

## 1/ Baht and Yuan to qualify for direct swap in Kyat

<http://www.irrawaddy.org/archives/30267>

From the end of March 2013, Baht and Yuan can be exchanged directly for Myanmar Kyat, in addition to the three currencies; namely USA, EURO and Singapore Dollar. The additional two currencies will be accepted by Myanmar Banks and official money changers.

## 2/ Myanmar's 13<sup>th</sup> border crossing boots trade prospects

<http://www.irrawaddy.org/archives/30267>

Myanmar would like to open the new border trade crossing with Thailand in April 2013. The new border crossing will be at Mawthaung in Tanintharyi region, southern part of Myanmar. Currently Myanmar share 12 border trade crossings, four with Thailand, four with China, two with India and two with Bangladesh.

## 3/ Indonesia to invest 80 million USD in Myanmar coal industry

<http://www.mizzima.com/business/9123-indonesia-to-burn-80-million-on-myanmar-coal.html>

The Bukit Asam, an Indonesia state-owned coal mining company, plans to invest 80 million USD in a mine-mouth coal-fired power plant in Myanmar, but it is not yet announced where the mine will be located. The project has expectedly a capacity of 2\*200 megawatts.

## 4/ Myanmar's Central Bank to issue monetary policy

<http://www.irrawaddy.org/archives/30748>

Central Bank of Myanmar is close to announce its monetary policy in April or May. Among of the policies, it may reportedly allow the foreign banks to set up joint ventures with the local banks, in order to operate their joint-business in Myanmar. Currently foreign banks are allowed the open their representative offices in Myanmar.

## 5/ Fast food invasion looms in Yangon

The Myanmar Time, 1-7 April 2013

South Korean fast food restaurant Lotteria plans to open an outlet at Junction square Center in Yangon in the second week of April. The newly formed MYKO (Myanmar–Korea) will serve as the master franchise for the brand Lotteria in Myanmar. It plans to open 25 restaurants by 2016, expanding from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw.

## 6/ Myanmar-Laos flights planned: airlines

Myanmar Times 25-31 March 2013

Lao Airline plans to offer flights to Myanmar in the coming season. It plans to operate Yangon-Laungprabang-Yangon flights in October.

## 7/ Nok on effect

<http://www.mizzima.com/business/investment/9160-nok-on-effect.html>

Nok Air plans to operate two new routes from Mae Sot district to Mawlanyein and to Yangon.

## 8/ Golden Myanmar to begin Singapore flights this week

The Myanmar Time, 1-7 April 2013

Golden Myanmar Airlines will launch its first international route in April, with daily flights from Mandalay and Yangon to Singapore, and its eyeing flight to Bangkok. On March 31 Myanmar Airways International (MAI) launched daily flights between Mandalay and Bangkok. Thai Smiles launched a Bangkok service with five flights a week. MAI also plans to operate thrice-weekly flights from Mandalay to Gaya in India in May.

## 9/ Farewell to oil and gas equipment license

<http://www.mizzima.com/business/natural-resources/9153-farewell-to-oil-and-gas-equipment-license.html>

Myanmar is easing the international trade policy. Currently, there are already 152 export products and 166 import products that are allowed to be exported and imported without license. Myanmar also included equipment which are used in oil and gas enterprises into that list.

## 10/ New tax system urged

The Myanmar Time, 25-31 March 2013

Myanmar parliament proposed that a new tax system for 2013-2014 fiscal year is needed to help the country develop. The new tax system would be transparent, easier and attractive for tax payers. Furthermore, negotiations over the new system will focus on how to use tax to fund the Government.

## 11/ Government meets on SIM cards

The Myanmar Time, 1-7 April 2013

Myanmar Government will distribute 350,000 low-cost SIM cards in April and will ensure there is no market monopoly. Regional Governments are responsible for controlling prices. Nevertheless, the date of sale and price of SIM card are still unrevealed. Rumours on the pricing have varied almost week-to-week, from 2,000 kyats to 5,000 kyats and less than 10,000 kyats.

## 12/ China, Thailand invest in Hydropower

The Myanmar Time, 25-31 March 2013

China and Thailand are interested in investing in hydropower project in Thanlwin river. There are 6 hydropower projects to be implemented in Thanlwin river. According to the source of Government,

Myanmar will not continue the projects if the investors won't conduct the SIA and EIA before implementing.

### **13/ Sales at Mandalay condo to open**

The Myanmar Time, 1-7 April 2013

Apartments in Mandalay's highest condominium project will go on sale in June. The project includes two 25-storey towers, each of which has 150 apartments of 2,000 square feet and located on 84<sup>th</sup> Str. In Zegyo market compound. The project is estimated at more than 74 million USD.