

Myanmar Seeks Greater Variety in Foreign Direct Investment

During the outgoing civilian government's term, foreign investment in oil and gas sector decreased, while FDI inflow in the production, transportation and telecommunication sectors increased, according to officials. There was no foreign investment for oil and gas sector in 2013–14, but more than \$247 million in foreign investment came in 2011–12, \$309 million in 2012–13 and \$3.2 billion in 2014–15. "We may assume that the amount of the foreign investments in oil and gas have increased by looking at these figures. However, starting from 1988 to 2012, in the era before this government, the oil and gas sector accounted for 33 percent of all total foreign invested sectors and it has fallen to 26 percent now," Dr Malar Myo Nyunt, director from Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), said. Zayar Nyein To permit foreign investment in Myanmar, investments in the production sector, infrastructure building projects and agriculture sector are preferred in order to create more job opportunities for local people, she added.

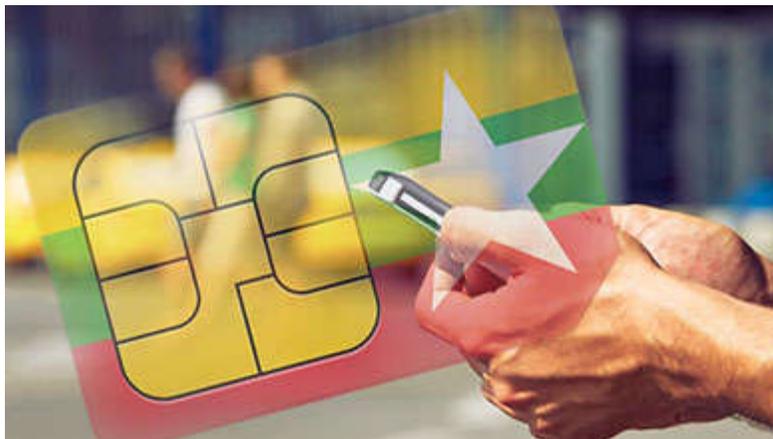
"Foreign investment in the production sector accounted for 11 percent of total foreign investments in the past, but now that figure has increased to 26 percent. Also, investment in transportation and telecommunications has increased from 4 percent to 8 percent respectively," Dr Malar Myo Nyunt said. Between 1988 and now, there were no policies detailing how to promote investment in each sector but rather, they just allowed any kind of investment that came into the country. Therefore, investment in the oil and gas sector was counted as the most in total investments in the past, U Than Soe, an economist and writer analyzed.

"We need more foreign investments in the agriculture sector in order to produce more agriculture products and export them to international markets. Also, we need more foreign investment in our infrastructure," U Than Soe said. Increasing foreign investments in the production sector is good for the industrial zone and Myanmar still needs more investment to come to build large factories, U Myat Thin Aung, chairman of Hlaing Tharyar Industrial Zone, said.

"The country's policies are still not good. Most investment comes in the form of garment factories which only need a small amount of investment and space to operate. Major foreign investments for big production factories are yet to come," U Myat Thin Aung said. For the 2015–15 fiscal year through January 1, the agriculture products exports was valued at more than \$1.8 billion. Exports of natural gas and finished products, which mostly consist of garment products, were valued at approximately \$4.3 billion, according to figures from the Ministry of Commerce.

Fourth Telecom to be unveiled this month

The fourth telecommunications operator will be revealed this month, according to a local report quoting an official from the telecoms ministry. Chit Wai, Deputy permanent secretary of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, said the foreign partner will be selected from seven applicants and that “we are finalizing the process and will issue the license this month.” The fourth operator – after state-owned Myanma Posts and Telecommunications, Ooredoo and Telenor– will operate as a joint-venture between a foreign provider and a domestic public company formed by 11 companies. The seven companies were revealed as Singapore’s Singtel, Vietnam’s Viettel, China Telecom, France Free, South Africa’s MTN, 1COM from Hongkong and Beijing-based Xinwei. Meanwhile, MPT has said it plans to expand its 3G mobile coverage to 90 per cent of the country’s population by the end of February, with an additional five per cent of coverage area in March.



\$2.8-b Mon Coal-fired Power Plant Suspended

The 1,280-MW Anndin coal-fired power plant project in Ye township, Mon state, has been suspended following protests by local residents. The environmental and social impact assessments (EIA/SIA) of the project have also been postponed and will only start if the local residents agree to the project, U Aung Than Oo, deputy minister for electric power, told a recent parliament meeting. The project has faced vehement local opposition since May 2015 as locals fear that the plant would destroy the environment and adversely impact the local communities' livelihoods such as fishing and farming. Also almost all the generated electricity are planned to be exported to neighbouring Thailand, rendering minimal benefit for the local communities. "We couldn't start the power plant project because the locals are protesting against it," Mon State Minister for Electric Power U Min Nwe Soe told Myanmar Business Today.

In April last year, Thailand-based procurement and construction firm Toyo-Thai Corporation (TTCL) signed an agreement with the government to develop two units of 640-megawatt coal-fired power plant, with a total investment of \$2.8 billion. The construction was expected to start in January this year. TTCL initially wanted to build the plant in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone near Yangon, however, the company failed to secure the required land from the Yangon regional government. Later on, the project was moved to Anndin village in southern Myanmar while a local trading firm Win Yaung Chi Oo was added as a partner to the project, U Min Nwe Soe said. U Min Nwe Soe said the project has yet to receive the final nod from the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC), which authorizes foreign-invested projects. He said some groups are deliberately trying to sabotage the project. "Some people and organisations are honestly helping the locals to make their demands and organise protests, but some political parties are trying to use this case as a political weapon," he said. Myanmar aims to achieve universal access to electricity by 2030, according to the Electricity Master Plan adopted in 2013. Currently, only one third of the country's population have access to electricity.

Myanmar's projected robust economic growth would mean that the country will have to add 800-1,000 megawatts of electricity to the national grid every year. Myanmar's annual electricity consumption, which currently totals 4,400MW, rate is expected to increase by 13 percent every year until 2030. The government aims to produce 23,594 MQ by the fiscal year 2030-31 to meet the rising power demands.

Coal is seen as a dirty, but cheap source of energy to fulfil this huge demand. In 2011, hydropower comprised 74 percent of Myanmar's total electricity supply, gas 21 percent and coal 3 percent. By 2030, the government wants about one third of the total electricity supply to come from coal, over 37 percent from hydro, 20 percent from gas and about 9 percent from renewables. "It is right that our country will need to generate a lot of electricity. However, it is not possible to get clean energy from coal-fired power plants. These plants are harmful for the environment and it is also hard to manage coal waste," U Saw Moe Myint, a geologist and newly-elected MP from the National League of Democracy (NLD) party, said. "We have to quickly shift to renewable energy sources such as solar and wind," he added.

Deduction as a problem



When our majority Myanmar faced incidents murmuring as problem. Really outlooked countered difficulties and challenges as problems may lead to negative sign and as reactions, prompt decision, decision without definite study, fearness, give up, run away proceed to do any matter, trying to cover, looking for other to blame, does not try to solve the problem as responsible person etc, will be attained as negative results. Sometimes undesirable matter as to use axe instead of nail, or by ignorance it may face the problem become worse as spire got fire from wastes.

Fortunately, I, myself, got chances to do work together with international professionals and Expatriates; I was learned professional business ethics and habits from them. The most interesting thing is whenever they faced any difficulties or problems they react and face treating as challenges or opportunities. Therefore I was learnt the facts, to consider calmly for good answers, discussing possible answers (options), discussing only forwarding problem and not personal affairs, while

looking for existing problem simultaneously prepare do and don'ts for similar problems in future. Like these manner and positive reactions we can face today's problems and challenges in the world. For example, as others know, "there is only half water in the glass" and "there is even half water in the glass", the reaction will be changed according to conclusion.

Every dutiful leader should be followed is instead of submerging under problems in the past and wasting time, to prepare the best for today and future by learning good lessons in the past. Since our country suffered defects and too late in every sector is not deniable; if and only if leaders in every classes must work with positive sight to relay heritages for next generations. Not only ourselves as crying "I'm Myanmar, like moon light shining in the bamboo cavity," it will be look correctly among countries.

We, parents, whenever face a problem should practice to see as challenges and opportunities instead of reacting as a problem, so that our children will survive in ever developing and changing era.

By Practicing to consider problems negative deduction to as challenges or positive deduction will lead to a good practice or a good manner.

Rules of conduct for meetings that professionals should know as business relationships

Many staffs reluctant to face meeting in workplace. But to overcome meeting hours, he should think with optimism, as time for good chances. Then it is important to deal with his boss, colleagues, prospect clients respectively and to show image with professional manner.

1. **Be Punctual**

This is a matter every professionals should know. It is necessary to reach meeting in time, without wasting other's time.

2. **Talk attendants before Meeting**

If there are unknown persons in the meeting, do self introduction. Should talk with colleagues before meeting starting time. Interact many persons will become good opportunities.

3. **Make Pre-Preparation**

If you have enough preparations, every matter you should discuss or should answer will be easily explained.

4. **To have evident matters**

If you are able to lead the meeting, you should list major facts, not to remain talking in the meeting.

5. **Avoid to speak with high tone**

Some talks loudly in meeting to hear everyone. It is a false matter; no one like loud voice, unless necessary. Talking gently and wisely can show self professionalism. Only talk necessary words and avoid repetitions.

6. **Self take part and discuss**

If you could not take part in the meeting in person before, it is difficult for you to talk you own opinion in the meeting. But not only taking but also explaining good and right opinions, will make other persons to notice you. If you are not only sitting in the meeting, you should take part in the discussion. Avoid interruptions to have a productive meeting.

7. **Never place your phone outside**

Phones on the tables of meeting room may cause inconvenience other attendants. Therefore it is better to put in pockets and setting sound off. If there is important matter, receive and talk at the outside of the room; it is better and professional.

8. **Avoid eating in the meeting room**

Although you should drink coffee, water etc, should avoid eating due to uneven odors. But if you have to eat with necessity, you should ask permission of meeting members first.

9. **Do not raise questions at the last moments of the meeting**

You should ask questions at suitable times. But if you raise questions at the last moments of the meeting, nearly to end; will effect to feel your colleagues who are ready to leave. Also you may dislike this situation.



CENTRAL BANK OF MYANMAR

Reference Exchange Rate

17-02-2016

Country	Currency	Value	Rate
United State Dollar	USD	1/-=K	1,232.0
Euro	EUR	1/-=K	1,370.8
Singapore Dollar	SGD	1/-=K	876.12
Pound Sterling	GBP	1/-=K	1,760.4
Swiss Franc	CHF	1/-=K	1,244.8
Japanese Yen	JPY	100/-=K	1,077.8
Australian Dollar	AUD	1/-=K	876.37
Bangladesh Taka	BDT	1/-=K	15.693
Brazilian Real	BRL	1/-=K	306.52
Brunei Dollar	BND	1/-=K	875.50

Gold Price Today



World Gold - 1208 USD/Oz
 Myanmar Gold - 793,500 Kyats