



The New Scramble for Africa: Oil, Geopolitics and the Quest for the Development Dividend

Monday, February 11, 2008, 18.00-20.00, Reception begins at 17.30
Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung, Reichpietschufer 50

SESSION

The new Gulf is in West Africa. The US, Europe and rising powers such as China are competing for access to the world's fastest growing source of oil. Local elites, consumer governments and international oil companies are striking profitable deals fuelling corruption and bad governance. So far, the petrodollars only benefit kleptocratic elites, not the impoverished populations. The international community is scrambling for ways to ensure that African populations receive a development dividend from their oil riches. What contribution can voluntary schemes such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) favoured by Germany and other G-8 countries make? Do we need to step up civil society pressure for mandatory regulation and disclosure?

CHAIR

Thorsten Benner, Associate Director of the Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi) in Berlin that has just launched a major research program on "Changing Rules of the Game: Global Energy Governance in the 21st Century". He has worked on the governance issues related to the extractive sector and is the author of *Stemming the Tide of Conflict Diamonds: the Kimberley Process*.

SPEAKERS

Ricardo Soares de Oliveira, University Lecturer in African Politics, Oxford University and Fellow, Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi), Berlin. He is author of *Oil and Politics in the Gulf of Guinea* (Hurst Publishers and Columbia University Press, 2007) and a co-editor of the forthcoming *China Returns to Africa. A Superpower and a Continent Embrace* (Hurst Publishers and Columbia University Press 2008). He has worked in the field of governance and the energy sector for the World Bank, the European Commission, Catholic Relief Services and conducted extensive fieldwork in West Africa.

Commentator: Michael Peel, Legal Correspondent, *Financial Times*, London. Author of *Delta: Nigeria and the Battle for Oil* (forthcoming 2008). Until 2006, he was the *FT's* West Africa correspondent focusing on the many problems of bad governance and corruption in Africa's oil sector.

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