

1/Toyo-Thai Corporation Public Co., Ltd, Electric Power Department signs MoU

The New Light of Myanmar, Sunday 12 August 2012

Ministry of Electric Power No.2 and Toyo-Thai Corporation Public Co.,Ltd signed MoU on 11 August 2012 conducting feasibility study for a natural gas-fired and combined cycle power plant project to be built in Ahlon Township. The project will satisfy the need of the power demand in the coming summer.

2/Navy chief is named new Myanmar Vice President

Mizzima News

Wednesday, 15 August 2012

<http://www.mizzima.com/news/inside-burma/7762-navy-chief-is-new-burmese-vice-president.html>

The military representatives in Parliament, who make up 25 per cent of the seats, nominated Admiral Nyan Tun for the vacant Vice-President position at a joint session of Parliament, and confirmed as Vice-President. National Assembly Speaker U Khin Aung Myint announced the appointment of Admiral Nyan Tun during a legislative session in Nay Pyi Taw. Myanmar's Constitution provides for two vice presidents who have equal power. Dr.Sai Mauk Kham, who comes from the Shan ethnic minority, is the other Vice President.

3/Amended FDI bill to be approved this month

The Myanmar Times,

Volume 32, No. 630, August 13 - 19, 2012

A new draft of the Foreign Investment Law that would give greater protection to small and medium enterprises, while providing benefits and privileges for foreign investors, will be approved by Parliament in August 2012.

To protect Myanmar businesses, a clause that “small and medium sized industries, small and medium sized enterprises, cultivation and livestock breeding that locals are already undertaking, retail outlets and small and medium sized services are regarded as restricted or banned for the sake of the state and its citizens,” would potentially be added to Section Four of the Bill. Besides the ban on most investment in the retail and agriculture sectors, it is also unclear now the clause will be implemented in practice.

4/Newly independent Central Bank eyes monetary markets

The Myanmar Times

Volume 32, No. 637, July 30 - August 05, 2012

The Central Bank of Myanmar was granted independence from the Ministry for Finance and Revenue on 25 July 2012. The Central Bank is working to establish a capital market, build capacity within the banking network and facilitate the creation of international banking linkages. The bank is working with Daiwa to develop stock exchange market.

Central Bank signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Daiwa and the Tokyo Stock Exchange to establish a stock exchange market in Myanmar. The Central Bank would like private domestic banks to

form joint ventures with foreign counterparts, with subsidiary offices as a second step and full branch offices as the final step.

5/Visa on arrival for Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw

The Myanmar Times

Volume 32, No. 637, July 30 - August 05, 2012

Visa on arrival will soon also be available at Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw International Airports. The current visa on arrival system is available at Yangon International Airport to business travelers, conference and workshop attendees and transit visitors. The 70-day business visa costs US\$50, while a 28-day entry visa for meetings, workshops and events is \$40. A 24-hour transit visa costs \$20. Visitors must have a passport with at least six months validity from the date of entry into Myanmar and should also bring two recent (4cm x 6cm) color photos. Applicants must also have a letter of invitation from the sponsoring company for their first business visit to Myanmar. They must also produce copies of company registration, a business license or evidence of permission to do business issued by the ministries concerned if the applicant is working in Myanmar.

For entry visas, visitors must show a letter of invitation from the relevant ministry if they are going to attend a meeting, workshop, event or ceremony. Applicants are not allowed to engage in any sort of work with or without payment, outside the profession mentioned on the visa application form. Applicants also need to state the name and address of the hotel or guesthouse where they will stay for the duration of their visit.

Visitors who overstay not more than 90 days will be required to pay \$3 a day extra, while those who overstay more than 90 days will be required to pay \$5 for each day spent in the country with an expired visa.

6/Five int'l airlines prepare to start Myanmar routes

Mizzima News

Monday, 30 July 2012 15:13

More international airlines extend flights to Myanmar in October including Taiwan's EVA Air, South Korea's KAL, Japan's All Nippon Airways (ANA), Hong Kong-based Dragon Air and Qatar Airways.

ANA will offer a Narita-Yangon-Narita route three times a week and a chartered flight between Tokyo and Yangon. Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon- Hanoi-Tokyo route will also be launched using a Boeing 767. Qatar Airways, which had suspended flight since 2008, will resume flights between Doha and Yangon. Meanwhile, airlines from Germany and Bangladesh have approached Myanmar civil aviation authority about launching direct flights to Rangoon.

Flights between Yangon and Manila are also expected to be launched before the end of this year. Currently, there are 13 foreign airlines flying to Yangon: Air China, China Southern Airlines, China Eastern Airlines, Thai Airways International, Indian Airlines, Air Asia, Taiwan region's China Airlines, Singapore's Silk Air, Malaysian Airlines, Bangkok Airways, Jet Star Asia and Vietnam Airlines.

7/Committee to review Myanmar-Thai labour MoU

The Myanmar Times, Volume 32, No. 639

August 13 - 19, 2012

A memorandum of understanding on labour hiring, which was signed by Myanmar and Thailand in 2003 will be reviewed. The decision was made during a workshop conducted by the Overseas Employment Supervision Committee and the Administration Programme and Workers Protection and Care Committee in Yangon on 21 July 2012.

In addition to reviewing the agreement, other points of discussion included sending workers to Thailand and issuing visas and passports to the spouses and children of migrant workers. The agreement recognizes that Myanmar workers enter Thailand through unofficial routes to avoid the expense of crossing legally at border towns such as Tachileik, Myawaddy and Kawthoung.

Furthermore, employment agencies charge each migrant worker up to Kyats 800,000 (approximately 940 USD) to get documents to legally work in Thailand, but workers believe this figure is inflated because it costs just Kyats 20,000 (approximately 235 USD) to make the arrangements independently. Many problems that illegal migrant workers face could be resolved if the government engages in direct negotiations with the Thai business community.