

IMEO Advisory Council

22 May 2024

Meeting Notes

IMEO team shared an update on the progress of the different workstreams (see slides attached for more details), including:

- **Science Studies**
 - Notable papers published: [Algeria](#), [North Sea](#), [Urban methane emission in 12 cities across 8 countries](#)
 - Ongoing measurement campaigns: Oman, Colombia, Australia, Validation of Methane Quantification Technologies
 - IMEO was at the forefront of methane discussions at EGU 2024 Conference in Vienna
- **Methane Alert and Response System (MARS):** growing number of detections, notifications, increasing engagement in countries with frequent detections and work with partners to identify opportunities to support mitigation following MARS notifications.
- **Steel Methane Programme (SMP):** UNEP's management review is now completed and positively concluded. This builds on IMEO's extensive engagement and awareness-raising with the steel ecosystem. SMP is an OGMP 2.0 equivalent that targets methane emissions from metcoal used in steelmaking. Reduction of metcoal methane emissions is a major climate opportunity that can spare 0.01C global warming until 2030. Ideas and help on the recruitment front from the Advisory Council are most welcome.
- **Oil and Gas Methane Partnership 2.0 (OGMP 2.0)**
 - Growing company and non-company membership & global coverage: the Partnership currently brings together over 140 companies representing over 40% of global oil and gas production and welcomed the World Bank as a new non-company member.
 - 2024 will be an important reporting year for the OGMP 2.0 and a step towards addressing the gap in industry reported emissions and atmospheric measurements with more emissions expected to be reported at Levels 4 and 5
- **Key recent government engagements:** European Commission Executive Vice President Sefcovic, Turkmenistan, Kuwait, Egypt, China
- **IMEO Data Integration Approach:** General principle, Methane Supply Index and Integration of MethaneSAT data

Discussion:

MARS:

- IEA offered support with engaging MARS target countries to increase the number of government focal points.
- UNECE expressed interest in collaborating on MARS, esp. on coal mine methane, as well as on SMP.

Science studies:

- Members discussed how to **bring the results of science studies into the public domain more quickly**, in addition to IMEO already sharing preliminary results with the different stakeholders in the country to make the data actionable as soon as possible.
- Industry representative suggested **developing a practical follow-up process for methane studies** helping operators to design steps to take to translate the learnings into better reporting and guide the reconciliation process.
- It was noted that **control releases studies**, such as the one ongoing in France, are much needed on a more frequent basis in Europe and that IMEO can play a catalytic role to promote this work. The ongoing study will bring more transparency by identifying operators and technologies to allow for the broader system to learn from the results. IMEO also plans to expand this work to Asia in 2025 and define a robust and transparent protocol to be used by third parties in similar studies conducted independently.
- IMEO studies are not limited to oil and gas but there is also plenty of ongoing **coal** work and pending proposals for an abandoned mines study in India and a coal study in China.

Country and industry engagement on MSI:

- Industry representative stressed the importance of MSI and suggested setting specific targets for each segment of the value chain to allow for comparative analysis of methane content of gas between basins and support the operationalization of the index.
- IMEO is currently engaging both producing and importing countries (e.g. Japan and preliminary discussions with Korea) to facilitate the establishment of one standard to be applied consistently on the international level, as opposed to many different parallel standards, and ensure robust and transparent reductions of methane emissions across the industry.
- Engagement with China proves more challenging but the recent US-China dialogue includes a reference to IMEO's work, with both sides noting MARS with interest, which is an encouraging sign.

IMEO methane data:

- NGO representative suggested to work on improving the accessibility of IMEO data for different stakeholders (e.g. journalists and NGOs). IMEO plans to launch an improved version of its data platform at COP29 to make it more accessible and actionable.