

Programme (cont'd)

2.00 p.m. **Oil is not necessarily a curse for Africa.**

Guest speakers /Panel

- ▶ **Marie-Claire Aoun**, Université Paris-Dauphine, Paris
- ▶ **Anne Miroux**, CNUCED, Geneva
- ▶ **Christine Batruch**, Lundin Petroleum, Sweden
- ▶ **Soumaine Adoum**, SWISSAID, Chad
- ▶ **Peter Eigen**, Transparency international, EITI, Germany
- ▶ **World Bank representative**
- ▶ **Thérèse Mekombe**, Collège de contrôle et de surveillance des ressources pétrolières, Chad
- ▶ **Patrick Gantès**, CRES, Geneva

3.45 p.m. Coffee break

4.15 p.m. **Cont'd: Oil is not necessarily a curse for Africa.**

5.30 p.m. Close of conference

✂ **Conference «Oil is not necessarily a curse for Africa»**

Free entry

Registration is obligatory. Closing date: 20th October 2006.

Please send registration form by fax or by email to: Caroline Loehr, SWISSAID, phone: +41 21 620 69 74, fax: +41 21 620 69 79, email: c.loehr@swissaid.ch

Name, first name

Position

Company

Address

Telephone

Fax

E-mail

- Yes, I will attend the conference (9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.)
- Yes, I would like to have lunch at the CICG (payment on the day)

OIL IS NOT NECESSARILY A CURSE FOR AFRICA.

How Sub-Saharan Africa can make the most of its oil resources



International conference

Geneva, Thursday 2nd November 2006, 9 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.

**Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG)
rue de Varembe 17, Room 2**

(Bus n°5 from Geneva main Station, direction Palexpo, stop Vermont, www.cicg.ch)

Free entry

For further information,
see www.swissaid.ch



Background

At the present time, Sub-Saharan Africa is experiencing a veritable oil boom, accompanied by the largest wave of investment which the continent has ever seen. This financial windfall far exceeds the total development and monetary aid given to these countries.

To date, the populations of oil-producing African countries have rarely benefited directly from the prosperity which oil brings. In addition, the ecological disasters, deterioration in living conditions, not to mention the propping up of authoritarian regimes would seem to point to oil being a curse rather than a blessing for Sub-Saharan Africa.

In Nigeria, the first oil-producing African country which supplies a third of all oil consumed in Switzerland, armed groups are responsible for a growing number of abductions as well as attacks on oil refineries. Their demands include compensation for the ecological damage caused by the oil industry, a more equitable distribution of oil revenues and the creation of more jobs.

Do we have to resign ourselves to «the black gold's curse»? Not necessarily. There has been a surge in initiatives originating from African civil society, from the oil companies themselves, from international and non-governmental organisations, as well as from a number of countries themselves. Their aim is to promote new rules which will enable the populations of oil-producing countries to benefit directly from the transparent management of oil revenues, to be guaranteed new employment opportunities and to enjoy better working and living conditions. Implicit in these initiatives is the conviction that these would be in the interests of all actors concerned.

Geneva, capital of human rights, the seat of international and humanitarian organisations, as well as home to several oil companies and financial bodies working in the oil sector, is therefore the ideal location to bring together all the actors concerned.

In order to find new ways of dealing with this issue, an international conference organised by SWISSAID will be held in Geneva on November 2nd 2006 at the International Conference Center of Geneva (CICG), with the support of the Swiss agency for development and cooperation (SDC), in collaboration with the CRES (Centre de Recherches Entreprises et Sociétés) and the participation of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Representatives from oil companies, oil-producing countries, international organisations, and cooperation development agencies, as well as specialists in oil production in Africa will take part in this conference. The aim is to find new ways whereby the opportunities afforded by oil resources can be channelled more positively by oil-producing countries in Africa in the form of better living conditions and greater employment possibilities. Furthermore, these opportunities should also become an important tool for combating poverty and for development in general.

Programme (TBC)

An international conference will be held on November 2nd 2006 in the Geneva International Conference Centre (CIGC). The conference is organised by SWISSAID with the support of the Swiss agency for development and cooperation (SDC), with the collaboration of the CRES (Centre de Recherches Entreprises et Sociétés) and the participation of the ILO (International Labour Organisation). The conference is entitled:

Oil is not necessarily a curse for Africa. How Sub-Saharan Africa can make the most of its oil resources

The program is as following: 2 main guest speakers speak during a quarter of an hour each. Specialists of the panel react, comment and the public participates in order to ensure the highest level of interactivity amongst the audience. For more details, see www.swissaid.ch

Thursday November 2nd 2006

With simultaneous translation from and into English and French

9 a.m. Opening of the conference

9.30 a.m. Oil-producing countries in Africa: an appraisal

*Conference moderator: **Marc Decrey**, journalist, Radio Suisse Romande*

Guest speakers/Panel

- ▶ **Conrad Gerber**, Director of Petro-Logistics, Geneva
- ▶ **Gilbert Maoundonodji**, GRAMP/TC, Chad
- ▶ **Jean-Pierre Favennec**, Institut français du pétrole, Paris
- ▶ **Henry Parham**, Publish What You Pay, London
- ▶ **Peter Peek**, BIT/ILO, Geneva
- ▶ **Honoré Ndoumbé**, FOCARFE, Cameroon
- ▶ **Benoit Koukébéné**, former minister with responsibility for hydrocarbons, Congo-Brazzaville
- ▶ **Austin Onuha**, collaborateur du CSRC (Centre for Social Corporate Responsibility) Port Harcourt, Nigeria

11 a.m. Coffee break

11.30 a.m. Cont'd: Oil-producing countries in Africa: an appraisal

12.30 p.m. Lunch