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CCSI Events and Projects - July 2015

1 message

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July 2015 Newsletter

The Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI) is pleased to update you on several events, recent publications and projects at the Center. Please check our [website](#) for more information about these and other activities.

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Upcoming Events

July 9: A Safe Future for Fossil Fuel Investments in a Carbon-Constrained World?

The issue of divestment from fossil fuels is becoming an increasingly pressing concern for university endowment boards, socially responsible investors and the fossil fuel industry itself. Please join CCSI, the [Sabin Center for Climate Change Law](#) and the [UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network](#) on Thursday, July 9th from 5pm-7pm at Columbia Law School, Jerome Greene Hall, room 105, to discuss "A Safe Future for Fossil Fuel Investments in a Carbon-Constrained World?" This panel will exchange views and ideas from various stakeholders involved in the divestment and engagement discussions, think critically about their implications, and explore their potential effectiveness. **Registration is free, but required. Please register [here](#).**

The panel discussion will feature *Jeffrey Sachs*, Director, Earth Institute at Columbia University; *Ken Cohen*, Vice President, Public and Government Affairs, ExxonMobil; *Stephen Coll*, Dean and Henry R. Luce Professor of Journalism, Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia University; and *Patrick C. McGinley*, Charles H. Haden II Professor of Law, West Virginia College of Law. The panel will be moderated by *Michael Gerrard*, Director, Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, Columbia Law School.

Online Forum: New Thinking on Investment Treaties

In June, CCSI and the [Global Economic Governance Programme at Oxford University](#) launched a series of short presentations by academics, practitioners, and civil society on key topics in international investment law. Speakers to date have included Jonathan Bonnitcha from the Australian National University and Jan Kleinheisterkamp from the London School of Economics, Department of Law. The series facilitates open access to cutting-edge research and information, and aims to help enrich discussions about the past, present, and future of investment treaties. All presentations are posted on our Youtube channel [here](#) at noon EST. For more details on the series, including how to access the presentations and for the schedule of presentations, please visit our [website](#).

September 21-22: Workshop on Strengthening Technical Assistance for Resource-Rich African Countries

CCSI, [the African Legal Support Facility \(ALSF\)](#), the [African Minerals Development Centre \(AMDC\)](#) and the [New Partnership for Africa's Development \(NEPAD\)](#) are now accepting applications to attend an interactive workshop on useful tools, resources and technical support available to assist African host governments to better plan, prepare for, negotiate, monitor, and implement large-scale investment projects. The workshop will take participants through sessions focusing on each stage of a large-scale investment in the extractive industries, agriculture and forestry, or infrastructure using the [Negotiation Support Portal](#), an online tool designed specifically for host country governments navigating all stages of the investment process. The Workshop will take place on 21-22 September 2015 in Pretoria, South Africa. To apply, and for further information, please click [here](#).

November 10-11: Save the Date for CCSI's Annual Conference

On November 10-11, 2015, CCSI will host the tenth annual Columbia International Investment Conference at Columbia University in New York. In light of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and multilateral efforts to catalyze Financing for Development, this year's Conference will look at steps countries have taken to reshape their International Investment Agreements

(IIAs). Building on UNCTAD's 2015 World Investment Report, the Conference will identify the issues and processes for IIA review and reform, and assess the role of the international community for supporting such efforts at a national and international level. Please save the date and continue to check [our website](#) for more information. CCSI is pleased to welcome UNCTAD as a partner of this year's Conference; we also welcome additional sponsors to support the Conference; please [contact us](#) for more information about sponsorship opportunities.

Past Events

3rd Annual Extractive Industries and Sustainable Development

CCSI hosted its third annual Executive Training Program on [Extractive Industries and Sustainable Development](#) in New York from June 8-19. Thirty one participants from government, civil society, international organizations and industry from seventeen resource-rich developing countries were trained in cross-cutting themes including the economics and political economy of the extractive industries, legal and fiscal frameworks, revenue management, development policies, environmental mitigation and local community programming. The program equips participants with necessary skills to promote the responsible development of the extractive industries sector in resource-rich developing countries and encourages a rich dialogue about best practices from around the globe. The annual course will be offered again in June 2016.

E15 Task Force on Investment Policy

CCSI Resident Senior Fellow Karl P. Sauvant chaired a number of sessions at the second meeting of the E15 Task Force on Investment Policy, a project jointly undertaken by the International Centre for Sustainable Trade and Development and the World Economic Forum. The meeting, which took place in Geneva on June 9-10, focused on policy recommendations to be prepared by him for the final report in time for the WTO Ministerial in Nairobi, December 2015 and the World Economic Forum, January 2016. For more information, please click [here](#).

Publications

Resource Resilience: How to Break the Commodities Cycle

In May, CCSI Director Lisa Sachs and Economics and Policy Researcher Nicolas Maennling published "[Resource Resilience: How to Break the Commodities Cycle](#)," in World Politics Review. The authors outline how to break the commodities cycle via fiscal discipline, development planning and economic diversification.

Wrong Direction on Climate, Trade and Development

In June, Lisa Sachs and CCSI Legal Researcher and Head of Investment Law and Policy Lise Johnson published "[Wrong Direction on Climate, Trade and Development](#)," in The Hill's Congress Blog. The authors argue that the amendment on climate change to the Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) bill would prevent action on climate change and will not get us to an effective 21st century trade agreement.

Projects

Mining and the Sustainable Development Goals

In September 2015, the UN member states will agree on a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which represent the global agenda for equitable, socially inclusive, and environmentally sustainable economic development until 2030. The SDGs cover all aspects of society, from health to energy, from infrastructure to oceans, and they will have far-reaching

impacts on our lives and the industries, governments, and organizations that are part of them. Business will have a significant role to play, across all sectors, including the mining industry.

To support the implementation of the SDGs by the mining sector, CCSI, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), the World Economic Forum (WEF), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are working with partners in industry, governments, and civil society to create a shared understanding of how the SDGs will impact the mining industry's future operations, and how the mining industry can most effectively contribute to the SDGs. For more information, please click [here](#).

The WEF, SDSN, UNDP and CCSI are currently welcoming input for this comprehensive map of the SDGs for the mining industry, as well as organizations who would like to support the effort. Interested parties should contact [Brandon Lewis](#).



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