

1/ Hilton to go to Myanmar as tourism takes off

<http://blogs.ft.com/beyond-brics/2013/02/28/hilton-goes-to-myanmar-as-tourism-takes-off/#axzz2MDmRVbeo>

Hilton is planning to open its hotel branch in early 2014, under the management deal between Hilton Worldwide and the Thai-Myanmar joint venture that own the Centrepoint Towers. Currently there are about 8,000 rooms in Yangon. Hilton's entry to Yangon would help contribute to additional 1,500 hotel rooms by 2014. In 2012, it is the first time in history that around 1 million tourists visited Myanmar. 1.3 million tourists are expected to visit Myanmar in 2013, which inevitably increases the demand for hotel rooms.

Hilton would be the first US hotel chain to move into Myanmar after USA eased sanction in 2012.

2/ Foreign investment declined in 2012

www.eiu.com

Foreign direct investment in Myanmar declined in 2012, to 1.1 billion USD, from 8.5 billion USD in 2011. Reasons are:

- In 2012 more foreign firms invested in Myanmar, but in smaller projects than in 2011.
- FDI in 2012 is diversifying away from large energy and resource projects – the data in 2012 show much more balanced picture, i.e. in 2012, investment in oil and gas sector accounting for 34%, while almost accounted for 90% in 2011.
- Firms from a greater variety of countries are investing in Myanmar. In 2012, investment from China accounted for around 20%, while accounted for 90% in 2011.

3/ AIA to open in Myanmar

<http://www.mizzima.com/business/9001-aia-to-open-in-myanmar.html>

The American International Assurance (AIA) Group Ltd (AIA) planned to open a representative office in Myanmar this year, as it already received the approval.

In the past, Myanmar's insurance sector has been under the monopoly of state-owned Myanmar Insurance. Currently, 12 local private companies are given licenses to sell insurance products, which are expected to begin in mid 2013. Some of them are Japanese insurance companies.

4/ USAID Head will visit Myanmar

<http://www.irrawaddy.org/archives/28018>

Head of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) will visit Myanmar during 8-9 March 2013. The visit would strengthen a 170 Million USD US-Myanmar Partnership Programme, promoting the development, human rights, democracy and peace in Myanmar.

5/ Two new international Airports on the cards

Myanmar Business Today, 28 February-6 March 2013

Myanmar is planning to develop the two new international airports, namely the Hanthawaddy International Airport in Bago region and Dawei International Airport in Dawei. The existing Dawei domestic airport will be upgraded to international level within 3 years at a cost of 4 million USD.

6/ Banking reforms continues

www.eiu.com

Though not officially declared, it is anticipated that the Central Bank of Myanmar would likely allow foreign banks to establish joint venture in Myanmar, possibly as early as April.

The joint venture with local lenders may probably be permitted and the foreign partners would hold majority stakes of up to 80%. The proposed changes to Myanmar's banking laws would also allow foreign banks to apply at a later stage to open wholly owned subsidiaries and then full branches.

7/ Telekomunikasi Indonesia joins bid for Myanmar Market

<http://www.irrawaddy.org/archives/28097>

Telekomunikasi Indonesia, the largest telecommunication service provider in Indonesia, is participating in a tender to acquire a license for a mobile operation in Myanmar. Other prominent telecommunication companies that show interest in seeking the market in Myanmar are SingTel, Telenor, ST Telemedia and Bharti Airtel.

8/ Ford to sell cars and pickup trucks in Myanmar

<http://www.irrawaddy.org/archives/28105>

Ford Motor Co. has signed a deal to distribute cars and pickup trucks in Myanmar. Its first showroom in Yangon could be opened as early as May 2013.

Other American brands, e.g. PepsiCo, Coca-cola, GE, Caterpillar and Danish brewer Carlsberg have already signed distribution deals in Myanmar.

9/ India on the road to Myanmar

<http://www.mizzima.com/news/regional/8989-india-on-the-road-to-myanmar.html>

In pursuit of “Look East Policy”, India is keen to seek the assistance from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank to build road in the North Eastern States and connect them to Myanmar as part of the “India-Myanmar-Thailand” highway project. India is also implementing other connectivity project, which include an upgrade of the road that connects Indian town of Moreh to central Myanmar Ri-Tiddim road

10/ Myanmar timber to be exported to EU soon.

<http://www.mizzima.com/business/8982-myanmar-timber-to-be-exported-to-eu-by-june-say-exporters.html>

By June 2013, timber export to EU is most likely to be conducted and the signing agreement is going to be negotiated within March 2013. Nevertheless the conditions have to be met before products could be exported, e.g. the issuance of certificates guaranteeing protection against deforestation and sustainable administration of forestry.