Following the recommendations made at the 6th International JODI Conference, in November 2006, to further improve data quality and extend the Initiative, the IEF Secretariat and the JODI partner organizations continue to focus their efforts on improving completeness, timeliness and reliability of the data submitted. Also, in April 2007, an expanded JODI questionnaire, which comprises more flows and more products, was initiated for a six month trial period.

As part of their plan of actions to improve the timeliness, completeness and reliability of the data, the JODI partners organized, in October 2007, the third training workshop for energy statisticians from Middle East and North African countries. The workshop took place in Algiers, Algeria, in cooperation with the Ministry of Energy and Mines of Algeria. Moreover, the IEF Secretariat now offers short-term internships on JODI at its Headquarters in Riyadh, for officials in developing countries dealing directly with oil statistics.

On 21 November, the partner organizations will meet in Paris, France, at the IEA Headquarters, to discuss further development of the Initiative for the coming months.

The seven partner organizations are fully committed to further enhance oil data transparency and rely on the full cooperation and sustained efforts of all stakeholders to achieve this objective.

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It is with deep regret that we inform you that Mr. Karsten Frey passed away on Friday 12 October.

Mr. Frey was the JODI Contact for Germany. He was a very active supporter of JODI and participated in almost all JODI conferences giving presentations on various JODI aspects. He quickly became part of the JODI family and a friend to many energy experts all over the world. We attach a picture of Karsten taken during the 6th JODI Conference in Riyadh in November 2006. As often, Karsten is all smiles and it is this smile that we would like to remember.

We would like to convey our condolences to his family and wish them the strength to cope during this difficult time.
The third Regional JODI Training Workshop for oil statisticians from Middle East and North African countries was organized by the IEF Secretariat, the Ministry of Energy and Mines of Algeria, and JODI partner organizations in Algiers, Algeria, from 23 to 26 October 2007.

In his inaugural address, on behalf of H.E. Chakib Khalil, Minister of Energy and Mines of Algeria, Mr. Abdelkader El-Mekki, General Director for Energy, underlined Algeria’s support to the International Energy Forum (IEF) and the Joint Oil Data Initiative (JODI).

“By holding this seminar in Algiers, the Ministry of Energy and Mines makes a contribution to the capacity building of the concerned institutions in the field of data collection, processing and dissemination, as well as regarding data transparency in the vital sectors of the economies of Middle East and North Africa, that are those of oil and energy”, Mr. El-Mekki said. “Regarding JODI, Algeria contributes in an effective and sustained way to the establishment of the monthly statistics that the Secretariat of the International Energy Forum publishes” he added.
More than 30 officials from government and industry, in charge of collecting energy data in 11 countries attended the training session, as well as representatives from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC). Responding to the IEF Secretariat invitation, Ministers of countries that are not yet participating in JODI such as Jordan, Mauritania and Morocco also nominated participants to the workshop. They expressed noticeable interest in participating in the Initiative in the very near future and thereby expanding the JODI geographical coverage.

The training workshops are part of the JODI partner organizations’ efforts to promote JODI and improve the quality of oil market data. Further workshops will take place in 2008.

IEFS JODI Internships

The government of Norway has provided a special additional financial grant to the IEF Secretariat this year earmarked for the promotion of JODI among developing countries. This enables the IEF Secretariat to offer short-term internships at its Headquarters in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, for officials in developing countries dealing directly with oil data.

A primary objective of the internships is to strengthen working-level contacts between the selected countries and the JODI partner organizations as well as to improve and maintain the quality of national data submissions to JODI.

The internship, which lasts from one to two weeks, offers a valuable opportunity to discuss reporting methodology issues and assessment of the data quality of the country in question.

The IEF Secretariat has already organized two JODI Internship sessions with participants from Vietnam and India in July 2007, and Azerbaijan and Myanmar in September 2007. Additional sessions are planned in 2008.

More information about the JODI internship programme is available on the JODI website.
Promotion of JODI

On 1 May 2007, Bruno Castellano, IEFS Energy Analyst, made a presentation on promoting cooperation and transparency of oil data management through JODI at the E&P Data and Knowledge Management Conference in Doha, Qatar.

On 3 May 2007, H.E. Piyavasti Amranand, Energy Minister of Thailand, visited the IEF Secretariat in Riyadh, to discuss producer-consumer dialogue and JODI. The meeting was productive and resulting in the release of stock data for Thailand.

Speaking at the China Energy Data and Forecasting System Workshop in Beijing on 3 July 2007, Said Nachet, IEFS Energy Director, underscored the importance of reliable and transparent oil statistics as a key factor to the stability of the oil prices and highlighted the role of JODI toward achieving better functioning and more transparent oil markets.

On 17 September 2007, the 6th Workshop on APEC Energy Statistics took place in Singapore. APEC dedicated a session to JODI. Several representatives of its member economies as well as the IEA and the IEFS attended the meeting. The workshop was also an opportunity for Shigeru Kimura, Senior Research Fellow at APEC,
and Bruno Castellano, Energy Analyst at the IEFS, to meet with David Tan, Deputy Chief Executive of the Energy Market Authority of Singapore in order to discuss JODI data issues.

During the workshop, APEC presented a quality evaluation of JODI data of its member economies. Participants discussed JODI definitions of products and flows, methodologies for verification of data accuracy, estimation and revision of data as well as conversion of units. They also exchanged views on the latest JODI developments including the expanded JODI questionnaire agreed during the 6th JODI Conference held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in November 2006.

Support to JODI

In their joint statement of the Second Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable, held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 2 May 2007, Energy Ministers “encouraged the flow of information, bilateral and multilateral exchanges and the development of energy research networks within Asia and the Joint Oil Data Initiative (…) at the international level.”


What is next?

On 21 November 2007, the JODI partner organizations will meet in Paris to discuss the progress made regarding the quality of the JODI data during the last few months.

One of the topics on the agenda will be the expanded JODI questionnaire, that comprises more flows and more products, and which was presented to the participating countries at the last JODI Conference in November 2006. During the meeting, the organizations will discuss the results of the six month trial period (April to September 2007) and assess the ability of countries to report more
data in a timely and accurate manner.

Moreover, the IEF Secretariat will update its JODI partners about the preparation of the 11th International Energy Forum (IEF) and 3rd International Energy Business Forum (IEBF) that will take place in Italy in April 2008. The Forums are an opportunity for the JODI partner organizations to update Ministers from producing and consuming nations, as well as CEOs and top officials from major oil companies, on the latest progress on JODI, and to underscore the importance of transparency and exchange of energy data for market predictability and stability.

Lastly, the JODI partners would like to thank Mauricio Garron, who left the Latin-American Energy Organization (OLADE) last September, for his contribution to JODI and wish him all the best for the future, and welcome to the JODI family his successor Byron Chiliquinga, Director of Strategies and Projects in OLADE.

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