strategies in communicating the EITI.

In an email forwarded to LEITI Head of Secretariat Samson Tokpah on

September 3, 2013, Mr. Mark Regis, Policy Analyst at the TTEITI Secretariat said: "Angel was the best possible young Ambassador for the LEITI and Liberia. We had a great time hosting Angel and look forward to more exchanges between the LEITI and TTEITI youth".

Angel's visit and experiences in the Caribbean were also captured by the Trinidad Express and the Guardian, two most populous dailies in Trinidad and Tobago. A front banner published in the September 2, 2013 Edition of the Trinidad Express and carried online, described Angel's visit as one with a single mission: "to transfer her knowledge and skills to the youths of this country on the management of the nation's extractive resources and equip them to make wise decisions when they eventually become leaders in the society". The article, titled: "Lessons Learnt from Liberia", also mentioned that Yarleitei has been quite capable in performing such task.

Angel's trip to Trinidad was part of commitment by the LEITI Secretariat to give her additional exposure after she and nine other teammates from the St. Teresa Convent High School in Monrovia won the inter-high school

In addition to these, participants were exposed to other training materials and concepts to provide them with general perspectives on the subject matters. The additional materials covered included best practices in human resources management; project development and management

in the healthcare sector; and leadership and team building in organizations.

The courses were presented by experienced facilitators drawn from diverse professional and instructional backgrounds including professors, development managers, chief

executive officers and veteran publicspeakers.

The training was attended by over fifty participants from several parts of the world. At the end of the training, certificates were awarded to participants. The training was funded by the World Bank.

LEITI Welcomes New Intern!

The LEITI Secretariat welcomes on board a new Intern, Ms. Sianah Nalika Deshield who experience at the LEITI started in December 2013.

Miss Deshield has a distinguished profile in the student community, having served as the Deputy Secretary for Administration at the Liberia National Students Union (LINSU), representing the body at different international levels, including serving as Lawmaker for the United Nations Voluntary Youth Parliament and participating in the Millennium Campus Network Conference in Boston Massachusetts and the National Youth Service Training Program in Denver, Colorado. She loves writing and was the Winner of the 2009 National

Essay Competition sponsored by the Liberia Anti-Corruption (LAC).

Miss Deshield holds a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Political Science from the United Methodist University, Ashmun Street, Monrovia.

She will provide close support to the Administration Department of the LEITI Secretariat, engaging in other functions as requested and necessary for her learning experience.

At the same time, the Secretariat bids farewell to another Intern, Philemina Jebbo, whose tenure at the Secretariat expired in December 2013. The Secretariat acknowledges Miss Jebbo's contributions and wishes her all the best in her career goals!

Cameroon accepted as 'EITI Compliant'

Thursday, 17 October 2013 - 5:33pm
Clare Short: a recognition of recent strides towards better disclosure.

Cameroon was designated as an 'EITI Compliant' country by the EITI Board at its meeting in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire today.

The Board congratulated the Government of Cameroon for its sustained commitment and leadership in the implementation of the EITI. The Board welcomed Cameroon's effort to

implement the new Standard with the publication in the 2011 Report of information on licensing, state ownership, production data transit fees and transfers to local government. The Board also congratulated Cameroon's EITI Follow-up Committee, its Technical Secretariat and all stakeholders involved for their efforts and effective leadership in EITI implementation.

EITI Chair Clare Short said:

"I congratulate Cameroon on fulfilling all

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LEITI Recruits Technical Officer

The LEITI Secretariat welcomes its newest employee, Technical Officer, Ms Beneta Ackah, who joined the LEITI on 3rd January 2014 following a competitive recruitment process.

Ms. Ackah assumes this role with experience in the Oil and Gas Industries. She had worked protractedly with Baker and Hughes in Dubai and Ghana; Total Petroleum in Ghana and then joins LEITI from the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy (MLME) where she has been serving with the Corporate Liaison Office in Monrovia.

She holds an LLM Degree in Natural Resource Laws and Policies and is a Level 3 CA Candidate.

As Technical Officer, Ms. Ackah will head the LEITI Technical Department, providing the required leadership and technical support to LEITI's operations, particularly in developing and implementing the Secretariat's technical policies and procedures governing the review and quality outcomes of annual audits and plans for remediation.

Tougher Actions for Non-responsive Sanctioned Companies



LEITI Sanction List of Non-compliant Companies

The LEITI Secretariat has said, in line with the MSG Regulations of 2009, it will institute tougher actions against companies that continue to downplay the sanctions imposed on them in response to their non-compliance with the 4th EITI reporting process.

In August 2013, with the approval of the Board, the LEITI Secretariat reprimanded two government agencies and imposed sanctions on twenty-seven companies in the Forestry and Mining Sectors for failing to comply with the 4th EITI reporting process. The specific categories of non-compliance included failure to submit reporting templates and failure to submit signed and/or attested reporting templates.

Twenty-three of these companies, who particularly failed to submit templates, were each fined US\$1,000. LEITI also wrote supervising ministries and agencies of government to require that the additional 19 companies falling in the same category of non-compliance whose licenses have already been terminated,

, must first seek approval from the LEITI before reactivation of their licenses and permits.

Speaking recently, LEITI Head of Secretariat, Samson S. Tokpah said, only five of these companies have complied with the payment of the sanction. "That is not healthy for the process", Mr. Tokpah said. He noted that if the non-responsive attitude persists, the Secretariat will proceed to take other tougher actions, including publishing the names of these companies in the local dailies as well as online.

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Sanction regime to address non-compliance to EITI reporting, according the MSG Regulation of 2009, is progressive, ranging from demand to comply, public censure, notice of intent to affect operations, imposition of fines and legal actions amongst others.

Robust Communications Strategy Approved

A revised Communications Strategy intended to enhance promoting the LEITI process in a more robust manner has been approved by the Multi-Stakeholders Steering Group (MSG).

The revised Strategy, approved by the MSG during its regular meeting in November 2013, reinforces a previous strategy developed for the LEITI by the Liberia Media Center in 2008.

The Strategy will serve as a roadmap in enhancing public understanding and appreciation of the LEITI program, and promoting their involvement in the process. In the two-year plan, new and creative communication tools and channels have been identified and relevant emphasis made on how those previously recommended can be used effectively, and in more sustained and appropriate ways to ensure they yield the desired impact. Best practices from other implementing countries were also considered in crafting this document..

Some of the recommended tools include the use of mobile technology and electronic messages; info-graphics; and inflatables, air dancers, comedians and other forms of out-door advertising. The LEITI Communications Strategy also proposes the expansion of Extractive Club Program to ensure greater youth involvement in the EITI process.

The EITI rules required Implementing Countries to regularly update their Communications Strategy. However, the revision of the 2008 LEITI Communication Strategy was also informed by lessons drawn from the LEITI Public Perception Survey Report launched in 2010. The research, conducted to determine how much people know about the EITI process in Liberia, showed an alarming degree of knowledge gap amongst stakeholders.

MSG Approves Report's Recommendations

During the October and November 2013 sessions of its regular monthly meetings, the MSG LEITI approved all recommendations in the Post Award Process Audit Report for the Oil and Agricultural sectors. The approved recommendations which include the enforcement

of competitive bidding in concession awards as required by the PPCA; the systematic appointment of Entity Concession Committees by Head of the entities to seek concession certificates and prepare concession procurement plan as required by the PPCA; and the filing of Concession Procurement Plan (CPP) with the Public Procurement and Concession Committee (PPCC) and the Inter-ministerial Concession Committee (IMCC) to ensure that award process does not move forward without PPCC and IMCC approvals. Others are, giving utmost consideration to stakeholders participation in the concession award process; careful observation to avoid any contradiction between the legislative framework and concession agreements; and the nomination of IMCCs in compliance with Sections 81 and 82 of the PPCA.

The Post Award Process Audit covered 68 companies operating in the oil, mining, forestry and agricultural sectors whose contracts, licenses and permits and rights were granted/amended by the Government of Liberia for the period July 13, 2009 up to and including December 31, 2011. The objective was to ascertain whether these rights and permits were awarded in line with applicable Liberian Laws. The report which showed compliance in three categories (Full, Partial and Non-compliance) revealed that only 6 out of 68 rights assigned by the government in these sectors were in full compliance with applicable laws of Liberia at the time they were awarded. The audit/investigation was commissioned by the LEITI MSG in July 2011 and conducted by Moore Stephens LLP (London) in Collaboration with Parker and Associates (Liberia). This audit is the first of its kind to be conducted by the LEITI.

Mr. Tokpah also used the occasion to elaborate on some progress made by LEITI in recent times, particularly the efforts to ensure increased public awareness and understanding of findings from the 4th EITI Report for Liberia. He mentioned the use of info-graphics, roll-up banners and other creative ways the LEITI has embarked upon to ensure findings from the report key other studies conducted are understood by the people. Responding, Regional Director Siri Farstad said the meeting is intended to add flavor to the process as Liberia is at the forefront of pushing the EITI beyond compliance.

LEITI, EITI Secretariat Discuss Reporting Process

--Regional Director Says Liberia at Forefront of EITI Implementation

Ahead of the preparation of the 5th EITI Report for Liberia, a two-man delegation from the EITI Secretariat visited Liberia from August 15-16, 2013, discussing a number of issues relating to improving the EITI reporting process.

The delegation was comprised of EITI Deputy Head and Regional Director for Africa and Middle East, Eddie Rich and Regional Director Siri Farstad.

During an extensive discussion held with LEITI Head of Secretariat Samson S. Tokpah on Friday, August 16, the delegation raised concerns particularly around the issue of materiality with regards to reporting; the validity of data and attestation of templates; and sanctions regimes and their effectiveness and implications. They also made a number of recommendations regarding these issues, including a call to increase the material threshold for EITI reporting. This is apparent in the level of non-response and submission rate by reporting entities in the 4th Report,

LEITI, NEITI Share Experiences on EITI Implementation



LEITI staff and their Nigerian counterparts on a field visit as part of the Peer-to-peer Learning Program

The Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI) and its counterpart in Nigeria, (NEITI) have ended a special weeklong peer-to-peer learning on EITI implementation held in Nigeria from November 23-28, 2013.

Liberia was represented at the program by LEITI Head of Secretariat Samson S. Tokpah, Industry/Sector Analyst Roosevelt Seedee and the President of the Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY) Mohammed Nasser who is also one of Civil Society's representatives on the LEITI MSG. NEITI was represented by the Chairman of the National Stakeholder Working Group (NSWG), the Executive Secretary, senior staff of NEITI, Civil Society Organizations and representatives from media institutions.

The five-day interactive work session, held in Abuja, Nigeria allowed both countries to share experiences including progress, challenges and available opportunities relating to implementation of the EITI coupled with existing laws and regulations governing the extractives in both countries.

The Peer-to-peer learning program was designed particularly in response to LEITI's plan to execute production (physical) audits in the covered sectors and focused on building the capacity of the LEITI Technical Department to understand the dynamics involved in the conduct of production audit. Key learning points include methods in calculating production quantity (volume) in the payment of taxes;

reporting framework; procedures used in the recruitment of Independent Administrator/auditor; data collection process and procedure used in resolving discrepancies.

LEITI has resolved to conduct production audits of relevant extractive companies in the covered sectors. Nigeria, a major oil producer in Africa signed up to the EITI process in June 2003 and began implementing in 2009. Currently, the Nigeria EITI has been conducting four different audits including physical audit of the oil and gas sector; financial audit of solid minerals companies; process audit of downstream, companies and Ministry of Commerce; and fiscal allocation and statutory disbursement audit of sub-national reporting and federal government.

In a chat with Communication Officer Samson Wonnah recently, LEITI Sector Analyst, Roosevelt Seedee said the program is of great significance. "Even though Liberia is making great advancement, we learned a lot of things too, from the Nigerian experience", he said.

NEITI Executive Secretariat, Madam Zainab Ahmend also said the event was a learning process for both countries. She noted that Nigeria has been inspired by Liberia's success story in implementing the EITI.

The program was sponsored by Economic Governance and Institutional Reform Project (EGIRP), of the World Bank.



DHOS, Admin. Manager Benefit from W/Bank Sponsored Training in New York

Training in New York

The Deputy Head of Secretariat of the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, Konah D. Karmo benefited from a special training course on Transparency, Anti-corruption Practices, and Corporate Governance; while Administrative Manager gained knowledge on Human Resource Management.

The two-week training program (December 2-13, 2013), held at the Hetta Institute for International Development (HIID) in New York, USA, focused on basic knowledge and skills on anti-corruption practices and corporate governance issues including the definitions, concept, issues and challenges regarding development management; new approaches to sustainable development; and understanding the concepts of corporate governance and corruption in the context of development management. Others relevant subject areas include fraud detection and prevention in private and public organizations; financial management and budgeting analysis; and project