

BOEMRE Team Returns from Uganda Visit After Sharing Technical Expertise with Officials

KAMPALA, UGANDA – A team of Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) and other U.S. government personnel have returned from Uganda this week after conducting a technical assistance workshop for the Government of Uganda, funded by the U.S. Department of State's Energy Governance and Capacity Initiative (EGCI).

BOEMRE's International Activities Program identifies international initiatives that promote better integration of safety and environmental concerns into offshore development decision making. These initiatives focus on: monitoring, developing, and refining safety and environmental standards; technical and information exchanges with international regulatory counterparts; and providing technical advice to the State Department.

"BOEMRE welcomes this opportunity to share our expertise with Ugandan officials. Our continued partnership with the State Department, which allows us to assist countries as they develop their energy sectors, is an opportunity for us to share lessons learned and best practices as these industries and regulatory agencies are being created" said BOEMRE Director Michael R. Bromwich.

Approximately 40 officials from various Ugandan ministries attended this three-day workshop, which covered geologic and economic modeling; reviewing, authorizing and inspecting exploration and production infrastructure; environmental review and compliance; and revenue collection, management and oversight. Detailed discussions about how the United States handles issues relevant to Uganda's oil sector were led by experts from BOEMRE. Tax and revenue related issues were covered by an official from the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

In remarks to open the workshop, Fred Kabagambe-Kaliisa, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Energy noted that "This event is a collaborative effort between the Government of Uganda and the U.S. Government, which will add great value to the management of Uganda's young oil and gas sector."

U.S. Ambassador to Uganda Jerry P. Lanier said "It is my hope that through events and workshops like this, the U.S. Government and the American people can serve as a resource for Ugandans as you work to translate these oil discoveries into broad-based, sustainable, and transparent economic growth."

This workshop was an element of the U.S. Government's ongoing engagement with the Government of Uganda, Parliament and Civil Society on the development of Uganda's oil and gas resources for broad-based economic development. The workshop focused in particular on best practices in hydrocarbons development, particularly as it relates to the valuation of oil and gas resources, oil resource and revenue management, and industry oversight and regulation.

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