Mining and Natural Resources Law and Investment Training Course

30 Nov - 04 Dec 2026

Lisbon

4500 € (Per Person)

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Course Introduction / Overview:

The global demand for minerals and natural resources continues to surge, placing the extractive industries at the center of economic development, international investment, and complex geopolitical dynamics. Navigating this sector requires a profound understanding of the intricate legal and regulatory frameworks that govern it. This comprehensive training course is meticulously designed to provide a deep dive into the multifaceted world of mining and natural resources law, from foundational principles to advanced investment strategies. Participants will explore the entire lifecycle of a mining project, from initial exploration rights and licensing to operational compliance, community engagement, and eventual mine closure. Drawing on insights from leading academics like James Otto, a renowned expert in mineral law and policy, the course bridges theory and practice. We will examine key concepts discussed in seminal works such as "International and Comparative Mineral Law and Policy," ensuring a robust academic underpinning. BIG BEN Training Center has developed this program to empower professionals with the critical knowledge to manage legal risks, structure sustainable investments, and ensure compliance with both domestic legislation and international standards, thereby fostering responsible resource governance and maximizing value for all stakeholders.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Lawyers and in-house counsel in the mining and energy sectors.
- Government officials and regulators from ministries of mines, environment, and finance.
- Mining company executives, project managers, and operational staff.
- Investment bankers, financial analysts, and private equity professionals focused on natural resources.
- Compliance officers and risk management specialists.
- Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) professionals.
- Management consultants specializing in the extractive industries.
- Community relations and corporate social responsibility managers.
- Academics and researchers in the field of natural resources law.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Mining and Mineral Exploration.
- Oil and Gas (Upstream).
- Energy and Utilities.
- Banking, Finance, and Investment Services.
- Legal and Professional Services.
- Engineering and Construction.
- Governmental bodies, regulatory agencies, and public sector enterprises.
- Environmental and Management Consulting.
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) focused on resource governance.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Legal and Corporate Secretariat.
- Compliance and Regulatory Affairs.
- Finance and Project Finance.
- Corporate and Government Relations.
- Business Development and Strategy.
- Operations and Project Management.
- Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS).
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Community Relations.
- Procurement and Supply Chain Management.
- Risk Management.

Course Offerings:

By the end of this course, the participants will have able to:

- Analyze the core principles and sources of mining and natural resources law.
- Navigate the complex processes of obtaining mineral rights, licenses, and permits.
- Evaluate and draft key clauses in mining development agreements and joint ventures.
- Understand the legal framework for environmental impact assessments and social licensing.
- Assess and manage legal risks associated with foreign investment in the extractive sector.
- Structure mining project finance deals in compliance with international standards.
- Implement effective legal strategies for community engagement and benefit-sharing.
- Resolve disputes through negotiation, mediation, and international arbitration.
- Apply principles of sustainable resource management and ESG compliance in operations.
- Interpret and apply regulations related to mining taxation, royalties, and fiscal regimes.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be immersive, interactive, and highly practical, moving beyond traditional lecture formats to foster deep, applicable learning. This course employs a blended approach that combines expert-led presentations with dynamic, hands-on activities. A cornerstone of our method is the extensive use of real-world case studies, allowing participants to analyze actual mining projects, dissect complex legal agreements, and debate the outcomes of landmark court cases and arbitral awards. Interactive group discussions and workshops will encourage peer-to-peer learning and the sharing of diverse professional experiences. Participants will engage in simulated negotiations of mining development agreements and community benefit-sharing contracts, providing a safe environment to practice and refine critical skills. Practical exercises will focus on drafting key legal clauses, conducting due diligence, and developing compliance checklists. Continuous feedback from our experienced instructors ensures that participants can immediately apply the concepts learned to their specific professional contexts. This participant-centered approach guarantees a rich and engaging learning experience that translates directly into enhanced on-the-job performance and strategic decision-making capabilities.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One Foundations of Mining and Natural Resources Law

- Introduction to the global mining and extractive industries.
- Sources of mining law: constitutional, statutory, and international law.
- Theories of mineral ownership: state, private, and customary rights.
- Key legal concepts: exploration licenses, mining leases, and concessions.
- The role of the state in resource governance and regulation.
- Overview of the mining project lifecycle from a legal perspective.
- Introduction to international legal frameworks and best practices.

Unit Two The Regulatory Framework for Mining Operations

- The process of acquiring mineral exploration and exploitation rights.
- Environmental law and regulations in the mining sector.
- Conducting Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs).
- Legal requirements for water rights and land access.
- Health and safety regulations and compliance obligations.
- Regulations governing artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM).
- Mine closure, rehabilitation, and financial assurance requirements.

Unit Three Investment, Contracts, and Finance in Mining

- Structuring foreign investment in the natural resources sector.
- Understanding and negotiating mining development agreements (MDAs).
- Key contractual clauses: stabilization, force majeure, and fiscal terms.
- Joint venture agreements, farm-in agreements, and other commercial structures.
- Legal aspects of mining project finance and security arrangements.
- Mining taxation, royalties, and other government revenue streams.
- Legal due diligence for mining asset acquisitions and mergers.

Unit Four Social, Environmental, and Governance (ESG) Issues

- The legal basis for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in mining.
- Negotiating and implementing Community Development Agreements (CDAs).
- Legal frameworks for indigenous peoples' rights and free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC).
- Managing human rights risks in the extractive sector supply chain.
- Anti-corruption and transparency initiatives (e.g., EITI).
- Emerging legal trends in ESG reporting and compliance.
- Conflict minerals and supply chain due diligence regulations.

Unit Five Dispute Resolution and Advanced Topics

- Managing and resolving disputes with government authorities and communities.
- Litigation, mediation, and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in mining.
- International investment arbitration: Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) and investor-state disputes.
- The impact of resource nationalism on legal frameworks.
- Legal challenges and opportunities related to critical minerals and the energy transition.
- Cross-border issues: transboundary resources and international unitization.
- Future trends and the evolution of mining and natural resources law.

FAQ:

Qualifications required for registering to this course?

There are no requirements.

How long is each daily session, and what is the total number of training hours for the course?

This training course spans five days, with daily sessions ranging between 4 to 5 hours, including breaks and interactive activities, bringing the total duration to 20 - 25 training hours.

Something to think about:

Given the rise of resource nationalism, how can international investment law evolve to balance the sovereign rights of host states with the need for stable and predictable legal frameworks for foreign investors?

What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?

This course distinguishes itself by moving beyond a purely theoretical examination of statutes and regulations to offer a holistic, commercially-astute, and practical understanding of the mining and natural resources sector. While other programs may focus narrowly on black-letter law, our curriculum is built around the entire lifecycle of a mining project, integrating legal principles with the financial, operational, and social realities that professionals face daily. A key differentiator is our significant emphasis on contemporary and forward-looking issues, particularly the legal dimensions of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) compliance, sustainable resource management, and the complex challenges posed by the global energy transition and the demand for critical minerals. The methodology is deeply practical, centered on real-world case studies, negotiation simulations of mining development agreements, and drafting exercises. This hands-on approach ensures that participants do not just learn the law but learn how to apply it effectively to mitigate risk, structure successful deals, and resolve complex disputes. The course provides a unique forum for integrating legal expertise with strategic business acumen, preparing participants to navigate the intricate interplay between domestic law, international investment treaties, and global best practices in a rapidly evolving industry.