

OECD Mining Regions: building a network to enhance productivity and well-being

Antofagasta, Chile, 5 - 7 October 2017

Background

Subnational regions with a major presence of mining and extractive industries make an important contribution to the economic development of a number of OECD countries (e.g. Australia, Canada, Chile, Finland, Mexico, Norway and the United States). Mining regions also make a key contribution to the economic development of countries that work closely with the OECD on regional development issues (e.g. Colombia, Kazakhstan, and Peru). Mining regions have the potential to attract investment and increase productivity, this being necessary to meet the expanding global demand for minerals, metals, oil and gas. To fully exploit this potential, policies at all levels that take into account the well-being, environmental, and economic diversification needs of mining-based regions and cities are essential.

The challenges and opportunities associated with a mining and extractive industries specialisation tend to be amplified at a regional level. There are variations in how these impacts play out across different rural areas and cities in a region. The international experience shows that the mining industry has significant potential to support a long-term development process if a complex and inter-connected set of challenges is addressed, which can include: difficulties in diversifying regional economies and coping with environmental externalities; managing social issues related to the mining workforce; and combatting rising inequalities. The OECD work on regional development is designed to support regions and national governments in implementing policies that address these challenges in an integrated way and, in addition, can provide a platform for both knowledge-sharing and action among cities and regions.

Event purpose and areas of focus

The purpose of this event is to create a platform that allows the sharing of lessons and the development of a framework for addressing common challenges and opportunities to increase the productivity and well-being of mining regions. The event is open to public officials and political representatives, the mining industry, educational and non-government organisations, and subject matter experts with an interest in regions that are specialised in mining and extractive industries. Mining regions and cities face unique regional development challenges, and this event will link these stakeholders with each other and OECD expertise on regional and rural development, the mining sector, transport and logistics, skills, the environment and other relevant policy areas.

The event will focus on knowledge-exchange in relation to:

- Policies to enable the development of the mining industry, that support productivity and also strengthen the supply chain linkages and diversification efforts around mining activities, and lead cities and regions towards a diversified economy.
- Subnational governance and good practice models that address the complex relationships between national governments, the mining industry and local stakeholders in relation to issues of economic development and well-being.
- Good practices related to quality of life and addressing well-being challenges that affect cities and regions with a high degree of dependency on mining and extractive industries.

The event will conclude with the development of a strategic framework to enhance cooperation among mining regions and their cities on these matters and map out a strategy for next steps.



Please note that the event is designed to build a network for knowledge-sharing on regional development issues for regions and cities specialised in mining and extractive industries, which would be composed of experts, policymakers and practitioners with a consultative role. It should under no circumstances be considered as an OECD body.

For more information: miningregions@oecd.org
www.oecd.org/cfe/regional-policy/mining-regions.htm