
1/ Thailand and Myanmar agree to strengthen coordination on Dawei project

Mizzima News, Friday, 28 September 2012

<http://www.mizzima.com/business/8122-thailand-burma-agree-to-stronger-coordination-on-dawei-project.html>

Thailand and Myanmar agreed to put a high-level coordinating committee to expedite the Dawei SEZ project, following a meeting between Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and Myanmar President U Thein Sein on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly meeting in New York. The plan puts together a “three-level” group of key government officials from each country to speed-up the project.

The three-level comprises a joint committee chaired by the Myanmar Deputy President and Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Kittiratt Na-Ranong. The coordinating committee and six sub-committees regarding (1) infrastructure and construction, (2) focused industries and business development, (3) Power and Energy, (4) community development, (5) rules and regulations and (6) financing. The sub-committees will be headed by the relative ministers of each country. Thailand and Myanmar will announce the project plan during the Asean Summit in Cambodia this November 2012.

2/ US and EU ease sanctions on Myanmar

Source: U.S. Department of State <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2012/09/198280.htm>

European Union http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/131023.pdf

The Myanmar Times, Monday 24 September 2012

<http://www.mmtimes.com/index.php/business/1779-us-eases-sanctions-eu-mulls-trade-boost.html>

During the visit of President U Thein Sein to USA in September 2012, the US Government announced that it will take step in “normalizing” commercial relations with Myanmar. USA is starting the process of easing restrictions on import of Myanmar goods to USA, as the recognition of the continued progress toward reform and in response to requests from both the government and opposition.

On 15 June 2012, the EU announced that it hopes to be able to put forward a legislative proposal on the reinstatement of Myanmar to the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP). At the same time, EU also recalls that it has consistently called for responsible investment and bilateral trade as crucial elements for helping Myanmar recover and flourish.

The US is a very big market for garments. About 85 percent of all exports were garments when Myanmar exported to US in the past. The remaining was 15 percent of seafood and timber products. If the US lifts the import ban on Myanmar it would encourage business development in Myanmar. If the European Union reinstated trade preferences for Myanmar as part of the Global System of Preferences in place for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), it would make Myanmar’s exports highly competitive in European markets.

3/ Visa edges closer to re-entering Myanmar

The Myanmar Times, Monday 01 October 2012

<http://www.mmtimes.com/index.php/home-national-news/142-feature/1511-visa-edges-closer-to-re-entering-myanmar.html>

The global payments technology company Visa has plans for re-entering the Myanmar. VISA is reviewing 17 private banks for partnerships, and expects to re-establish its presence within Myanmar by early 2013. Potential partner institutions, including its officials, must not appear on the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List of targeted sanctions of the United States because they are the ones who give the guidelines.

4/ Government plans six new ports on Chindwin, Ayeyarwady rivers

The Myanmar Times, Monday 24 September 2012

<http://www.mmtimes.com/index.php/business/1766-government-plans-six-new-ports-on-chindwin-ayeyarwady.html>

The Ayeyarwady and Chindwin rivers are national waterways that cross the country and flow out to sea. Myanmar is embarking on a plan to facilitate speedier transport for people along the Ayeyarwady and Chindwin rivers by building six new ports. The government hoped that domestic and international investors would provide funding to build the new ports.

The four ports are planned along the Ayeyarwady River at (1)Sin Khan and (2)Mandalay which are in Mandalay Region and at (3) Pakokku and (4) Magwe which are in Magwe Region.