

Michael Antony Barron

Tel: +

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Nationality: **British**



I am an independent consultant delivering expert input on the transparency agenda, especially beneficial ownership and implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). I bring more than 25 years' experience much of it in the energy and natural resources sectors. I have recently completed projects in Azerbaijan, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Israel, the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), Oman and Trinidad & Tobago. I am former member of the UK EITI MSG. I am also researching and writing a book on the Gaza Marine gas project and related energy issues. I have extensive experience of engaging with governments, private companies, state-owned enterprises and civil society organisations. I worked for more than 12 years as a government relations manager for the FTSE 100 oil and gas company, BG Group (British Gas) including postings in Cairo, Muscat and on the Gaza Marine project team as well as leading on transparency issues and the relationship with EITI. I support governments implementing beneficial ownership reporting systems to meet international standards, undertake research on policy, economic and governance issues relating to the energy sector in the Middle East as well as providing training, including to government agencies, private companies and state-owned companies.

Experience

- Ghana EITI: Conducted commodity trading transparency reporting pilot project
- Ghana Registrar General: Supporting the implementation of an economy-wide public register of beneficial ownership
- Papua New Guinea EITI: delivering scoping study on transparency of state-owned enterprises
- Albania EITI: delivering scoping study on environmental impact reporting
- Nigeria EITI: member of team acting as independent administrator for 2018 and 2019 oil and gas reports and 2019 solid minerals report
- Trinidad & Tobago: delivered revised beneficial ownership register including gap analysis and revised reporting process for EITI
- Ethiopia EITI: delivered beneficial ownership scoping study
- Azerbaijan: supported the state oil fund implement its roadmap for beneficial ownership disclosure for the extractive industries for an Asian Development Bank funded project
- Egypt: advised Ministry of Petroleum on reform process including enhancing transparency and governance

- Conducted human rights due diligence assessment for a major infrastructure project in Israel and the OPT to allow leadership of major European engineering company to make fully informed decision on whether to bid for a controversial project

Business leadership

- Managed \$6 million government relations budget including decisions on allocation of resources and identifying savings
- Built and led BG Egypt external affairs team and led BG research team including managing performance issues
- Chair of industry association task force and participated in extractive industry advocacy group on EU Accounting Directive with European Commission and UK government
- Engaged with UK Cabinet Office on agenda and content for G7 events on trade, tax and transparency
- Diploma in Management from the Chartered Management Institute, UK including distinction in dissertation on managing virtual teams

Languages: native English, written and spoken Arabic, some French

Career

Director, Michael Barron Consulting Ltd, 06/14-02/15; 03/16 - present

- Delivering consultancy on public policy and international government affairs strategies and due diligence for portfolio of more than 25 clients
- Senior Advisor for Critical Resource Ltd, stakeholder management consultancy

Director Energy & Natural Resources, Eurasia Group, 02/15-02/16

- Delivered geopolitical and political risk advisory services to clients including major natural resource companies and financial institutions
- Completed projects on unconventional hydrocarbon policy and regulation in Europe, analysis of political risk facing downstream energy projects in three south east Asian countries

BG Group plc, 01/02–06/14

1. Government & Public Affairs Manager, Middle East, South East Asia & Global Transparency, 01/08–06/14

- Developed BG's position on revenue transparency; engaged with government, civil society and industry; advised senior management; made recommendations on management of revenue transparency issue across all BG Group countries
- Led advocacy on European legislation and managed BG support for EITI
- Led team providing research support to operations and projects in BG Group assets globally

2. Policy & Corporate Affairs Manager, Gaza Marine project, 07/07–01/08; 06/05–08/06

- Provided leadership on political risk mitigation and government relations, including engagement with governments and multinational institutions at senior level
- Created and delivered government relations strategy and action plan in politically complex environment to mitigate political risks to project

3. Government & Public Affairs Manager, Middle East, BG Oman, 08/06–07/07

- Leadership team member with responsibility for government relations and external relations for GCC states and Yemen
- Contributed to country entry through government relations strategy, stakeholder engagement, community relations, external communications and corporate responsibility
- Managed staging of inaugural BG Energy Challenge – Oman and other profile-raising events

4. Policy & Corporate Affairs Manager, BG Egypt, 01/02–06/05

- Built and managed asset's external affairs team
- Led industry wide study into subsidies in the Egyptian energy sector and delivery of recommendations to the government
- Managed staging of inaugural BG Energy Challenge – Egypt and other profile-raising events

Freelance Middle East Political Risk Consultant, 02/99–01/02

- Delivered 20 in-depth country reports for Dun & Bradstreet, including political risk, short and long-term economic analysis and business environment
- Conducting confidential due diligence investigations into companies and individuals for specialist consultancies
- Author of business travel guide on Turkey, published June 2001
- Wrote 'The Egyptian Oil and Gas Report' for SMi Publications
- Wrote reports and articles on Middle Eastern topics for business audiences, for clients including Jane's, Business Monitor, EIU and DTI

Control Risks Group, 02/94–02/99

1. External Affairs & Marketing Manager, 12/97–02/99

- Managed press and media relations
- Prepared high-quality marketing material

2. Senior Middle East Analyst, 02/94–12/97

- Production of bespoke political risk analysis reports for clients
- Presentations to clients and conferences, including Iran and Gulf conferences organised by Chatham House
- Press and media interviews including CNN, BBC World, BBC Radio, ITN, Sky, CNBC, Independent, The Times

News Researcher, Middle East Broadcasting Centre (MBC), 10/92–02/94

Memberships & Publications

Member of the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House)

Publications

- Towards a Global Norm of Beneficial Ownership Transparency, Adam Smith International, March 2019:
https://issuu.com/adamsmithinternational/docs/towards_a_global_norm_of_beneficial_9f6920e1fce9a4?e=17200343/68429367
- Beneficial ownership disclosure in Azerbaijan project reports:
<https://www.oilfund.az/en/fund/relations/ownership>
- Thailand and transparency case study for NRGi:
<http://www.resourcegovernance.org/analysis-tools/publications/reversal-fortune-thailands-oil-and-gas-sector>
- Gorilla Guides: The Business Traveller's Guide to Turkey, Stacey International, London, 2002
- Author of business chapter for: Qatar, Stacey International, London, 2001
- The Egyptian Oil & Gas Report, SMi, London, 2000

Education

University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland, 10/88–07/92

Gained: **MA (Hons) 2.1 in Arabic**

Friends School, Saffron Walden, Essex, 09/86 –07/88

Gained: **Three A' levels in English, History and French**

Gosfield School, Halstead, Essex, 04/83 –07/86

Gained: **10 O' levels**