

**LEITI LAUNCHES
EXTRACTIVE CLUB
PROGRAM IN HIGH
SCHOOLS**



Message from the Head of Secretariat



The progress reported in this publication, only three months in the Year 2013, re-affirms my faith in the LEITI's determination to make greater impact on improving transparency and accountability within Liberia's oil, mining, agriculture, and forestry sectors. This is quite important because the year is embedded with so many programs and activities. Amongst other things, 2013 will see the launch of the 4th EITI Reconciliation Report and LEITI's first Process Audit Report; the preparation and subsequent launch of the 5th EITI Reconciliation and Revenue Tracking Report, and the expansion of the LEITI to include recruiting focal persons in the each of the 15 counties.

Instead of dwelling on the progress thus far, I choose to look at the challenges ahead, especially in the context of the global EITI, since the Year 2013 is also a crucial and defining period for the organization. After two years of extensive consultations, at the pending EITI Global Conference to be held

in Sydney, Australia on May 23-24, 2013, a significantly revised EITI Standard will be launched. This will determine the future of the EITI. At the Sydney Conference, the EITI Board will make a determination into the sticky issue of whether or not to make public disclosure of contracts a mandatory requirement of the EITI process. And this is where I am most concerned.

Many key stakeholders are hesitant on this proposal, with some, during the last Board meeting held in Oslo; threatening to withdraw from the process should this prevail. But Liberia's position on this issue is clear—to have a fully standard and effective EITI program, governments and companies should be required to publicly disclose all oil, gas and mineral contracts. Contract Transparency is crucial to ensuring real transparency is achieved within the extractive sectors. In my letter to the EITI Board Chair, Madam Clair Short in October 2012, I stated that there is an unambiguous correlation between the payments/receipts that are reconciled under the EITI principles and the contracts signed. To connect the dots I encouraged the EITI to adopt contract transparency. The EITI must be seen as leading and not following the process so that citizens of resource rich countries will maximize the goodies of their God-given resources. Contracts detail the commitment between governments and companies that determine the net public benefits derived from resource extraction. The point then is, without knowledge of these contracts, how can citizens judge the risks that accompany extraction; effectively monitor these agreements or hold their leaders to account for the deals they have struck?

Liberia is in alliance in this advocacy with few sisterly African nations as well as some implementing countries from

Asia, many of whom, like us, have experienced the dangers that come about when decisions about public resources are constantly kept behind the curtains. Like us, a few of these countries have made progress in embracing Contract Transparency. For instance, Nigeria's 2010 Constitution mandates the publication of all oil contracts, while Sierra Leone, Sao Tome and Principe and Guinea all have embedded Contract Transparency requirements in Oil Sector regulations and codes. Ghana's Ministry of Energy has made the country's most important petroleum agreements available for downloading online and the Democratic Republic of Congo has published dozens of its petroleum and mineral contracts.

However, while these moves are important, I believe that a key step in pushing our agenda forward to the global EITI Community is a strong representation in the decision making process of the EITI. That is why I was glad when the LEITI MSG recently unanimously selected the President Pro-Tempore of the Liberian Senate, Honorable Gbehzongar Findley to form part of a vetting process from which candidates finally endorsed will serve on next EITI International Board. The Board of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) is responsible for providing strategic direction and guiding and overseeing the EITI at an international level. Liberia is placed in the zone with other countries in the region and if our nomination is endorsed, it will be a significant boost in our efforts to see a more vigorous EITI.

I therefore urge all Liberians and stakeholders of the LEITI process to steadfastly support the LEITI representation on the EITI International Board in order to ensure that our platform is championed internationally.

Samson S. Tokpah
Head of Secretariat
Liberia Extractive Industries
Transparency Initiative

LEITI Launches e-Club Program



At the end of the launch program, club members pose for photo with Platform Guests

Public officials, educators, students and other stakeholders of the EITI process in Liberia joined the LEITI Secretariat on Friday, February 22, 2013, to launch the Extractive Club Program. The program, dubbed “e-Club”, is part of LEITI’s efforts to ensure increased public awareness on the management of Liberia’s natural resources.

The event commenced with a parade through the major streets of Monrovia, attended by participating schools and staff of the LEITI Secretariat as well as leaders from two notable youth based civil society organizations, including the Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY), and the Liberian National Students Union (LINSU). The March brought central Monrovia to a near-standstill as pedestrians, commuters and petty traders on Randall and Broad Streets stood watching with eagerness, particularly excited over four inflated persons leading the procession. The inflated persons, now labeled “the LEITI Men”, have become a powerful tool for the LEITI outreach campaign. This strategy was first introduced in January 2013 at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Stadium in Monrovia, where over 30,000 fans had gathered to witness the final match of the National County Meet hosted by the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

The launch continued with series of in-door activities at the YMCA Gymnasium

on Crown Hill, including the awarding of membership certificates to participating schools and students. Professor David A.B. Jallah, Vice President and Dean of Students Affairs of the African Methodist Episcopal University (A.M.E.U), who presented the certificates, called for total commitment from the schools: “What we are witnessing today is the beginning of the process. Your commitment to the program is what is required; you need to therefore be steadfast”.

Delivering a special practical discourse on the topic: “Transparent Resource Management: Implications for Peace and Development”, Dr. Francis Kai-kai, Head of the Civil Affairs Section of the United Nations Missions in Liberia (UNMIL), encouraged the students to employ confidence and begin to contribute to the debate on the management of the resources. The discourse is one of several speaker series planned as part of activities for the e-Club.

For her part, Juliane Weymann, Advisor of the German Development Corporation (GIZ) Regional Resource Governance Project in West Africa, pledged the GIZ continuous commitment to the Project and called on participants to fully avail themselves to the goals of the program. GIZ is a major supporter of LEITI’s public awareness campaign and is the financier of the initial phase of the e-Club Program.

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VP Boikai to Address EITI Global Conference



Liberia's Vice President, His Excellency Joseph Nyumah Boikai

The Government of Liberia (GOL) has confirmed that Vice President Joseph N. Boikai will be in attendance at the forth coming 6th EITI Global Conference scheduled to take place in Sydney from

May 23-24, 2013.

Vice President Boikai is attending as a proxy for President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf who the EITI International Secretariat invited early this year to deliver a special message at the conference.

He is expected to address the conference on a number of issues, especially on the progress of the EITI process in Liberia and other major gains the country has made in promoting revenue transparency and accountability. EITI Board Chair, Clare Short in an invitation letter to President Sirleaf in January, acknowledged that Liberia's EITI implementation record has been exemplary and is a reminder that strong commitment to transparency can translate to comprehensive efforts to increase accountability along the revenues' chain and, ultimately, contribute to good governance of the extractive sectors.

The EITI Global Conference is an

important international forum for the discussion of improved governance of oil, gas and mining activities. It offers an opportunity for countries to share lessons, establish networks and address future challenges.

This year's event will focus on the impact of the EITI and how it can help ensure that revenues generated from the natural resources can bring more benefits to all citizens. The Conference, the Board said, will see the launch of a 'significantly revised' EITI standard which will further strengthen EITI reporting and help to ensure that the EITI process become a national platform for improved natural resource governance. As part of the activities, the Sydney Conference will include National Expo Sessions during which individual implementing countries will have an opportunity to showcase activities they are undertaking to improve transparency in their countries.

Education Minister Pledges Support to e-Club Project



Minister Etmonia Tarpeh (L), gives keen attention as LEITI Head of Secretariat, Samson S. Tokpah explains the e-Club Program

Liberia's Minister of Education, Etmonia Tarpeh, has pledged her Ministry's full support to the implementation of the Extractive Club Project.

The Project, a part of LEITI's public awareness and engagement campaign, is being implemented in high schools and is intended to empower participating students to take lead on the management of the resources by encouraging their involvement in the resource debate through series of extra curricula activities

including peer-to-peer discussions, public lecture series, and field trips to former and active concession sites, amongst others.

Hon. Tarpeh made the commitment recently at her 18th Street Office in Monrovia when LEITI Head of Secretariat, Samson S. Tokpah and Communications and Outreach Officer, Samson Wonnah visited her as part of efforts to solicit support from relevant stakeholders towards the implementation of the program. In a highly ecstasy tone, Minister

Tarpeh described the program as a "truly mind renewing activity", adding, "Our children really need something like this".

She noted that the nature of the program is supportive of her advocacy for the restructuring of Liberia's education system to ensure that learning is practical and reflects current realities. "To be honest, one of the challenges we have now is that learning in our schools are classroom driven, tied to curricula that are limited to specific subject matters. Teachers present lessons squarely from the text books; students copy notes from the chalk boards and take them home. No one cares to know what are obtaining in the economy, say the extractive or any other sectors. That is a serious problem", she said.

Honorable Tarpeh reiterated that the Ministry will provide all necessary support to ensure the success and sustainability of the program. She then encouraged the LEITI Secretariat to make use of the Ministry's sponsored radio talk show—Education and You—usually hosted by its Communications Officer on the Truth FM, one of Liberia's most popular radio stations. "We will be happy to have co-host the show and discuss some of these things to the public".

The e-Club Program was formally launched on February 22, 2013. The initial phase is funded by the German Government through the German Development Cooperation (GIZ).

LEITI to Conduct Awareness Program for Artisanal Miners



Artisanal/small scale mining is common in Liberia

The Secretariat of the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative has planned to conduct special awareness programs for artisanal miners in the country, to ensure that their activities support the LEITI payment reconciliation process, Samson S. Tokpah, LEITI Head of Secretariat has said.

Mr. Tokpah disclosed the plan recently

when a special European Union Delegation visiting Liberia met with the Secretariat to ascertain LEITI's contributions to the implementation of the Kimberley Process in the country. The Delegation was headed by Katharine Shepherd, Seconded National Expert of the Kimberley Process and Sanctions Stability Instrument Operations.

He said the program, which will be

embarked upon very soon, will enable the Secretariat to directly engage the artisanal mining community, providing them in-depth information on the LEITI process and other regulatory and compliance measures that will ensure their activities are having favorable impact on the economy. "This, we believe, is one effective way to support the Kimberley Process", Mr. Tokpah said.

The LEITI Head of Secretariat asserted that while small-scale mining can be carried out as a sustainable activity, it can also have serious security, environmental and economic impact on a country in the absence of appropriate legal and regulatory framework. "The LEITI is aware of these consequences and that is why we intend to engage in sensitization and awareness campaigns for those engaged in the venture", Mr. Tokpah stated.

Addressing other concerns raised by the Delegation regarding the active participation of the artisanal miners in the EITI process, Mr. Tokpah responded thus: "We are working with the miners and their association. They all provide us data on taxes which we use to publish the reports that aim at ensuring transparency and accountability in the sector. The Minister of Mines also sits on our Board; that helps to strengthen policy formulation in that area".

Small scale mining is a worldwide phenomenon and Liberia has been and still a part. Currently, it is estimated that at least 30,000 persons are engaged in small scale/ artisanal mining throughout the country.

LEITI Launches e-Club Program

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The LEITI Head of Secretariat, Mr. Samson Tokpah told members of the e-Club to consider themselves as fortunate to be in such a privilege program. He admonished students that to maintain membership they must abide by the strict and high standards set by the LEITI Secretariat in collaboration with the participating schools.

The Extractive Club Program is intended to empower the youth through education on the management of the resources by encouraging, involve them in the resource debate through on-campus peer-to-peer discussions and public lecture series as well as providing them mentorship and the opportunities to get first-hand experience of happenings in the extractive sectors through field trips to former and active concession sites.



William V.S. Tubman e-Club pose for photo with Platform Guests



Mr. Tokpah (R), responds to questions from journalists and Minister Brown (L) oversees the conference

Tokpah: Away with the Syndrome of 'Growth without Development'

The Head of Secretariat of the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI), Mr. Samson S. Tokpah has said, with several good governance measures in place, including the LEITI process, Liberians are poised to graduate from the syndrome of 'growth without development that has long plagued the country.

Mr. Tokpah's remarks were contained in a presentation made on LEITI's achievements when he appeared as a Special Guest during the February 7, 2013 Edition of the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism (MICAT) weekly press

briefing in Monrovia.

Mr. Tokpah said, in line with its objective of enhancing transparency and accountability in the management of Liberia's resources, the LEITI is doing everything to ensure that Liberians get the actual value of their resources. As part of efforts to ensure the resources are accounted for, Mr. Tokpah said, the LEITI is now expanding the scope of its reports so that taxes and revenues collected are not just reported, but their usage also tracked so that the Liberian people know how their money is being spent. "This is a key move at ensuring that revenues from our resources

are properly used and are benefiting the people. You know we should now graduate from the syndrome of 'growth without development'", Tokpah told the media.

Facing a host of eager journalists, Mr. Tokpah also disclosed that the LEITI has made great strides in achieving several of the activities in its 2012 Approved Work Plan. Some of these deliverables, he said include the publishing and dissemination of the 3rd EITI Report throughout the country; increased public awareness through establishing partnership with the media and engaging the youth through the hosting of Inter-high School Debate and Symposium; and the launch of the of the Process Audit, LEITI's first of such activities since its establishment. He also named others as the expansion of the EITI Report to include government's agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Liberia Civil Aviation Authority (LCAA), the Liberia Maritime Authority (LMA) and the National Port Authority (NPA), and strengthening the Secretariat's operations by recruiting a Finance Director and a Communications and Outreach Officer.

Mr. Tokpah then called on the media to partner with the LEITI in ensuring effective information dissemination of the EITI Process in Liberia, "Ladies and gentlemen of the press, we need you and the general public to help us succeed in this drive. In order to have our people fully informed of activities taking place in the extractive sector, we're greatly counting on you".

In a brief remark climaxing the press conference, Information Minister Lewis Brown hailed the achievements of LEITI and made similar call for the media to prioritize such important agenda in their reportorial duties. "Look, ladies and gentlemen of the press; you have listened to the many great things that the LEITI is doing. They are new to some of us because the press has not given them such space they deserve. My people, many good things are happening, but we continue to talk only about the bad ones. It is time we talk about the good things our country is doing too", Minister Brown concluded in a simple Liberian English.

TUNE IN YOUR RADIO AT THE RIGHT TIME!

KNOW MORE ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF YOUR RESOURCES

MESSAGE	FM 99.9	FM 101.1
LEITI Drama	10:45am & 8:45pm, Mon, Wed and Fri	8:20pm & 11:40pm; Mon and Tue
LEITI jingle	6:45—7:00pm, Mon-Sund	9:30am, 3:30pm & 3:15pm and 10:45pm; Wed, Thurs and Sat
LEITI Song	11:05am, 8:50pm; Tue & Thur	10:15am, 9:20pm, 10:45pm

World Bank Links Liberia's Increased Transparency Climate to the LEITI Process

The World Bank has said Liberia is making progress in achieving transparency, linking it largely to the implementation of the EITI process in the country.

The statement was contained in a special EITI "Results Profile" recently released by the Bank, in which several other implementing countries were evaluated. The Bank said it acknowledges Liberia's increased climate of transparency in recent years, with the country's improved ranking year after year on Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index. The global monetary organization said, from the 137th position out of 158 countries in 2005,



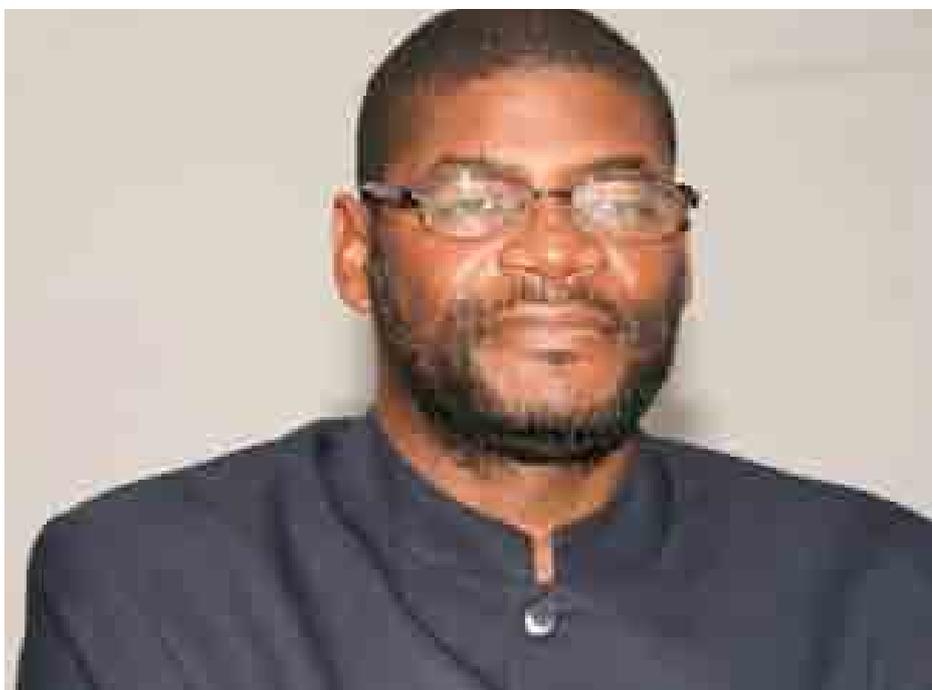
Dr. Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank Group

Liberia ascended to the 97th position out of 180 countries in 2009, and then improved again to 75th in 2012.

The Bank attributed this progress largely to Liberia's EITI process, which it noted, has been one of the most comprehensive amongst EITI implementing countries.

EITI is a core part of the World Bank Group's sector strategy for oil, gas, and mining and the Bank's governance and anti-corruption agenda. The Bank has promised it is well positioned to support countries in their goals of better governance in the oil, gas, and mining sectors, beyond the EITI implementation.

Liberia Seeks to Maintain Status on EITI International Board



The President Pro Tempore of the Liberian Senate, Hon. Gbehzongar Milton Findley

The Board of the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative has unanimously agreed and has therefore forwarded the name of Hon. Gbehzongar M. Findley, President Pro-Tempore of the Liberian Senate, to the EITI International

Board for vetting and selection to the new EITI Board.

The LEITI Board agreed that based on Liberia's achievements in implementing the EITI, it would seek to maintain its presence on the Board. Liberia is represented on the

current EITI Board by Former Lands, Mines and Energy Minister, Dr. Roosevelt G. Jayjay. The LEITI Board further noted that the presence of Pro-Temp Findley on the Board will help advance some of Liberia's agenda relevant to strengthening the EITI, including its advocacy for "Contract Transparency" to be endorsed by all EITI countries.

Honorable Findley's nomination followed a call from the EITI International Secretariat for each constituency (including governments of supporting and implementing countries, extractive companies and investors, and civil society organizations) to recommend individuals who will serve on the EITI Board for the next three years, as the mandate of the current Board ends in May 2013. The new Board will be commissioned at the Global EITI Conference scheduled for May 22-24, 2013 in Sydney, Australia.

Five (5) of the twenty (20) seats on the EITI Board are allotted to implementing countries, and Liberia and other countries in the sub-region, including Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Mozambique, Sao Tome, Zambia and Tanzania, categorized as "Africa Region Block 1", are entitled to select one Member and an Alternate. Nominations made will therefore be vetted through an electoral system where each country in the block is entitled to two votes.

The Board of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) is responsible for providing strategic direction and guiding and overseeing the EITI at an international level.

Liberia Participates in 22nd EITI Board Meeting

-Supports Contract Transparency

The International Board of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) has held its 22nd Meeting in Oslo, Norway, with calls from Liberia and other African countries to make Contract Transparency an integral part of the EITI process.

The two-day meeting held on 26-27 February, 2013 focused on considering proposals to improve and expand EITI requirements beyond mere reporting. Liberia and other countries in Africa, including Ghana, Nigeria, and Tanzania amongst others, have called for the inclusion of transparency of resource contracts and project level payments in the EITI, while several western countries as well as major companies sitting on the Board, are hesitant on the proposal, with some threatening to withdrawal from the EITI should this

be endorsed. The Board will consider the proposal further and the EITI will finalize new rules at its international conference in May 2013 in Sydney, Australia.

Liberia is a strong proponent of Contract Transparency in the EITI process, being the first country in the history of the EITI, to endorse and legalize the requirement. Currently, the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI) is conducting its first audits which will determine the validity and complaint status of certain contracts, rights and permits awarded by the Liberian Government to some extractive companies.

The Board however reached other decisions, including granting complaint status to the Republic of Congo and Burkina Faso; suspending Sierra Leone, Mauritania and Yemen; and delisting Gabon from

the EITI. The Board says, its decision to delist Gabon is based on the country's failure to submit an EITI Validation Report on the agreed deadline. Sierra Leone was suspended for failing to address several technical issues raised from its second validation exercise; Yemen, for failing to produce their 2008 and 2009 EITI Report as agreed when a previous suspension was lifted; and Mauritania, for failing to produce the 2010 Report as required by EITI rules.

The EITI Board Meeting brought together hundreds of stakeholders including representatives of implementing countries, officials of governments, heads of civil society organizations and representatives of companies from around the world. Liberia was represented at the meeting by Dr. Roosevelt Jayjay, who represents Liberia on the Board and Head of the LEITI Secretariat, Mr. Samson S. Tokpah.

LEITI to Launch Major Reports Soon

The 4th EITI Reconciliation Report along with Liberia's first Post Award Process Audit Report will be launched very soon, the Secretariat of the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative has disclosed.

LEITI Head of Secretariat, Samson S. Tokpah announced recently that the reports are near completion, with the first draft of the reconciliation report forwarded to the Secretariat by the Reconciler, Ernst and Young Ghana. He further revealed that the draft report has been forwarded to members of the LEITI Multi-stakeholders Steering

Group (MSG) for feedbacks and discussions. "After this process", Mr. Tokpah said "the final report will be produced and the report launch in Monrovia". For the Process Audit, he indicated that it was progressing well as line ministers and agencies have submitted all available documents to the Auditor, Moore Stephens for evaluation.

The Head of Secretariat said the launch is expected to take place in May 2013, an event that will bring together all stakeholders of the LEITI process, including the Government of Liberia, Concessionaires, Civil Society organizations, ordinary citizens and

members of the press amongst others.

The report will cover the period July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 and will capture all material payments of taxes, royalties, land/surface rentals, and other administrative fees paid to the Government of Liberia. The report will also contain "what ought to have been paid" and track the use of earmarked payments from all oil, mining, agriculture, and forestry companies.

The Process Audit will review the process leading up to the award of material concession agreements from July 13, 2009 through December 31, 2012.

LEITI Recruits Technical Officer

In the drive to boost its operations, the Secretariat of the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative has recruited a Technical Officer. Mr. Emmanuel E. Peterson was hired in March 2013 through a competitive recruitment process in which scores of other qualified Liberians were vetted.

Mr. Peterson is a career Accountant, with nine years of experience in public auditing. He joined LEITI from the General Auditing Commission (GAC) where he

served as Director of Performance Audit. He is also an Instructor of Auditing at the University of Liberia.

Mr. Peterson's appointment brings to two, the number of staff so far recruited to the LEITI Technical Department. In February 2013, another Accountant, Mr. Roosevelt W. Seedee was hired as one of two Sector Analysts needed to support sector related functions essential to enhance the LEITI reporting. The Secretariat is in the process of recruiting the other Sector Analyst.



Mr. Emmanuel E. Peterson

Protecting Our Resources

A Poem by Student Mohammed Dorley
Jimmy Jolocon High School



*It is a new dawn
And we have to toil
As the days roll on
We need to work
But as we sweat
Let's remember the soil
Our hope and future lies there
Given for a reason, so we protect*

*Beneath our feet a life creating
Jewels, gems, precious stones
I hear you mention their names
Yes, oil, diamond and gold
Given for a reason, so we protect*

*Let's secure our future by keeping
watch*

*Give us hope the power that be
And with LEITI, we crave for
transparency*

*Those you want to extract are ours
Given for a reason, so we protect*

As Technical Officer, Mr. Peterson 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 the annual audits and plans for remediation. The Technical Officer also leads in developing strategies for data capturing, system strengthening, and revenue management tracking, amongst others duties.

Peterson holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Finance, Strayer University, Washington DC, USA, and BBA Accounting from the University of Liberia.

Cinta Township Benefits From SRC's Gesture

Kakata, March 18, (LINA) – In continuous response to its Corporate Social Responsibility, the Management of the Salala Rubber Corporation has donated several items to the people of Cinta Township to enable them improve the sanitary condition of their area.

The items include shovels, slashing

will be used for the total benefit of the entire community to help in alleviating the many sanitation problems faced by Weala Town and its immediate surroundings.

He said, already, the SRC Management has assured him of the company's support to the township in an effort to address the existing unhealthy sanitary condition of the area, especially by allowing them to use their machines to grade the community to



Thanks to the sanitary items donated, Weala is now being cleaned on a daily basis

irons, brooms, bags of rice, and assorted colors of paint among others.

Making a formal presentation of the assorted items, the Acting General Manager of the Salala Rubber Corporation, Mr. Nicolas Bergerot said the SRC will continue to identify with the people of Cinta Township in helping them to meet up with their basic social services.

Mr. Bergerot noted that the Salala Rubber Corporation is here to stay and see no reason why the company cannot help the people in the immediate communities, adding; "We will from time to time do the little that will impact the general populace".

Receiving the items, the Commissioner of Cinta Township, Mr. William Julye thanked the Management of the Salala Rubber Corporation for their timely gesture.

Commissioner Julye said he wrote the Management of SRC sometime last year for these items to give the Township a face-lift. "The assorted items will go a long way in helping to keep Weala, the township headquarters very clean", Commissioner Julye averred.

He further said the donated materials

provide space for waste disposal.

At the same time, the Management of the Salala Rubber Corporation has begun rehabilitating some hand pumps in the community.

The Management said it saw a dire need to help in providing safe drinking water for the community it operates from and was doing the little it can in addressing the situation.



One of the hand pumps constructed by the SRC Management in the Cinta Township

Congo and Burkina Faso Accepted as 'EITI Compliant'

The Republic of the Congo and Burkina Faso were yesterday declared 'Compliant' with the EITI standard at the meeting of the EITI Board in Oslo.

This means that the countries have functioning processes for annual disclosure and reconciliation of all government revenues from oil, gas and mining. These figures, compiled in EITI Reports, allow citizens of those countries to see how much their governments receive from natural resources.

For the first time, over half of the implementing countries are now 'EITI Compliant'.

The National Coordinator of EITI Congo, Florent Michel Okoko, said that oil provided a major share of the government revenues.

"In a country like Congo, where 90% of the government's income comes from natural resources, how can we best govern these revenues? That is by having EITI."

"EITI is an important tool for the parliament to be able to compare what the companies say they have paid and what the government has actually received."

"It's a way of seeing the management of natural resources such as oil, gas and minerals, and in Congo, soon forestry as well," Mr Okoko added.



From the left: Christian Mounzeo (Vice President of the EITI Executive Committee, Congo), Clare Short (EITI Chair) and Florent Michel Okoko (Chairman of the Executive Committee, Congo)

The Congo also has gold and other mineral resources. Since the crises of 1997 and 1998, the recovery of oil prices has helped to revive Congo's economy.

To learn more about EITI in the Congo,

please visit www.eiti.org/Congo

"This story was copied from the April 2013 Edition of the EITI International Newsletter"

Tajikistan Accepted as EITI Candidate



The Central Asian country will now implement the global EITI standard. This will ensure more transparency of the payments to Tajikistan's government from its expanding extractives sector.

The international EITI Board approved Tajikistan's application for EITI Candidate status at its meeting in Oslo 26 February 2013.

Present at the meeting, Ruhullo Hakimov, Deputy Minister of Finance, said:

"In Tajikistan we have more than 600 mining operations extracting gold, zink, aluminum to name a few. Being transparent about our government's resources will show that we in Tajikistan are managing our resources properly which will attract investment."

Further, Timurali Avganov, Head of Budget Department, Ministry of Finance, said:

"Citizens in Tajikistan are asking all sorts of questions about our natural resources. How much are we extracting, are we getting anything back, what kind of social programmes are the companies implementing, and how can check whether these revenues being used for development. EITI creates an important playing field to discuss these questions. It is important that civil society as well as the companies and government can voice their concerns and discuss on equal terms."

As an EITI Candidate country, it has to start disclosing payments from its extractives sector, and meet all the requirements in the EITI standard within 2.5 years to become EITI Compliant.

"This story was copied from the April 2013 Edition of the EITI International Newsletter"

LEITI LAUNCHES E-CLUB PROGRAM



The e-Club Launch begins with a parade in the principal streets of Monrovia



Prof. David A. B. Jallah, Dean of Students' Affairs of the A.M.E University, presents certificates of membership to the administrators of participating schools



Dr. Francis Kai-Kai, Head of UNMIL Civil Affairs, encourages students to get involved in the resource debate



At the end of the launch program, students pose for photos with Platform Guests



Len Millar students pose for photos with Platform Guests



A scene from a one-day Symposium organized and held by the Jimmy Jolocon e-Club on their campus.



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