



Overheard at the Roundtable

TACKLING INFRASTRUCTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCE CHALLENGES...



RICHARD BLUM



HELEN CLARK



MICHAEL FARINA



RANDALL KEMPNER



HOMI KHARAS

Richard Blum

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Blum Capital Partners

“So much of this really is about infrastructure, because if you don’t build roads, you don’t have communications. And if you don’t have electricity, you don’t develop.”

Helen Clark

Administrator, United Nations Development Program

“The challenge in development is to give countries the chance to turn having these incredible resources into a blessing, because you can receive the revenues, appropriate them for good purposes, get a skills and infrastructure legacy from it, and make it a virtuous cycle for development.”

Michael Farina

Senior Manager of Strategy and Analytics, General Electric International

“If [the government] solves the network problem, the connectivity issue, we really feel like the private sector can do a good job of putting supply on the system or creating markets on the other end of the system.”

Randall Kempner

Executive Director, Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs, Aspen Institute

“I think that one of the key long-term economic benefits in these large infrastructure and resource extraction projects is the potential to create a corps of locally trained engineers and supply chain managers that will stay in the emerging market. But I don’t believe that most funders and project implementers typically consider this goal as a core business objective—and they should.”

Homi Kharas

Senior Fellow and Deputy Director, Global Economy and Development, The Brookings Institution

“I don’t think it’s a particularly new phenomenon that we think about countries in their current situations as being basket cases, but I also don’t think we should lose sight of the fact that in many, many instances those obstacles have been overcome—and the challenge obviously is to figure out what works in those specific contexts.”



RAYMOND OFFENHEISER



EDUARDO PORTER



VINCENT RIGBY



PAMELA SMITH

Raymond Offenheiser

President, Oxfam America

“There is a very large mine in Peru that...underwent years of conflict with local communities, costing BHP Billiton lots and lots of revenue. BHP then successfully invested in eight years of community consultations and encouraged the government to take action to better redistribute royalties and revenue from mining to the regions for development purposes.”

Eduardo Porter

Columnist, The New York Times

“For the countries that really have big windfalls [from resource extraction]...poverty reduction is likely to be more about government transfers than developing some industrial sector that is unlikely to be able to compete with imports.”

Vincent Rigby

Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, Government of Canada

“When you go into a fragile and conflict-affected state, it’s for the long term. It’s multi-generational, not just for governments but for the private sector as well. They have to remember that a quick return is not necessarily going to be the case.”

Pamela Smith

Deputy Director of U.S. Government Relations, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

“While a smaller shareholder [in sending capital flows to the developing world], I think there are still some things that a donor government can and will do—whether it’s promoting the rule of law and fighting corruption, building the infrastructure that’s so critical to allowing private investment to thrive, and strengthening local institutions so that solutions are sustainable and countries can eventually graduate from aid.”