

Government's Policy

1/ President announces K. 140 billion infrastructure plan for Kachin State

Myanma Freedom Daily, 20 March 2014

President U Thein Sein announced that the Myanmar government will allocate K 140 billion (USD 145 million) to upgrade roads in Kachin State. Lagging far behind most other provinces in Myanmar, the Government intends to promote development of the State, as part of national economic reforms and nation-building endeavours, by upgrading roads for safer and better transportation to boost investment and facilitate the boom of ecotourism in the area.

Trade and Investment

2/ Singapore Consortium Wins USD 2.5 Million Kyaukphyu SEZ Consultancy Deal

Myanmar Business Today, 13 – 19 March 2014

Singapore-based consortium Creative Professional Group (CPG) has won tender bid to get selected as the consultant firm for the Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone (SEZ). CPG came out on top out of a total 17 companies that bid for the tender worth USD 2.5 million. CPG will receive 5 % of the USD 277 million estimated expenditure for the 1,000-acre Kyaukphyu SEZ. CPG will provide consultancy services regarding land issues, deep sea port construction, finance and project programmes and calling tenders to recruit the SEZ developer.

3/ Telenor Officially Opens Myanmar HQ

Myanmar Business Today, 13 – 19 March 2014

After winning telecom license bid in Myanmar last year, Norwegian Telenor has officially opened its HQ on Industrial Road, Yangon, underscoring the firm's commitment to be a long-term investor to Myanmar and contribute to its economic development. Telenor plans to recruit 1,000 employees by the end of 2014 and will also open Telenor Myanmar Academy, a centre for professional development programmes for the firm's employees.

4/ Marubeni Corp to Form Myanmar JV for Corrugated Container Business

Myanmar Business Today, 13 – 19 March 2014

A subsidiary of Japanese conglomerate Marubeni Corp will form a joint venture to start a corrugated container business, manufacturing and selling high-quality sheet and box, in Yangon's Mingaladon Industrial Park. Malaysia-based GS Paper & Packaging Sdn Bhd (GSPP), where Marubeni holds 25 % and Oji Holdings Corp 75 % stake, will invest as a major stakeholder along with a Myanmar partner and will start operating in April 2015.

5/ Further delays in building the new Hanthawaddy airport

The Myanmar Times, 17 – 23 March 2014

As negotiations between South Korea's Incheon Airport consortium and Myanmar Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) to build the new Hanthawaddy airport are not moving forward and completion date of December 2016 cannot be met, the DCA is asking the original four consortiums (South Korea's Incheon Airport, Singapore's consortiums of Changi Airport Planners and Yongnam Holdings Ltd, consortiums from France's Vinci, and Japan's Taisei airports) to re-enter the bidding with their financial proposals. The new submission deadline is 22 April 2014.

6/ Myanmar earns over USD 1.1 billion from garment export

Myanmar Business Today, 13 – 19 March 2014

Myanmar earned more than USD 1 billion in 2013 from garment exports due to EU's restoration of Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) trading privileges. Garment exports in Myanmar are expected to reach USD 1.5 billion in 2014.

International Relations

7/ JICA to help Myanmar Government modernize Customs Department

Myanmar Business Today, 13 – 19 March 2014

The Myanmar Customs Department under the Ministry of Finance and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) are going to implement a technical cooperation project in a bid to modernize Myanmar's customs and introduce an automated cargo clearance system, with an expected rise in Myanmar trade with its international partners. The 4-year project will also involve training Myanmar officials by JICA experts.

8/ MoU on Sustainable Development of Mineral Resources in Myanmar signed with Finland

New Light of Myanmar, 18 March 2014

Myanmar's Ministry of Mines and the Department of Geology of Finland have signed an MoU on Sustainable Development of Mineral Resources in Myanmar. The MoU will lead to Finland's assistance for Myanmar's mines sector.

9/ Taiwan aims to boost trade with Myanmar

Myanmar Business Today, 13 – 19 March 2013

Through the Taiwan Trade Centre (TTC) in Yangon, Taiwan is exploring business opportunities to boost trade with Myanmar. Taiwanese entrepreneurs are looking into textiles and electronics among other

businesses. Recently, TTC organized a business matching for a delegation comprising 30 Taiwanese suppliers of various industries which was attended by more than 200 local companies.

10/ US may grant GSP on 5,000 Myanmar products soon

Myanmar Business Today, 13 – 19 March 2014

According to Maung Maung Lay, Vice Chairman of the Federation of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry, US may grant GSP trading privileges on about 5,000 Myanmar products in April or May 2014. Marine products, pulses, beans, gems and handicrafts will be on the top of these 5,000 items.
