
Can mining contribute to Brazil's development? What to learn and what not to learn from the Netherlands

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How can it be ensured that mining contributes to economic development, and not to corruption? How to ensure communities benefit from the presence of mines, and don't suffer from them? In the Netherlands we have learned quite some of those lessons the hard way: local communities around mining areas are suffering the consequences of mining-induced earthquakes, and (former) mining communities are still among the poorest in the Netherlands.

At the same time, the Dutch have been successful in almost rooting out corruption in the extractive sector. Also, water management in and around the mines in the Netherlands has been great, with no accidents in decades.

In this lecture by Prof. Dirk-Jan Koch, Special Envoy Natural Resources of the Dutch government, will present the challenges that both Brazil and the Netherlands mining sector face. In this interactive lecture it will be analyzed what Brazil could learn from the Dutch experience, and which mistakes Brazil could avoid. It is always said that you should learn from your mistakes: but why not learn from the mistakes of others ?

Prof. Dr Dirk-Jan Koch is an international board member of the EITI (Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative), chair of EITI in the Netherlands and chair of the European Partnership for Responsible Minerals.

Prof. Dr. Dirk-Jan Koch

Special Envoy Natural Resources of the Netherlands (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands)
Professor International Trade and Development Cooperation (by special appointment)

Professor Dirk Jan Koch is a diplomat, writer, social scientist and highly committed to an equitable, sustainable, prospering and stable world. Koch currently focuses on security and sustainability of supply of metals and minerals, and transparency is key to both objectives.

Before re-joining the Ministry of Foreign affairs, he served as Search for Common Ground's Regional Director for West and Central Africa, based in the DRC. He oversaw more than 250 staff and conflict resolution and transparency programs in countries such as Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Nigeria and Angola.

Koch is a Special Professor of International Trade and Development at the social science faculty of the Radboud University in Nijmegen. He focuses on the intended and unintended effects of international cooperation. He is the author of several well-regarded books and articles focusing on natural resources, international development and diplomacy. His work has appeared in French, English, Catalan, German and Dutch.

He is currently the chair of the governing board of the European Partnership for Responsible Minerals, the chair of the Netherlands Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and an international board member of the EITI.