The main event this month was the first meeting of the Review Committee. Participants discussed work in progress and agreed upon the programme of work for the next coming months. Moreover the meeting was an excellent opportunity for the Review Committee members to meet with the independent oil analyst who was hired by the organizations to ensure the impartial assessment of the JODI data. However in anticipation of the public release of the JODI World database, assessment of data quality, although a major activity, is not the only task facing JODI partners. On the contrary! The organizations, with strong support from participating countries, are still striving to improve the timeliness, completeness and coverage of the JODI submissions. New countries are being actively encouraged to participate to the Initiative. Croatia is now regularly submitting the JODI questionnaire to EUROSTAT. UNSD has redesigned and updated its website on JODI to make it more informative and user-friendly; [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/energy/jodi.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/energy/jodi.htm).

Despite all these achievements, sustained effort is still required, both at organization and at national level, to maintain momentum and make the launch of the JODI database a full success.

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### What Happened in April?

- On 11-12 April, the **IEFS** held its ninth meeting of the Executive Board in Rome, Italy. The Board welcomed the IEFS involvement in the coordination of JODI and the progress made so far: development of a database system to host the JODI data, assessment of the JODI data and regular updates through the JODI Newsletter.

- The Review Committee (RC) held its first meeting at the OPEC headquarters in Vienna, Austria (see [Special focus on the 1st Review Committee meeting](#) for further information).

- Mid-April, the consultant, hired by the organizations to assess the quality of the JODI data, arrived in Riyadh where he started the qualitative and quantitative analysis of the JODI data. This work, carried out in close cooperation with the RC members, comprises of a comparison of the JODI data with national and secondary sources, deviations, trends, internal consistency checks and other. Already JODI data for more than 20 countries have been checked and assessed, and submitted to the RC members for their comment.
Special Focus on the 1st Review Committee\(^{(1)}\) meeting

On Wednesday 13 April, OPEC hosted the first Review Committee meeting in Vienna, Austria. Representatives from APEC, EUROSTAT, IEA, OPEC and the IEFS attended the meeting as well as independent oil analysts. UNSD were unable to attend the meeting but joined the discussions through a conference call.

The organizations presented an update of the assessment on timeliness, completeness, coverage and quality of the JODI data submissions from their member countries. The IEFS presented the secondary data sources on production, demand and stocks submitted by the organizations which will be used for the assessment of the JODI data. The IEFS also presented the progress made to date on the development of the JODI database which is under construction.

The organizations then discussed and agreed on the methodology to be used for the assessment of the quality of the JODI data and on the timetable for the next few months. During this session a list of tasks/actions was agreed:

- The objective of JODI is to provide monthly M-1 and M-2 data, which are of good quality and are not going to be revised substantially. As the historical series will not be, at the moment revised, the organizations must encourage their member countries to submit JODI questionnaires with M-1 and M-2 data.

- The Review Committee (RC) agreed that there is a need to avoid confusion between estimated information and official data. JODI will either present reliable data, or give a message to the JODI users that particular data is missing. It is not the role of the JODI partners to estimate missing data.
The RC acknowledges that one outstanding data quality issue is the misunderstanding of the definitions by the countries. The organizations will therefore remind their member countries of the definitions to be used in the JODI questionnaire, asking them to comply with these definitions and to provide clarification if they apply other definitions.

The independent oil consultant will provide an analysis per product and per flow for each country. This report will include both a quantitative and a qualitative assessment of the JODI data. The evaluation will be based on monthly data from national and secondary sources or quarterly/annual data if no other information is available. This task should be finalized by mid-May 2005. The organizations should give feedback on the results of the consultant by mid-June 2005.

The organizations must continue their effort on improving the timeliness, the completeness and the coverage of the JODI submissions. Also further investigations will be carried out on missing questionnaires/data and conversion factors used.

The RC agreed to meet again at the end of June to evaluate the final results on the assessment of the JODI data and to decide on the schedule for the launch of the JODI database.

(1) The role of the Review Committee is to assess the quality of the JODI data. The Review Committee comprises representatives of each organization (one statistician plus one oil analyst when possible). The Committee is chaired by the IEFS.

May-June at a Glance

Although the assessment of the JODI data will be their main task in May-June, the organizations will continue to work on the improvement of the timeliness, completeness and coverage of the JODI submissions. As already mentioned before, further investigations will be carried out on the conversion factors used, the definitions and any missing questionnaire/data points.

The organizations will hold a second RC meeting back-to-back with a Inter-Organization JODI meeting in order to discuss and agree on the details of the launch of the JODI database as well as the possibility of a next JODI Conference.

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