

1/ EU lifts sanction against Myanmar

<http://www.mizzima.com/business/sanctions/9244-myanmar-readies-for-eu-to-lift-sanctions.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-22254493>

EU Press Office, 22 April 2013

EU has lifted all sanctions against Myanmar, with the exception of arms embarg, in response to its political reform programme. However, in its statement, EU recognized that Myanmar has significant challenges to confront, including the protection of all minorities.

2/ Government restructures border trade department

Myanmar Business Today, April 25-May 1, 2013

The Department of Border Trade under the Ministry of Commerce has been reconstituted as the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and expanding its size and functions. The reconstruction is an effort to prepare the country for ASEAN Free Trade Agreements (AFTA).

3/ Nok Air to fly between Mon State and Mae Sot

Myanmar Business Today, April 25-May 1, 2013

Nok Air's commuter service, Nok Mini will start flying between Mon State and Mae Sot in Thailand, starting from 1 September 2013.

4/ Google launches Myanmar domain

Myanmar Business Today, April 25-May 1, 2013

Google Search has introduced Myanmar language support by launching its search engine in Myanmar domain.

5/ Myanmar banking industry opens up for business

Myanmar Business Today, April 25-May 1, 2013

While foreign investment rises, banking sector, that previously was underdeveloped, is under rapid reform by the Government. There are already more than 20 representative offices of foreign banks and it is expected that the Government would most likely enact the law that permit the joint venture between local banks and foreign banks. Most recently, in February 2013, USA has granted the general licenses to 4 Myanmar major banks, i.e. Myanma Economic Bank, Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank, Ayeyarwady Bank and Asia Green Development Bank, which give them the access to the US financial system. Though, IMF urges that financial reforms must be complemented by strengthened supervision and regulations.

6/ Bosch opens representative office in Myanmar

Myanmar Business Today, April 25-May 1, 2013

Germany based Bosch, a leading global supplier of technology and service, opens its representative office in Yangon. The company is currently seeking for local partner to initiate corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes.

7/ MIC approves toll road projects

Myanmar Business Today, April 25-May 1, 2013

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) has permitted three companies, namely Virtue Land (New Strand toll road in Yangon), Soe Lwin Aung Construction (road links Shwe Nyanung and Lawksawk in southern Shan) and First Golden Dragon Construction (road in Kachin State) to build toll roads on a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis.

8/ Private insurers to begin operation in Myanmar

Myanmar Business Today, April 25-May 1, 2013

12 Private insurance companies will begin operation by June 2013. Myanmar government allows different categories of insurance such as credit guarantees and health insurance, but limits life insurance and general insurance.

9/ Fuji Xerox establishes business operation in Myanmar

Myanmar Business Today, April 25-May 1, 2013

Fuji Xerox opened its Myanmar branch on 1 April 2013 in Yangon.

10/ Government to appoint economic attaché in trading partner countries

Myanmar Business Today, April 25-May 1, 2013

Myanmar is planning to appoint economic attaché in its trading partner countries in a bid to boost its trade with the international community.

11/ PT Semen to set up 200 million USD cement plant in Myanmar

Myanmar Business Today, April 25-May 1, 2013

Indonesia's largest cement producer, PT Semen, will build a 200 million USD cement plant in Myanmar as early as 2014. The new plant will serve Myanmar market and its neighbouring countries like Thailand and Bangladesh.

12/ JICA to help Central Bank develop cloud computing

Myanmar Business Today, April 25-May 1, 2013

JICA, in cooperation with Daiwa Securities, Fujitsu and KDDI Corp. will develop a cloud computing platform of the Central Bank of Myanmar. The platform is expected to be completed by 2015.