Athayde Motta, Brazil

I appreciated the nomination from RLIE to represent the Latin America region in PWYP’s Global Council because it’s a valuable opportunity to learn and contribute to a discussion about the impacts of extractive industries on a global level. IBASE’s work on the issue has been very relevant in Brazil but we face a new challenge now in the efforts to promote greater participation in one specific issue: social monitoring and participation over the use of extractive industries’ royalties paid to local governments in Brazil.

IBASE has just published a pilot study on the social monitoring of mining royalties in the municipally of Canaã dos Carajás, in the state of Pará. It’s the second highest-grossing city in royalties’ payments in the state and home to the largest iron mine in Brazil. Our report found that social and poverty-alleviation investments from such wealth are dismal at best. As a result from such effort, the Ford Foundation has agreed to fund a two-year project to analyze social participation in the use and allocation of mining royalties in different cities throughout Brazil.

I believe this subject can be of great interest to PWYP and could be used for comparison with other countries. It would certainly be of our interest to learn what PWYP members and staff have developed to investigate similar issues. In addition to that, recent changes in Brazil’s environmental regulations are expected to generate considerable negative impacts on natural resources and vulnerable populations living in areas of interest to extractive industries. This will demand that Brazilian social movements and rights-based NGOs that follow the work of extractive industries build greater capacity to counter such effects and to establish clear accountability rules to oil and gas and mining companies. This movement could help PWYP members facing similar situations in their countries.