

CHAPTER 3 – www.eisourcebook.org

3.4 Conclusions

Investment in the EI sectors (oil, gas and mining) has features that present particular challenges to policy makers. There are significant differences between oil and gas on the one hand and mining on the other, and indeed within the mining sector itself, in spite of their undoubted similarities in certain areas. Both are capable of playing a major role in a government's plans for resource-led development.

Effective management in the public interest requires recognition of both the common and the unique features of EI in the design of sector policies and institutions. However, it will also involve strategic decisions about the kind of company or pattern of companies that is best suited to achieving the kind of overall policy held by a country hosting these investments.

Some features of this investor-state relationship are relatively constant over time, while others are more dynamic, such as industry structure, showing significant changes and greater complexity in recent years, not least due to companies from emerging markets making strategic investments aimed at securing future supplies of energy and minerals.