**Government’s Policy**

1/ Yangon to make 5-year plan for transport, electricity and water


Yangon regional government is planning to draft a five-year plan to improve transportation, electricity and water supply. The plan covers electricity and water supply projects that have been planned by Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

2/ Foreign investment in private healthcare limited to 70%

http://elevenmyanmar.com/politics/3145-foreign-investment-in-private-healthcare-limited-to-70pct

Foreign companies will be allowed to invest in private hospitals and clinics on a 70:30 ratio with local partners.

**Trade and Investment**

3/ Myanmar prepares new hotels ahead of SEA Games


As the 27th the SEA Games will be held in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay and Ngwe Saung beach, Myanmar is implementing the plan increasing the accommodation capacity during the event. 53 hotels with 4,286 rooms will be available for guests and sport fans. Currently more hotels are under construction in Nay Pyi Taw.

4/ Visa bank on Myanmar

http://www.mizzima.com/business/trade/9874-visa-banks-on-myanmar

Visa International expected the number of Myanmar merchants accepting its credit card would climb to between 5,000-6,000 in 3-5 years. At present about 100 local merchants have installed electronic data capture devices, with another 100 ATMs accepting Visa cards.

5/ Myanmar's garments exports make record earning


Myanmar’s garment exports made record earnings in the first quarter of 2013. The exports have made over 256 million USD in the period from January to March 2013, almost a double from the same period of last year. Previously Japan and South Korea have made most orders. After Myanmar has been reinstated GSP from EU, the orders from EU and USA is increasing.

6/ Manufacturing sector receiving the most domestic investment

ThuraSwiss Newsletter, 22 August 2013

Myanmar’s manufacturing sector received record high domestic investments in 2013, which accounts for 18% of total domestic investment. Manufacture of garments, pharmaceutical products, construction
materials, consumer materials, consumer goods, food and beverages, and cars stand at the top of the list of manufacturing businesses.

7/ Itochu Corporation to build Yangon-Thilawa bridge
   http://elevenmyanmar.com/business/3149-itochu-corporation-to-build-yangon-thilawa-bridg

Japan based Itochu will build a Yangon-Thilawa bridge as part of the Thilawa SEZ. The bridge will cross the Bago river connecting Thilawa industrial area with central Yangon.

International Relations

8/ Chinese bank to provide 100 million USD loan to Myanmar

The Export-Import Bank of China has made an agreement to loan 100 million USD to Myanmar at an interest rate of 4.5% per annum. Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank will be the borrower and the Ministry of Co-operatives would use the loan. Loan will be settled within 10 years.

9/ ADB to provide 225,000 USD for development strategies

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide 225,000 USD in order to facilitate participation of civil societies in Myanmar. ADB will invite civil societies to collaborate in drafting and discussions on development strategies which are supported by ADB.

10/ WTO to help improve Myanmar’s trade sector
    ThuraSwiss Newsletter, 22 August 2013

The Ministry of Commerce of Myanmar is in discussion with WTO over the “Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF)”. As system which helps least-developed countries (LDCs) play a more active role in global trading system.