Natural Resource Governance and Development:

Policies and Practice

Online phase: October 2020–January 2021

Residential phase: 15–20 February 2021 | ETH Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland
Background

In resource-rich countries, oil, gas, and mineral revenues offer opportunities to accelerate economic development and reduce poverty. At the same time, their unpredictability, volatility, and size relative to the rest of the economy, as well as their finite nature, can create perverse incentives, complicating economic management and in some cases actually impeding development.

The course is designed to equip a pool of exceptional individuals from government, civil society, parliaments, media, international development agencies, and the private sector, as well as academics, researchers, and analysts, with the knowledge and tools necessary to contribute towards better governance and oversight of natural resources for a better future. Specifically, the course will examine the political economy of governance in resource-rich states and explore how it impacts domestic policy debates and practice.

The course is delivered through a unique collaboration between ETH Zürich’s NADEL-Center for Development and Cooperation and the Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI). The course is designed primarily for individuals who already have a solid understanding of the subject matter but are seeking to enhance their knowledge and skills to play a more prominent role in developing, monitoring, and/or evaluating the mining and petroleum.

The Course

INNOVATIVE METHODOLOGY AND WORLD-CLASS TEACHING

The course will be structured along an online phase and a residential phase. The initial online phase will be introductory, allowing participants to start interacting with their peers, access videos and other material as well as engage in scheduled live sessions to refresh their knowledge and skills.

The residential phase will dive deeper into the political economy of natural resource governance.

Thereafter, participants will be asked to choose one of two paths:

Path 1: Getting a Good Deal: Designing and Evaluating Fiscal Regimes
Path 2: Distributing, Managing, and Spending Resource Revenues

The course includes interactive lectures, group discussions, and practical skill-building workshops or policy labs, as well as presentations by leading experts. Participants also have the opportunity to sign up for one-on-one clinics with course experts to discuss the challenges they face in their countries and request advice.
Path 1: Getting a Good Deal: Designing and Evaluating Fiscal Regimes

Participants who choose Path 1 will be able to dive deeper into fiscal aspects and develop key practical and analytical skills. They will learn to read and use Excel-based models to evaluate and compare different fiscal regimes, make investment decisions, forecast revenue streams and assess risks of revenue leakages. Participants will also learn how to use standardized models developed by NRGI to inform policy analysis and decision-making through a mock negotiation exercise. Courses and exercises covered in Path 1 will include licensing and allocation of rights and links to cost-benefit analyses, institutional capacity, revenue management, state-owned companies, and political economy considerations, providing participants with a nuanced and practical understanding of tax policy in resource-rich countries.

Path 2: Distributing, Managing, and Spending Resource Revenues

Participants in Path 2 will examine the causes of weak development outcomes in resource-rich environments and elaborate on some available tools to improve the distribution, management, and use of oil, gas, and mineral revenues. These tools include: rules describing revenue distribution to the national budget, special funds, sub-national jurisdictions, and state-owned companies; rules controlling the amount of resource revenues that enter the domestic economy; public accountability mechanisms for revenue and expenditure management; and formulation and implementation of national and sub-national development plans. Path 2 participants will also examine how national and local economies can benefit from the presence of extractive companies through implementation of “local content” policies and shared-use infrastructure.
The 2020/21 course will cover topics including:

- Discovery and allocation of resource rights
- The political economy of natural resource extraction
- Fiscal regimes and taxation
- Managing natural resource revenues and investment
- State-owned companies governance
- Environmental and social impacts of extraction
- Corruption and accountability
- The challenges of energy transition

The course uses the Natural Resource Charter as its primary intellectual framework. The charter is a set of economic principles for governments and societies on how to best manage the opportunities created by natural resources to promote development.

WORLD-CLASS TEACHING

The course will be delivered through a unique collaboration between ETH-NADEL and the Natural Resource Governance Institute. Sessions will be delivered by NRGI, ETH-NADEL researchers and international experts incorporating the latest knowledge and techniques.

Previous speakers include

Andrew Bauer | Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI)
Elisabeth Caesens | Resource Matters
Robert F. Conrad | Duke University
Daniel Kaufmann | Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI)
Thomas Lassourd | IGF Mining
Valérie Marcel | Chatham House
Dávid Mihályi | Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI)
Eric Parrado | Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)
Nicola Woodroffe | Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI)
Course Structure, Location and Important Dates

Course Structure and Duration
The course is divided into two phases: an online phase and a residential phase. During the residential phase participants will spend the initial sessions as a group, then split into two groups according to the path they select. The course is delivered in English.

Course Dates
Online phase: October 2020–January 2021
Residential phase: 15–20 February 2021

Residential Phase Venue
NADEL, ETH Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland
- Ranks 6th globally and 2nd in Europe in the 2020 QS ranking
- Ranks 13th globally in the 2020 World University Rankings (THE)
- 21 Nobel Prize Winners (including Albert Einstein)

Course Fees
The full cost of participation in the course is CHF 3,000. This does not include travel, accommodation, visas or other incidentals. Lunches and coffee breaks during the course will be provided, as well as a welcome and farewell dinner.

Scholarships
A limited number of full scholarships covering travel, accommodation, and tuition are available on a competitive basis for members of government, civil society, parliaments, and the media from selected resource-rich countries: DRC, Ghana, Mexico, Myanmar, Tunisia and Uganda. Women are particularly encouraged to apply. A restricted number of exceptions from this list may be made for outstanding applicants from other countries.

Additionally, the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO will provide a limited number of scholarships for members of government, civil society, parliaments, and the media from SECO partner countries (https://www.seco-cooperation.admin.ch/secocoop/en/home/laender.html) and EITI implementing countries (https://eiti.org/countries)
Who Should Apply?
The course is open to participants with at least 5 years of experience falling into the following categories:

- Civil society leaders with a track record of analysis, oversight, and policy advocacy around the governance of extractive industries.
- Mid- to senior-level government officials from ministries and departments involved in policy design, implementation, and compliance, including audit agencies.
- Officials from state-owned enterprises.
- Members of parliament, parliamentary staffers, and researchers well versed in the governance of extractive industries.
- Journalists with previous experience reporting on extractive sector governance.
- Academics and doctoral students undertaking applied research or teaching on the governance of natural resources.

- Professionals from development agencies, including consultancies, aid agencies, and international financial institutions.
- Representatives from extractive industry associations such as chambers of energy and minerals or country-level industry think tanks.

A good understanding of, or background in, economics is highly desirable. Good quantitative and Excel skills are required for both paths of the course.

Please note this is not an entry-level course. NRGI and partners offer other courses for those new to resource governance.

Please consult [www.resourcegovernance.org/training/core-courses](http://www.resourcegovernance.org/training/core-courses) for details on other opportunities.
How to Apply

Applicants will be asked to upload the following documentation:

- One-page résumé/CV.
- Brief personal statement on the governance challenges associated with extractive industries in the applicant’s country of origin/residence (or internationally for global practitioners) and the applicant’s expectations of how the course will benefit them and their organization in efforts to help address those challenges.

Applicants should also indicate which path they wish to take when submitting the application. Every effort will be made to accommodate path choice.

To apply please visit the course website:
https://nadel.ethz.ch/education/spring-semester-2020/resourcegovernance.html

Important Dates

31 July 2020: Applications close
17 August 2020: Long-listed applicants will be notified and given a pre course evaluation
31 August 2020: Long-listed applicants upload completed pre course evaluation
14 September 2020: Letters of acceptance are sent to final list of selected applicants

Failure to submit or complete the task satisfactorily will result in the withdrawal of the provisional offer.
The Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) helps people to realize the benefits of their countries’ endowments of oil, gas and minerals. They do this through technical advice, advocacy, applied research, policy analysis, and capacity development. NRGI works with innovative agents of change within government ministries, civil society, the media, legislatures, the private sector, and international institutions to promote accountable and effective governance in the extractive industries.

www.resourcegovernance.org

The mission of the Center for Development and Cooperation (NADEL) is to build and share knowledge for effective policy making that addresses challenges of sustainable development. This mission is met by offering interdisciplinary postgraduate programs in development and cooperation, by promoting public outreach activities that bridge science and policy, and by engaging in research activities. A key objective of our research is to develop sustainable solutions to poverty reduction and to sustainable resource extraction and management.

www.nadel.ethz.ch
TESTIMONIALS

“The contact with faculty at NADEL is refreshing and personal. Combined with exciting topics and motivating teaching creates an excellent learning atmosphere. Also, the cooperation in class fosters exchange and joint learning.”

—Michael Herger, Student Master of Advanced Studies in Development and Cooperation

“Studying at NADEL has opened the doors for my career. Without this postgraduate training entering the field of international cooperation would have been difficult.”

—André Huber, Head of Cooperation Middle-East, Swiss Development Cooperation

“The work [during NRGI’s advanced course] was very rigorous with high caliber staff conducting the training and invaluable practical experience gained.”

—NRGI “Reversing the Resource Curse” course alumnus