



Activity brief (December 2014)

Development and Delivery of Program for the Kenyan Parliamentary Committee on Mining, Natural Resources and Environment

15 – 21 September 2013

Background: The Australian Government received a request to host a Kenyan parliamentary delegation in September to provide delegates with knowledge in key aspects of mining regulation and management, ahead of a debate on the proposed new Mining Act in Kenya.

Objective: The program for the Kenyan Parliamentary Committee on Mining, Natural Resources and Environment was developed and delivered to assist with their understanding of mining regulation and management, ahead of a debate on the proposed new Mining Act in Kenya.

Activity description: The Kenyan delegation was exposed to theoretical discussions and field trips during the program. Some of the key elements of the program are highlighted below.

The delegates visited the Western Australian Department of State Development (DSD), where they learnt about the DSD lead project facilitation role for new projects or expansions of existing projects, where the proposed investment is significant or of strategic importance to the State.

The delegates also visited the Department of Mines and Petroleum. Delegates learned about DMP structural organisation, vision, mission and values. Major WA commodities – iron ore, petroleum and LNG, gold, nickel, alumina and their value, amount of royalties, fees and charges (rents on mineral tenements, rates to local government) were discussed. The delegates were exposed to ways that mining legislation could attract and facilitate the responsible development of the country's natural endowment for the benefit of its people.

Presentations on Australia's uranium export policy,

uranium facts, the 'yellow tape' and regulation of uranium mining was a real 'eye opener' for most delegates.

Kenyan delegates visited Parliament House, Government of Western Australia. The visit proved to be helpful in achieving a better understanding of the structure and functioning of the Parliament, the role of its members and the contribution of Parliament to the democratic process.

Delegates met with Ms Wendy Duncan, MLA and WA Parliament Deputy Speaker. Ms Duncan previously represented the Agricultural Region and the Mining and Pastoral Region in the Legislative Council and now holds the seat of Kalgoorlie in the Legislative Assembly. She has the experience of being the co-creator of the 'Royalties for Regions' program and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Regional Development and Lands in the current Parliament.

To make meaningful connections between theory and practice, the delegates had a field trip to the McCoy mine, Alcoa. Two Alcoa representatives met the delegation at the McCoy Welcome Centre, before starting the tour at the Huntley mine and proceeding to rehabilitation operations and the rehabilitation 'look-out'. Alcoa's Australian operations represent the world's largest integrated bauxite mining, alumina refining, aluminium smelting and rolling system. The rehabilitation objective of Alcoa was the restoration of the unique jarrah forest ecosystem. It has been achieved and is regarded as a successful operation by environmental and mining professionals.

Sector: Extractives

Outcomes: Upon completion of the program, delegates stated that it was an excellent introduction to resource management and legislation. Kenyan delegates acknowledged that their knowledge of mining-related issues – including policy, mineral agreements, royalties, taxation, tenement management, legislation, corporate social responsibility (CSR), and environment and social impacts – was significantly enhanced.

Participating country: Kenya

Date approved: 26/09/2013
Implementation partner: Curtin University
Total cost: AUD 18 225

