

Concluding Statement



The 14th International Joint Organisations Data Initiative Conference was held in Cairo, Egypt on 20-21 October 2019. The Conference was hosted by the Egyptian Government and organised by the International Energy Forum in cooperation with the JODI partner organisations: Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat), the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE), the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

The Conference was opened by HE Tarek El-Molla, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, of the Arab Republic of Egypt, with more than 140 delegates in attendance. Attendees represented national administrations, the JODI partner organisations, data reporting agencies, market analysts, financial organisations, media outlets, with participation from, academia and the industry, reflecting all aspects of the JODI data chain.

Conference participants provided feedback on the progress made on energy data transparency since the last JODI conference was hosted by the United Kingdom in London on 10-11 October in 2017 (IJC13) and shared their experiences on the collection and display of comprehensive, timely, and accurate data. Discussions highlighted the advantages of cooperation and benefits of improved energy data transparency for all energy technologies through the JODI cooperation framework, while focusing on overcoming challenges to the continuous improvement of JODI data.

The following is a summary of key findings from the conference:

Session 1: Outcomes from the JODI 5-Year Action Plan toward 2020 – Success Stories and Improvement Opportunities

- JODI has seen improvement in quality and timeliness of data submissions over the last five-years with country additions expanding for oil and gas data. JODI will continue working with partners to improve the energy data submissions and strengthening oil and gas datasets.
- The next JODI 5-Year Action plan will be adopted by the Heads of the JODI Partner Organisations meeting at the 17th session of the International Energy Forum Ministerial Meeting (IEF17) in 2020. The development of this plan should reflect new and ambitious goals for JODI cooperation.
- JODI Capacity Building Programmes in key regions around the world remain a crucial part of data inflow and overall success of JODI. Moreover, JODI could further enhance visibility and improve user interfaces through outreach initiatives including online training tools and the augmented use of social media to enhance data provider capabilities and brand awareness.

Session 2: Redefining the Value of the Energy Data Transparency Initiative – JODI

- A key element of JODI, in addition to providing a free official energy database, is to provide a single data reference point against which, both government and market stakeholders can benchmark energy market assessments and historical baseline data.

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- Energy data is now becoming an increasingly competitive business, and a wider array of data is published, showing sometimes contradicting assessments. Participants acknowledged the importance of official JODI data as a global benchmark and the continued need to assess measurement methodologies to understand discrepancies and improve data comparability among sources.
- Acknowledging that energy data and policy analysis is only as good as data availability allows, JODI data must remain freely accessible for users to customise to their particular user requirements. This includes making JODI data Application Program Interface (API) ready.
- JODI data has been effectively combined with new analytical techniques (AI, Big Data and Machine Learning) to enhance decision making ability in the government and private sector. Examples of this include the use of satellite images and real-time GIS information from tankers to obtain direct energy trade flow information. Public entities are drawing lessons from private sector applications of official and other data to improve market and policy analysis in support of better decision making.
- Modern digitised techniques and subsequent official data requirements will become more important in light of energy transition goals. The Initiative should therefore evolve to continue providing data that responds to future data needs to reduce energy market volatility driven by the development of sustainable energy systems.

Session 3: Benefits of the JODI Cooperation Mechanism across the Energy Data Supply Chain

- JODI data supports better decision making in energy policy and commercial investment by providing a global monthly assessment of country by country oil and gas balances. Official monthly data allows for the determination of more granular relationships in the economy that facilitate short term energy demand projections and policy impacts.
- Conference attendees acknowledged that part of the value of JODI is to maintain and enhance a shared database under mutually agreed transparent methodologies and definitions, subscribed to by the key international energy organisations. Comparability of data submitted to JODI is of vital interest to global energy markets and JODI is part of the technical basis on which international cooperation can occur in the pursuit of mutual benefits. Furthermore, the ongoing JODI process facilitates core international energy organisations to exchange their data in a comparable manner which improves national and international forecasts. Conference participants encouraged the JODI Partner Organisations to strengthen their cooperation for the provision of an easily accessible, user friendly, well defined, and more comprehensive energy data set.
- JODI maintains unique value in its strict reporting of official monthly data provided by member countries. The expanded provision of metadata is also encouraged to further enhance transparency of harmonised data.

Session 4: Enhancing the Benefits of JODI Capacity Building

- Since the introduction of 'Regional Training Workshops' in key regions it was noted that JODI Partners have trained more than 740 energy data experts from national administrations and corporate entities involved in JODI data collection around the world. Developing the capacity to report energy data in regions of the world with limited data

coverage expands global access to timely data. Such national oil and gas balances remain vital to energy security particularly in the cases that JODI is the only available data source.

- Participants noted a lacuna in the JODI World Database and acknowledged that these gaps can be caused by legal and capacity restrictions, or other considerations that may prevent JODI participating countries from submitting their data as agreed. However, the IEF as the platform for co-ordination, works in close collaboration with JODI Partner Organisations, to encourage all Participating countries to submit data through the unique voluntary cooperation mechanism JODI provides and achieve a more complete database.
- Conference participants highlighted the need to continue knowledge sharing initiatives and share good practices amongst both public and private data collection entities who expressed the need for more cooperation on energy data collection.

Session 5: Strategies and Benefits for Enhanced Visibility of Energy Data Transparency

- As ultimate champions of the Initiative, JODI data users are encouraged to recognise their data source in their research. This should be based on clear guidance characterising JODI as a collaborative effort to improve energy data transparency of free official data.
- JODI partners are encouraged to strengthen interactions among relevant data providers, users, academia, and research communities through the JODI data chain to expand their outreach, access new potential JODI participants, and build on mutual strengths to broaden the platform.
- As a part of accessibility improvement, numerous JODI data visualisation and data processing tools have been published on the JODI website and are open for public use and download. It was suggested that enhanced and interactive tools could be used to take JODI to a new level.

Session 6: Maximise the Benefits of Energy Data Transparency – Beyond the Current JODI Framework

- Discussions were held over the advantages of diversifying JODI datasets. Suggestions were made to cover electricity data, emissions data, and expanding the granularity to improve LNG, NGL, and destination data.
- To meet globally shared goals, the changes in energy data requirements will demand new datasets. JODI could maximise the use of its current dataset including by exploring calculation of emissions and carbon intensity. While perusing such expansions JODI must maintain its primary focus on data reporting of international oil and gas balances.
- With the expansive coverage, which JODI partners cumulatively hold, awareness of the wealth of data made available to the public through the data dissemination efforts by JODI partners should be further enhanced. In this regard, participants recognised that JODI platforms like energy data exhibitions are beneficial for all.
- Participants also noted progress on the development of the Energy Data Transparency Portal which is designed to increase visibility and accessibility of currently available datasets from JODI partners. To further strengthen such efforts, JODI may profit from partnerships with other open data initiatives, including by providing links directly to their data sources to increase exposure and energy market transparency.