

Mineral Resources for Development in Central Asia

8th Session of the Regional Public-Private Dialogue (RPPD) Platform “Sustainable Human Resource Development in Mining”

Concept Note

Background

Development of demand-oriented sustainable skills is one of the key challenges facing mining countries. The risk of mismatch between the needs of an advancing industry and the supply of skills is not a difficulty unique to the minerals sector. Skills shortage, modernisation of the existing labour force, investing in future competencies that can meet the demand of the economy today and tomorrow, when the mining cycle takes a new turn are, however, some of the salient management issues particular to the given sector. Whereas Central Asian countries are blessed with a young and dynamic population, transformation of this human resource potential and channelling into labour market remains problematic. The lack of mining skills has been one of the most frequently cited hindrances to the further development of the sector in our partner countries at the regional dialogue platform. In the course of the last sessions, representatives of partner states, industry as well as training and educational sectors have come to agree on the evident skills vacuum caused by the insufficient investment in human capital accompanied by brain drain of the most competent professionals.

Objective and format

Having acknowledged the relevance and urgency of the topic, the upcoming session of the dialogue platform will be dedicated to mining training and education. At the **8th session of the regional dialogue platform on “Sustainable Human Resource Development in Mining”**, which will take place in **Astana, Kazakhstan on 6.-7.December 2016**, we would like to discuss the main issues and trends around skills development in the mining sector. We would like to discuss the current trends and challenges of mining skills development in the light of the resource needs of the sector as well as the exigency to promote research and innovation. With the local and international representatives across sectors, we will discuss solutions for breaking the self-imposed vicious circle of skills shortage vis-à-vis lack of investment.

Mineral resources are finite and this must be taken into account when developing strategies for development of sustainable skills, which can only be qualified as such if they are transferable and freed from labour market rigidities. We would like to explore also alternative human resource development approaches to academic mining education including technical and vocational education and training (TVET). In this sense, the choice of the host country is deliberate: Kazakhstan has undertaken major reform steps in the given field and been diligently working on introduction of a national dual education system. Nevertheless, the next dialogue session aims not only at identifying the potential national and regional synergies for skills development but also at seeking out international cooperation.

Set against this, the dialogue conference will feature the following multi-stakeholder panel discussions, followed by a final closing segment:

Panel I: Human resource needs in the mining sector

Panel II: Investing in sustainable mining skills development: global challenges and local responses

Panel III: Progressive mining training and education policy

Panel IV: Opportunities and challenges of TVET and dual education

Panel V: International mining cooperation: a multi-stakeholder exchange for coping with common challenges