

Government's Policy

1/ Ministry considering possible changes to alcohol import rules

ThuraSwiss Newsletter 26.12.2013

The Ministry of Commerce is reviewing its alcohol import policies, which currently impose heavy restrictions on the import of foreign alcohol. Under current legislation, only hotels and duty free shops are permitted to import alcohol and tobacco.

Trade and Investment

2/ Yoma and Sumitomo partner up

The Myanmar Times, 23-29 December 2013

Yoma Strategic Holdings has entered into a proposed joint venture with Japan's Sumitomo Corporation to distribute Hino trucks in Myanmar.

3/ Panasonic to distribute solar lanterns in Myanmar

<http://elevenmyanmar.com/business/4563-panasonic-to-distribute-solar-lanterns-in-myanmar>

Distribution of the lanterns is aimed at providing off-grid energy solutions to areas with limited electricity in Myanmar. They will be sold at a price around 50,000 kyats in supermarkets across Myanmar.

4/ Myanmar's border trade with China increases

ThuraSwiss Newsletter 26.12.2013

Border trade between Thailand and Myanmar has increased three-fold from 897 million USD last year to 2.88 billion USD in the current fiscal year. The large increase in trade volume is due to the Government's measure to curb illegal border trade and the increased trading activities.

5/ Ooredoo Myanmar plans to launch 3G services nationwide as soon as next year

ThuraSwiss Newsletter 26.12.2013

Ooredoo has appointed Nokia Solutions and Networks as its authorized supplier to source radio and core equipment for the development of its advanced mobile broadband services.

6/ Shangri-La spends 115 million on new hotel

The Myanmar Times, 16-20 December 2013

Hong Kong's based Shangri-La International Hotel Management has announced an investment of 115 million USD to build a 350-room lake Lakeside Shangri-La hotel near Kandawgyi lake. The hotel, which will be located near the Shangri-La residences that were opened recently, will be the second, after Traders Hotel, to be operated in Yangon by Shangri-La. The second phase of the Hotel would be finished by 2016.

7/ Two Myanmar coffee creamers get green light from consumer protection group

<http://www.irrawaddy.org/business/two-burmese-coffee-creamers-get-green-light-consumer-protection-group.html>

The Consumer Protection Association (CPA) announced last month that it suspected some brands contained an inedible by-product of palm oil production. After sending samples to the laboratories in Thailand and Myanmar, they found that two local brands, namely Premier and Pep creamers, contained none dangerous ingredients.

8/ 1,300 cc car engines still in high demand

<http://elevenmyanmar.com/business/4560-1-300cc-car-engines-still-in-high-demand-despite-drop-in-1-500cc-price-dealers-say>

Car dealers predict that strong demand for 1,300 cc-engine cars will continue although the CIF rates for cars with 1,500 cc engines are set to decrease next year, while the CIF rates for cars with 1,300cc engines remains the same.

International Relations

9/ ADB to loan 60 million USD to improve energy sector

The Myanmar's Times, 23-29 December 2013

Nearly one-fifth of electrical power is lost before it reaches consumers because of ageing infrastructure. ADB will provide 60 million USD loan to Myanmar to improve the electricity distribution.

10/ Exim Bank of Korea enters Myanmar

ThuraSwiss Newsletter 26.12.2013

Export-Import Bank of Korea has get the approval from Myanmar Government to open its representative office in Myanmar.