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## **External Independent Evaluation of Exxon Neftegas Limited Social Projects for 2016**

Exxon Neftegas Limited (ENL) places great emphasis on the internal evaluation of sponsored projects efficiency. The evaluation process includes both preliminary evaluation and comprehensive post-project evaluation. ENL also works on the procedure for projects evaluation directly by donees and development of culture of projects evaluation by ENL regional representatives as part of their systematic project management training.

In 2017, a team of independent experts from the Russian Association of Specialists for Programs and Policies Evaluation conducted external efficiency evaluation of projects supported by ENL. A decision was made to conduct external evaluation of educational and indigenous minority peoples of the North (IMPN) support project clusters based on the previous evaluation results of December 2015 and as part of external evaluation tools development.

An excerpt from the social projects external evaluation report:

*ENL annually implements a number of charitable educational and healthcare programs, supports public organizations, cultural and sports institutions. Priority is given to the areas where Sakhalin-1 production sites are located: Nogliki and Okha Districts, and the city of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk in Sakhalin Oblast and Ulchi District in Khabarovsk Krai. All projects, as in the past years, are verified for compliance with ENL social investment principles, their significance and sustainable development ability. Priority is given to the projects influencing a large group of people. To enhance projects efficiency, ENL holds preliminary consultations with government authorities and opinion leaders, considers expert opinion (including that of program coordinators), holds meetings and consultations with local government authorities and local communities, conducts public opinion survey, monitors mass media and checks good standing of donees (due diligence checklist).*

*All ENL-supported projects aim for improving the quality of people's life and providing equal opportunities for all community members. This is especially true for educational projects. Almost all projects focus on improving material and technical resources for social services and aim for long-term use of the purchased equipment and project results. State and municipal support recipients include in the projects mostly purchase of equipment, publication of materials, and participation in the events covered by the state or municipal plans. This allows them to enhance quality of implemented projects, be confident in the project goals achievement and efficiency of budgetary and donated funds use (for instance, publication of Nivkh fairy-tales, purchase of equipment for schools and lyceums).*

*This approach supports ENL strategy for social tension alleviation and community living standard improvement. ENL-supported projects are specific for their intent to provide equal opportunities for all Sakhaliners as concerns high quality social services and personal fulfilment, irrespective of place of their residence. In particular, ENL educational projects allow young people to reduce gaps in opportunities with their counterparts from the mainland and improve quality of education, as a whole.*

*Besides improvement of material and technical standing, all projects also aim to enhance companies' sustainability, introduce new services, improve their quality, expand target groups and/or increase the number of donees, and contribute to the settlement of social projects currently urgent for the region. For instance, ENL-supported projects for nursery kids fostering allow socializing kids through the elaboration of new technologies (children's theatres, logopedic rooms). Despite the fact that projects mostly cover equipment purchase, the donees know the project strategy and actively introduce and develop additional services.*

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