

Invitation to seminar

Mining, social conflict and dialogue: Experiences from Peru

Venue: Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, Cort Adelersgate 30, bottom floor seminar room

Date/time: Tuesday 16 September 2014, 14:00-15:45

Speaker: Ivan Ormachea, President of ProDiálogo, Peru

Commentator: Stener Ekern, Associate Professor, NCHR-UiO

Q&A – Open discussion

About the seminar:

If mining provides great sources of income for developing countries, why does it provoke so much social conflict? With this question in mind, the project '**Social Conflict and Extractive Industries in Peru**' set up to investigate four local experiences of dialogue and exchange between peasant communities and mining companies in Peru. The objective was to identify elements that promote and impede the establishment of and implementation of mechanisms of conflict prevention and conflict transformation in the mining sector in Peru. This seminar addresses the relation between mining, social conflict and dialogue, drawing on lessons learned from the Peruvian experience.

This seminar is based on the international collaborative project '**Social Conflict and Extractive Industries in Peru**', based at NCHR and led by former NCHR post-doctoral researcher Jemima García-Godos, now at the Department of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo. The project was implemented by the Peruvian NGO ProDiálogo and has resulted in the publication of the book "Mining, social conflict and dialogue" (in Spanish), and a video series and discussion guide for training and capacity building on dialogue between local communities and mining companies, all available on Vimeo. The project was funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

About the speaker:

Ivan Ormachea, a Peruvian lawyer, is President of the Peruvian NGO ProDiálogo (ProDiálogo, Prevención y Resolución de Conflictos), which was recently awarded the 2014 Association for Conflict Resolution International Section's Outstanding Leadership in Conflict Resolution Award for dedication and work in conflict resolution.

http://acrinternational.polisci.txstate.edu/contentParagraph/0/content_files/file/document/Press%20Release%20-%20Prodialogo.pdf

Ormachea is a specialist in conflict mediation, conflict prevention and conflict transformation, particularly in the fields of social and environmental issues and extractive industries. He is mediator at the Office of Mediation and Facilitation Services at the World Bank and the Compliance Advisor Ombudsman, an independent accountability mechanism at the International Finance Corporation. Ormachea teaches also on conflict resolution at the Law faculty, Catholic University of Peru, and has written books and articles related to conflict resolution. Ormachea has a law degree from the Catholic University of Peru and a MA degree on International Relations from Syracuse University, NY.

A bit of background:

Today, mining is the most important source of income for the Peruvian economy, which has experienced sustained economic growth over the past 15 years. But growth has been accompanied by increased levels of social conflict. By February 2014, 75 percent of social conflicts in Peru were related to the mining sector and defined as 'socio-environmental conflicts', that is, when local populations protest against natural resource extraction. In some cases, local protests have ended in violence. Behind socio-environmental conflicts in Peru lays a complex situation where local and regional grievances intersect with each other and with external actors; and some social actors get more voice than others. The experiences of four Peruvian communities and their encounters with mining companies provide insights that can be useful for dialogue initiatives across the world.

The seminar is open for all.

Welcome!