

Government's Policy

1) Minister says car import policy will not change

Myanmar Business Today: 12-18 May 2014

Myanmar's Minister of Commerce, U Win Myint, says that the government will not consider any more changes to its car import policy. More than 300,000 new vehicles have been imported since the car import rules were changed in late 2011. Vehicles that valued at USD 100,000 just a few years ago fetch just a quarter of that figure and this has enabled many people to become car owners.

Trade and Investment

2) Myanmar's Fish Export Falls

The Myanmar Times: 12-18 May 2014

Fishery exports have failed to pick up so far this year after falling by more than expected in the last fiscal year. Poor weather, lack of equipment and shuttered fish farms have led to year-on-year decline of fish well and reduces production leading to USD 100 million decline in exports even though consumer interest rises. China and Thailand are major markets of Myanmar's fishery products while there are some orders from Middle East and United States firms in recent years.

3) Central Bank notes caution on foreign banks

The Myanmar Times: 12-18 May 2014

U Set Aung, Vice Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, declines to confirm plans to allow foreign banks to begin operation in 2014. 35 foreign banks, including Standard Chartered, ANZ and Bangkok Bank, have established their rep offices in Myanmar though they are limited to operate a few numbers of operations. U Set Aung said the Central Bank was keen to ensure the local banks are not simply outcompeted by foreign banks.

4) Tun Foundation Bank upgrades online systems

The Myanmar Times: 12-18 May 2014

Privately-owned Tun Foundation Bank, founded in 1994 and is currently operating branch network throughout Myanmar, will work with Oracle's state of the art Flexcube Core Banking system to start providing internet, smartphone and SMS banking services. This will allow customers to use the bank's services 24-hour and 7-day-a-week throughout the country.

5) Mercedes expands its market to Myanmar

[The Myanmar Times: 12-18 May 2014](#)

German automaker Mercedes-Benz has opened its showroom in Yangon. Myanmar customers can now enjoy the same service which is provided to international customers. Myanmar's restriction on car import became more relaxed since 2011. Currently there are different branded cars such as Ford, BMW and Mercedes vying the Myanmar market share against the used Japanese vehicles.

6) Ooredoo's success on 3G network

[The Myanmar Times: 12-18 May 2014](#)

Ooredoo has successfully tested the first mobile call to and from their network. Ooredoo CEO, Ross Cormack, emphasizes the importance of collaboration between the operators to enable total connectivity and choice for customers, and hopes for progress in connecting their network with that of the existing MPT (Myanmar Post and Telecommunication) network in the near future. Ooredoo is rolling out a 3G network to provide users with improved data and fast internet services in Myanmar.

7) Semen Indonesia has agreed to buy Myanmar Cement Maker

[Myanmar Business Today, 12- 18 May 2014](#)

Indonesia's largest cement producer PT Semen Indonesia Tbk has agreed to buy a minority stake in Myanmar based cement maker this year. PT Semen Indonesia will enter with minority control, starting with 30 percent ownership worth USD 30 million. Semen Indonesia, also known as Semen Gresik, announced last year that it plans to spend up to USD 200 million on an acquisition in Myanmar.

International Relations

8) Myanmar and Indonesia Eye Better Trade and Tourism through Visa Deal

[Myanmar Business Today: 12-18 May 2014](#)

Myanmar and Indonesia have signed an agreement on visa exemption, for ordinary passport holders, to boost tourism and trade. The agreement is vital for both countries and boosts connectivity among ASEAN countries and regional tourism. This marks a further step towards an ASEAN Common Visa by 2015, as stipulated in the ASEAN Framework Agreement on visa Exemption signed in Kuala Lumpur, 2006.

9) Yangon's urban transportation plan discussed

New Light of Myanmar, 12-18 May 2014

Ministry of Rail Transportation and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have held a seminar discussing about improvement of Yangon Urban Transport Plan of the Greater Yangon (YUTRA). Modern Yangon urban transport will use of BRT, LRT and MRT systems. A total of 29 short-term plans will be implemented in 2018, 23 medium-term plans in 2025 and 17 long term plans in 2035.
