



Background

When the Joint Oil Data Initiative (JODI) was first launched in 2001, the primary goal was not to build a database, but to raise the awareness of all oil market players of the need for more transparency in oil market data.

The first priority of the six international organizations supporting JODI (APEC, Eurostat, IEA, OLADE, OPEC and UNSD) was to assess the oil data situation in their respective Member Countries in order to better qualify and quantify the lack of transparency. The assessment included the collection of monthly oil statistics from each organization's Member Countries through a harmonized questionnaire on 42 key oil data points.

As the process gathered momentum, more countries participated, their submissions were more timely and complete, and the quality improved. It became, therefore, desirable to assemble all the information in a comparable form: the JODI World Database was born.

Participants in the 5th JODI Conference in October 2004 then strongly recommended that this joint global database should be made freely accessible to all — organizations, countries, industry, analysts and others.

From concept to launch

Transparency does not happen overnight and despite the significant progress achieved since its inception, the database is still far from being complete and perfect. The International Energy Forum Secretariat, which took over the co-ordination of JODI in January 2005, together with the six organizations running the initiative, are fully aware of the limits and limitations of the database at this stage in its development. However, since transparency is central to the initiative, the organizations have undertaken to respond positively to the request, expressed at the 5th JODI Conference, that the database be made accessible to the public.

As quality of data is a major concern to the organizations and in order to further improve transparency, it was felt helpful to provide a guide to data quality. This was not an easy matter, due to initial differences in methodology and a lack of comparable sources of information in some countries.

When assessing the data, priority was given to the top 30 oil producer and consumer countries, accounting for around 90 per cent of world production and consumption, although data from all 92 participating countries is included.

In October 2005 the organizations agreed to launch the JODI World Database on the occasion of the inauguration of the IEF's premises by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud on 19 November 2005.

The Challenge

Many challenges remain. The database is still a work in progress, but already for many countries, especially the top 30 producers and consumers, the timeliness, coverage and reliability of the data is at a reasonable level.

The focus now is to expand the coverage of other countries, to reduce the delay in data submissions and to further enhance the data quality. It needs to be recognized however, that the database does not only belong to the supporting organizations. It is a resource for everyone and the onus is on all countries, oil companies and analysts to participate and improve the information.

The IEF Secretariat together with the six supporting organizations are also planning to publish a JODI Manual in the near future, organize training sessions for statisticians, modernize the JODI website, accelerate access to the database and hold a 6th JODI Conference in November 2006.

The Doha Call for more Commitment

At IEF meetings in Osaka in 2002 and in Amsterdam in 2004, the international organizations reminded the participants that transparency would only happen if all parties fully participated.

Five months after the public release of the JODI World Database on 19 November 2005, questions remain whether transparency has been improved. On one hand, some previously missing data have been completed and revisions submitted, but on the other, many submissions have not been forthcoming, and more importantly there are still problems with completeness and quality of the data for some producer and consumer countries. How, for example, can transparency be reached if countries do not report all flows, including stocks, for all products, and if submissions are not sent on a sustained and timely manner.

The supporting organizations have limitations on what they can accomplish on their own as data is usually submitted by national administrations, most of which is collected from national companies. Building a global oil database involves full participation of companies, countries, organizations, analysts and any other interested parties.

As a consequence, the organizations call upon all participants to strengthen their commitment towards more transparency. They call on companies to provide national administrations with timely and complete information. They call on countries to submit their monthly JODI questionnaires fully completed on a timely and sustainable basis. They also welcome feedback and comments on the data from analysts in order to further improve the reliability of the database.

The ultimate goal of this initiative is full transparency — a complete and comprehensive database with trustworthy data, updated on a timely basis that provides a reliable and accurate assessment of the global energy situation. We are too close to this objective to miss the opportunity of a unique oil information system encouraged by and beneficial to all parties.

Participation of countries in JODI

Submission
 Timeliness
 Completeness
 Good Fair Poor

Algeria	⊖	⊖	⊖
Angola	n/a	n/a	n/a
Argentina	⊖	⊖	⊖
Australia	⊖	⊖	⊖
Austria	⊖	⊖	⊖
Barbados	⊖	⊖	⊖
Belgium	⊖	⊖	⊖
Bolivia	⊖	⊖	⊖
Brazil	⊖	⊖	⊖
Brunei Darussalam	⊖	⊖	⊖
Bulgaria	⊖	⊖	⊖
Cameroon	n/a	n/a	n/a
Canada	⊖	⊖	⊖
Chile	⊖	⊖	⊖
China	⊖	⊖	⊖
Chinese Taipei	⊖	⊖	⊖
Colombia	⊖	⊖	⊖
Congo	n/a	n/a	n/a
Costa Rica	⊖	⊖	⊖
Croatia	⊖	⊖	⊖
Cuba	⊖	⊖	⊖
Cyprus	⊖	⊖	⊖
Czech Republic	⊖	⊖	⊖
Denmark	⊖	⊖	⊖
Dominican Republic	⊖	⊖	⊖
Ecuador	⊖	⊖	⊖
Egypt	⊖	⊖	⊖
El Salvador	⊖	⊖	⊖
Estonia	⊖	⊖	⊖
Finland	⊖	⊖	⊖
France	⊖	⊖	⊖
Gabon	n/a	n/a	n/a
Germany	⊖	⊖	⊖
Greece	⊖	⊖	⊖
Grenada	⊖	⊖	⊖
Guatemala	⊖	⊖	⊖
Guyana	⊖	⊖	⊖
Haiti	⊖	⊖	⊖
Honduras	⊖	⊖	⊖
Hong Kong, China	⊖	⊖	⊖
Hungary	⊖	⊖	⊖
Iceland	⊖	⊖	⊖
India	⊖	⊖	⊖
Indonesia	⊖	⊖	⊖
Iran	⊖	⊖	⊖
Ireland	⊖	⊖	⊖
Italy	⊖	⊖	⊖
Jamaica	⊖	⊖	⊖
Japan	⊖	⊖	⊖
Kazakhstan	⊖	⊖	⊖
Korea	⊖	⊖	⊖
Kuwait	⊖	⊖	⊖
Latvia	⊖	⊖	⊖
Libya	⊖	⊖	⊖
Lithuania	⊖	⊖	⊖
Luxembourg	⊖	⊖	⊖
Malaysia	⊖	⊖	⊖
Malta	⊖	⊖	⊖
Mexico	⊖	⊖	⊖
Myanmar	⊖	⊖	⊖
Netherlands	⊖	⊖	⊖
New Zealand	⊖	⊖	⊖
Nicaragua	⊖	⊖	⊖
Nigeria	⊖	⊖	⊖
Norway	⊖	⊖	⊖
Oman	⊖	⊖	⊖
Panama	⊖	⊖	⊖
Papua New Guinea	⊖	⊖	⊖
Paraguay	⊖	⊖	⊖
Peru	⊖	⊖	⊖
Philippines	⊖	⊖	⊖
Poland	⊖	⊖	⊖
Portugal	⊖	⊖	⊖
Qatar	⊖	⊖	⊖
Romania	⊖	⊖	⊖
Russian Federation	⊖	⊖	⊖
Saudi Arabia	⊖	⊖	⊖
Singapore	⊖	⊖	⊖
Slovak Republic	⊖	⊖	⊖
Slovenia	⊖	⊖	⊖
South Africa	⊖	⊖	⊖
Spain	⊖	⊖	⊖
Suriname	⊖	⊖	⊖
Sweden	⊖	⊖	⊖
Switzerland	⊖	⊖	⊖
Syria	n/a	n/a	n/a
Thailand	⊖	⊖	⊖
Trinidad & Tobago	⊖	⊖	⊖
Turkey	⊖	⊖	⊖
United Arab Emirates	⊖	⊖	⊖
United Kingdom	⊖	⊖	⊖
United States	⊖	⊖	⊖
Uruguay	⊖	⊖	⊖
Venezuela	⊖	⊖	⊖
Vietnam	⊖	⊖	⊖
Yemen	⊖	⊖	⊖

Categories of participation, as of July-December 2005.
 Azerbaijan started its participation after July 2005, and therefore is not graded.

The Joint Oil Data Initiative

The Doha Call for more Commitment



King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia launched the JODI World Database



10th International Energy Forum
 Doha, Qatar, April 22-24, 2006