

Government Policy

1) [Energy Minister urges to ensure reform plan](#)

[The New Light of Myanmar: 23 July 2014](#)

U Zeyar Aung, Union Minister for the Ministry of Energy, discussed the development of reform plan and future strategies in energy sector at a national level meeting on July 22 in Nay Pyi Taw. He said the ministry needs to review and preview the projects and to focus on the direction of Public Private Partnership (PPP) reform plan as some businesses under Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise have been operating in joint-venture.

Trade and Investment

2) [SCG to invest USD 400 Million in Mawlamyine Cement Plant](#)

[Myanmar Business Today: 31 July – 6 August 2014](#)

Thailand's largest cement plant, Siam Cement Group (SCG), is investing USD 400 million to build its first cement plant in Mawlamyine, 300 kilometers southeast of Yangon. The plant is expected to start operation in the mid-2016 with production capacity of 1.8 million tons per year, said the firm. SCG has sold and exported its product to Myanmar for more than 20 years. It earned USD 200 million in 2012-2013 FY.

3) [Japan eyes Myanmar for raw rubber](#)

[Myanmar Business Today: July 24-30, 2014](#)

According to an agreement between the Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association and Japanese manufacturers, Japan will provide technology to produce high-quality rubber in Yangon, Bago and Mon regions in return for exports. Japanese tyre production needs between 700,000 and 800,000 tons of rubber a year.

4) [China remains top FDI contributor](#)

[Myanmar Business Today: July 24-30 2014](#)

China continues to be the leading foreign investor in Myanmar with more than USD 14 million of cumulative investment as of the end of June, according to Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). Total foreign investment is more than USD 46.71 billion in 12 sectors of which energy sector is about 46% of the total investment. Thailand is the second largest foreign investor in the country.

5) [Trade Deficit USD 2.08 Billion in 2013-2014 Second H2](#)

[Myanmar Business Today: July 24-30, 2014](#)

Myanmar recorded trade deficit of USD 2.08 billion in the second half of 2013-2014 FY, said Daw Le Le Thein, deputy minister for national planning and economic development. She said that export earned USD 5.93 billion and import volume reached USD 8.01 billion during this period.

6) Vietnam's Biggest Pharmaceutical Company to invest USD 4.3 million in Myanmar

Myanmar Business Today: July 24-30, 2014

DHG Pharmaceutical JSC, Vietnam's largest drug maker by market value, said they are negotiating with a Myanmar company to start a joint venture. They may invest USD 4.3 million to make pharmaceutical products similar to those they sell in Vietnam. Construction of the factory may begin next year if agreement are reached and approved, said Pham Thi Viet Nga, Chief Executive Officer.

7) HSL Group JV Co., Ltd, Chinese Co., sign MoU

New Light of Myanmar: 21 July 2014

Dr.Khin Maung Aye, chairman of HSL Group JV Co., Ltd and Mr. Xu Xiajin, South East Asia CEO of China State Construction Engineer Corporation Ltd, signed a MoU on construction of Polo Club (Asia) Hotel and Residence Project on July 20, 2014 at Sedona Hotel in Yangon.

8) Thailand and Myanmar to promote footwear industries and business in Myanmar

New Light of Myanmar: 25 July 2014

Thailand and Myanmar Business Network meeting was held at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon on July 24, 2014 to promote economic cooperation and the footwear industry. According to statistics by the Thai Ministry of Commerce, trade value between Myanmar and Thailand for the period of 2010-2013 had been increasing continuously, from about USD 4.886 billion in 2010 to USD 7.821 billion in 2013.

9) Implementation of pilot project for Dawei SEZ discussed

New Light of Myanmar: 24 July 2014

Myanmar and Japanese companies held a meeting on pilot projects for the implementation of the Dawei Special Economic Zone at the Ministry of Transport in Nay Pyi Taw on July 23, 2014. Roland Berger Company explained preparation for the pilot projects and compilation of terms of reference to invite tender for the pilot project.

International Relations

10) Myanmar, Indonesia eye closer cooperation

The New Light of Myanmar: 23 July 2014

Lt-General Ko Ko, Union Minister for Home Affairs held talks with Dr. Ito Sumardi, Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar, on 22 July. They held comprehensive discussion on enhancement of cooperation between the two nations.

11) Myanmar, ROK sign framework agreement on providing Economic Development Cooperation Fund

The New Light of Myanmar: 25 July 2014

Dr. Lei Lei Thein, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development and Mr. Lee Baek-Soon, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar, signed a framework agreement on providing Economic Development Cooperation Fund-EDCF on 24th July. Under the agreement Republic of Korea will disburse USD 500 million in loans with low interest rate to Myanmar.
