On 25-26 November 2006, the 6th International JODI Conference was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, one year after the release of the JODI World Database to the public. The conference took place against the backdrop of high-level political expectation expressed by Ministers and Heads of Government on several occasions throughout the year 2006 including: 10th IEF Ministerial, G8 Summit, APEC and G20 Ministerials.

In January 2007, JODI partners organized the second training workshop for energy statisticians from Sub-Saharan African countries in Johannesburg, South Africa, in cooperation with the Ministry of Minerals and Energy of South Africa.

In February 2007, the partner organizations met in Paris, France, at the IEA Headquarters to finalize the format of the expanded questionnaire and discuss the programme of work for JODI.

The success of the JODI relies on the full cooperation and sustained efforts of all stakeholders, and the seven partner organizations are fully committed to further enhance the quality of oil data.

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2nd JODI Training Workshop
Johannesburg, South Africa

From 30 January to 2 February 2007, the JODI partner organizations, with the cooperation of the IMF, held a JODI training session for Sub-Saharan African countries in Johannesburg, South Africa. This was the second regional JODI training session.

H.E. Buyelwa Patience Sonjica, Minister of Minerals and Energy of South Africa, inaugurated the workshop underlining South Africa’s support to JODI. IEF Secretary General, Arne Walther, and Executive Director of the African Petroleum Producers Association
(APP), Dave Lafiaji, also participated in the opening session.

More than 30 participants from government and industry, in charge of collecting energy data from 6 Sub-Saharan African countries (Angola, Cameroon, Congo, Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa) attended the training session.

In their efforts to expand the coverage to other countries, the workshop helped the JODI partner organizations (re-)establishing contact with several Sub-Saharan countries which have expressed noticeable interest in participating in JODI and submitting data. The workshop also initiated some lively discussion about reporting methodology issues, assessment of the data quality, legal framework and confidentiality of oil statistics. All the comments received will help the JODI partners to improve the organization of future workshops and deepen the cooperation between organizations and participating countries.

JODI training is part of a broader plan of actions which also includes the dissemination of the JODI manual and direct interaction with countries, in order to improve the timeliness, completeness and reliability of the data.
On 12 February 2007, IEA hosted an Inter-Secretariat JODI meeting at its headquarters in Paris, France. APEC, Eurostat, IEA, IEFS and OPEC participated in the meeting.

The JODI partners discussed the lessons learned from the second JODI training session and the organization of the next ones. A third training workshop for Middle East and North African countries will be organized late 2007. Prior to that, the IEF Secretariat is also working on a training session for Caspian and Central Asian countries that could take place before summer 2007.

Updates on the assessment of timeliness, completeness, coverage and quality of JODI data were presented by the international organizations. The JODI partners agreed to run additional quality checks on import and export data for their member countries prior to any release to the public. The IEFS presented the preliminary results of the assessment currently underway to improve speed and ease of access to the JODI World Database as well as progress made on the upgrade of the JODI website.

The meeting was also the first gathering of the JODI partners since the 6th JODI Conference held in Riyadh in November 2006. JODI partner organizations noted with satisfaction that the conference was well attended with the participation of the Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources of Saudi Arabia in the opening session raising the conference profile very significantly (see separate article below).

**Expanded JODI questionnaire**

As a follow-up of the JODI Conference, the main topic on the agenda was the finalization of the format of the expanded JODI questionnaire as well as the modalities of the trial period.

Based on the result of preliminary consultations with their member countries as well as comments made during the JODI training workshop in South Africa, the seven organizations agreed on a new format. A trial period of six months (data from March to September 2007) will enable organizations to assess how many countries can report more data on a timely and accurate manner. Countries that cannot report data through the new questionnaire will be given the opportunity to submit JODI data using the present format.
The IEF Secretariat hosted the 6th International JODI Conference in cooperation with JODI partner organizations on 25-26 November 2006 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The conference gathered more than 100 participants from more than 30 countries/economies, 10 international organizations and 10 oil companies and research institutions.

In his inaugural address, H.E. Ali I. Al Naimi, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources of Saudi Arabia, emphasized the importance of the Joint Oil Data Initiative in improving oil data transparency, adding that the lack of transparent and reliable oil data is an aggravating factor to the volatility of oil prices.

Held exactly a year after the release of the JODI World Database to the public, the conference gave participants a timely opportunity to assess progress made so far, discuss how the database is perceived by users and potential users and to identify areas of improvement. On the occasion, the JODI partners released the JODI manual (which is available for download on the JODI website, www.jodidata.org). Partner organizations also announced that the JODI World Database has been expanded to include data for refinery intake and refinery output, with effect from its November 2006 update.

Lastly, participants identified prioritized actions to be taken to further improve data quality and extend the Initiative, including: to continue to improve completeness, timeliness and reliability of data; to work more closely with a wider range of both data providers and users in order to improve the usefulness of the Initiative and the entire database; to extend the JODI questionnaire by disaggregating the existing flows and products.

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