

Thura NewsViews

Politics

■ Bagan succeeds in joining UNESCO list

Bagan, an archeological zone and one of Myanmar’s major tourist attractions, has eventually managed to be inscribed in the prestigious UNESCO’s World Heritage List. The temple-city’ authorities put a bid for Bagan in 1995 already, which was rejected due to the lack of proper restoration efforts. The UNESCO award suggests that the government has heeded recommendations. Additionally, it also demonstrates that some significant renovation work have been carried out and that Bagan has met some strict conservation targets.

This is a major victory for the country in more than one way. It pays tributes to the country’s historical heritage and could raise global awareness about Bagan’s majesty. Hence, the government could harvest the benefits of increased international support to uphold local conservation efforts. The city could tap into international expert advice from the World Heritage Committee for instance. Furthermore, Bagan will now be in a position to receive additional financial support from abroad and greater revenue from tourism. As a matter of example, Lao’s Luang Prabang underwent a surge in the number of tourists since it made it to the list in 1995. The recognition is also a mean to improve the country’s image abroad, which is currently facing substantial criti-

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July Highlights

After opening its fifth outlet in Sagaing Region, Shwebo Rice Trading Center is planning to go public.

KB Kookmin Bank of South Korea is interested in expanding its presence in Myanmar with services for housing and SME.

Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH) is planning to build a mall in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone in the south of Yangon.

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Companies & Investments

Hot news regarding investments in Myanmar



Yangon to receive much needed new bus stops

Jul 12, 2018
U Maung Aung, secretary of the Yangon Region Transport Authority, stated this week that FMIDecaux ha



Hello Communications to build train station along Yangon Circular Railway

Jul 12, 2018
Through a joint venture with a local firm, Hello Communications will commence its work at Thamine st

Upcoming Events

- Myanmar Blockchain Forum 2018
July 14, 2018
- Myanmar Supply Chain Summit
August 29, 2018
- Health & Humanitarian Supply Chain Forum
August 30, 2018
- Myanmar Global Investment Forum
September 11, 2018 - September 12, 2018
- Myanmar Connect 2018
September 18, 2018 - September 19, 2018

More Events
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Highlights

Trade with the Netherlands exceeds USD 61 million
July 12, 2018
Bilateral trade with the Netherlands reached USD 61.98 million in two months according to the ...

cism mostly due to the ongoing Rakhine issue. Therefore, the world heritage listing helps to place greater emphasis on Myanmar’s role as a responsible member of the international community.

Economy

- ### Joint-venture model fuels financial liberalization

Myanmar’s insurance sector joint-ventures (JVs) constitute a powerful mean to liberalize the market. Last April, the Ministry of Planning and Finance (MoPF) granted five foreign insurance providers the provisional right to be registered as a 100% foreign-owned life insurance subsidiary in Myanmar. Conditions are strict though. Firms must supply the minimum capital required under the Myanmar Insurance Business Law. They also need to obtain the green light from the Insurance Business Regulatory Board.

Therefore, the JV model could have a significant impact in the short term. Every insurance provider that did not make it to the list could opt for a JV model and may hold up to 35 percent of the partnership. This would significantly strengthen competition among market-participants, which would improve product quality and distribution for customers. Besides, foreign insurers are expected to bring over some skills and technical knowledge. They are likely to bring more advanced data-collection methods and provide some training to local talent for instance. On the flip side, foreign firms will be able to leverage a robust local distribution network and historical brand. Some important market-players pointed out that JVs would be the best way to modernize the financial sector altogether. To them, hard-skills, such as technology, can be bought but soft skills are in short supply.

- ### Hanthawaddy airport negotiations renewed

Officials from Myanmar and Japan have renewed talks on the Hanthawaddy International Airport planned at Bago, 80 kilometres north of Yangon. According to an article in the Myanmar Times, the officials have met at least four times to discuss the billion-dollar project. Japanese government loans will be the main source of finance. Plans for an international airport at Hanthawaddy have been discussed for years but have faced numerous delays. The plan is to construct the airport on 3,600 hectares of land. It will also connect the airport with Yangon via a railway network and an express highway. Critics of the project argue that Myanmar does not currently require a second airport. Meanwhile, Yangon International Airport is still not operating at full capacity. The Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Communications said that surveys will be conducted after negotiations have been completed.

- ### Yangon Region Chief Minister promises international market opportunities

Yangon Region Chief Minister has promised that he will help livestock and agriculture industries find international markets. According to an article in Myanmar Business Today, U Phyo Min Thein was quoted as saying that the livestock and agriculture industries can help boosting the country’s GDP. He also added that the government is currently issuing Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) as “a first step” towards expanding to the international market. The government has also

Myanmar in Figures

GDP (PPP): \$330.88bn (2017)
GDP (official ex.rate): \$59.5bn (Jan 2018)
GDP growth rate: 7.23% (2017)
Population: 54.22 mn people (Apr 2019)
Inflation: 6.5% (2017)
Foreign trade: \$29.2bn (2016-2017)
FDI: \$75bn (31/12/2017)
International reserves: \$5.2bn (Jan 2018)
CBM rate Kyat/\$ = 1,512K/1\$ (11/07/19)

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spent MMK 8 billion on upgrading 4,000 acres of land across Yangon region. They are also in talks with Chinese officials on the topic. U Soe Win, Minister for Planning and Finance, was quoted as saying that the government has also provided larger loans, with a longer grace period. This is aimed at boosting the two industries.

Companies and Investments

■ Denmark's Responsible Business Fund to lend to SMEs

Denmark's RBF will provide its fourth loan to Myanmar enterprises for an amount of MMK 1.13 billion (approximately USD 750 K). The RBF is part of the Danish Development Assistance to Myanmar, which praises mutually binding partnerships. The fund intends to accelerate the development of small- to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the country. Additionally, it also endeavors to increase the competitiveness between enterprises.

Local SMEs can apply for a grant between 1st July and 22nd July 2019. They should seek to implement innovative projects in sectors such as energy efficiency, waste treatments, and managerial skills for instance. Moreover, eligible SMEs should employ less than 600 people and own less than MMK 1 billion in paid-up capital.

Currently one can find more than 73,000 SMEs registered under the Ministry of Industry. Altogether they amount for roughly 90 percent of enterprises in Myanmar and constitute the backbone of the economy. The government has already provided more than MMK 30 billion (USD 19.9 million) in loans to bolster economic activity among SMEs. The conspicuous spill-over effect will be to stir up employment creation and innovation.

■ Spring Airlines begins new route between Yangon and Shanghai

Chinese carrier Spring Airlines has started operating the route between Yangon and Shanghai. The flights started earlier this week, according to an article in the Myanmar Times. The flight will depart four times a week, using an Airbus 320 aircraft with capacity for 186 passengers. The move is the latest indication of increased interest from Chinese visitors to Myanmar. This came after the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism allowed visa-free travel for Chinese passport holders. Just a month ago, China Eastern Airlines launched its own Yangon-Shanghai service, which operates three times a week. According to the Myanmar Times article, there are now 15 cities in China that are directly connected with Yangon by air.

Events

Name	Details	Organizer/Ministries	Contact Information
Builders Myanmar	Venue: Novotel Yangon Max Hotel, Yangon Date: 1-3 Aug 2019	Fireworks Myanmar	myanmar@asiafireworks.com +95-1-377381
Powerex Myanmar and Electric Expo Myanmar	Venue: Novotel Yangon Max Hotel, Yangon Date: 1-3 Aug 2019	Fireworks Trade Media Pte Ltd	sg@asiafireworks.com +65-6100 9101
Myanmar FoodBev	Venue: Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall, Yangon Date: 15-17 Aug 2019	Icvex	info@icvex.com +66-2713 3033
Myanmar Retail Sourcing Expo	Venue: Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall, Yangon Date: 15-17 Aug 2019	Icvex	info@icvex.com +66-2713 3033
Arena Convention & Exhibition	Venue: Novotel Yangon Max Hotel, Yangon Date: 23-24 Aug 2019	Malaysian Institute of Estate Agents	secretariat@miea.com.my +603-7960 2577
Myanmar Phar-Med Expo	Venue: Rose Garden Hotel, Yangon Date: 5-7 Sept 2019	Minh Vi Exhibition & Advertisement Services Co., Ltd (VEAS)	info@veas.com.vn +95-9-4200 25684
Myanauto	Venue: Rose Garden Hotel, Yangon Date: 6-8 Sept 2019	AMB Tarsus Exhibitions Sdn Bhd	darren@ambtarsus.com +95-9-3149 6493
Pintech Myanmar	Venue: MEP at Mindama, Yangon Date: 12-14 Sept 2019	UBM Allworld Exhibitions	yeemon.chen@ubm.com +95-1-378957
International Processing & Packaging Exhibition	Venue: Myanmar Expo Hall, Yangon Date: 12-14 Sept 2019	UBM Myanmar	yeemon.chen@ubm.com +95-1-378957
Myanmar Connect	Venue: Pan Pacific Hotel, Yangon Date: 17-19 Sept 2019	TelCap/ Capacity Media	info@capacitymedia.com +44-020-7779-7227
Agri Myanmar	Venue: Rose Garden Hotel, Yangon Date: 26-28 Sept 2019	Minh Vi Exhibition & Advertisement Services Co., Ltd (VEAS)	info@veas.com.vn +95-9-4200 25684

Tenders

■ Ministry of Transport and Communications: Invitation for Expression of Interest

1. Ministry of Transport and Communications (MoTC) now invites eligible consulting firm to indicate their interests to provide for the implementation in a number of areas to accelerate the development of rural telecommunications (voice and internet) infrastructure and services in locations that are unlikely to attract sufficient private investment in Myanmar.
2. The deadline for the submission of electronic copy of Expression of Interest is **5th August, 2019 at 02:00 p.m.**
3. The detailed information and requirements can be seen in the Request for Expression of Interest and it can be downloaded at the Posts and Telecommunications Department (PTD) website - www.ptd.gov.mm.

Attention: Director General, Posts and Telecommunications Department, MoTC

Office: Building No. 2, Nay Pyi Taw

Telephone: +95-67-3407225

Fax: +95-67-3407216

Email: dg@ptd.gov.mm, cc to kyawoo@ptd.gov.mm and usodepartment.ptd@gov.mm

■ Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation: Open Tender

1. No. (2) Mining Enterprise under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation invites to submit the tender quotation for the following materials.

Sr.no.	Materials Classifies	Weight (MT)	Location	Tender Closing Date & Time	Remark
1	Tin and Wolfram Mixed Concentrate	65.806	Dawei	17th July, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.	F.O.B (Dawei)
2	Tin Concentrate	3.180			
3	Tin Concentrate	31.386	Myeik		F.O.B (Myeik)
4	Tin and Wolfram Mixed Concentrate	1.327			
5	Tin Concentrate	58.712			
6	Tin, Wolfram & Scheelite Mixed-Low Grade	3.280	Loikaw		F.O.B (Loikaw)
7	Tin, Wolfram & Scheelite Mixed-55%	91.444			
8	Tin, Wolfram & Scheelite Mixed-Low Grade	25.126			
9	Tin, Wolfram & Scheelite Mixed	49.787	Lashio		F.O.B
10	Tin, Wolfram & Scheelite Mixed-Low Grade	5.600			

2. Interest eligible companies can request necessary documents from No. (2) Mining Enterprise at its office Building No. 19, Nay Pyi Taw under the telephone number: +95-67-3409391 or through email: metwo@e-commerce.gov.mm within office hours.

■ Ministry of Construction: Sealed Bids

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a grant aid from the People's Republic of China to build a new 2-lane bridge on Thanlwin river in Kunlon Township of Shan State. In conformity to the procurement guidelines of Myanmar Government, Department of Bridge under the Ministry of Construction would like to invite proposals from the interested and competent Environmental and Social Impact Assess-

ment (ESIA) consulting firms for developing ESIA for the construction of the proposed bridge in conformity to the Myanmar ESIA Procedure (2015).

2. The Department of Bridge now invites sealed bids from eligible national ESIA consulting firms for the following works for the implementation work of the proposed new bridge in Kunlon.
3. Interested qualified eligible contractors are invited to obtain an electronic copy of the complete set of bidding documents in English for free of charge starting from **26th June, 2019**.
4. Tender closing date and time are **18th July, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.** Electronic bidding will not be considered and late bid will be rejected.
5. Further information or clarification can be obtained from Research and Development Section, Department of Bridge, Ministry of Construction.

Office: Building No. 11, Nay Pyi Taw

Telephone: +95-67-407465, +95-9-421154246, +95-9-456663906

Email: bridgeresearchdepartment@gmail.com

■ **BBC Media Action Myanmar: Invitation for Expression of Interest**

1. Expression of Interest are invited for a tender to provide technical production services (equipment and human resources) for KSK Project - BBC Media Action, Myanmar to support production of (4) TV documentaries and (4) TV discussion programmers in a one-year period.
2. Interested applicants are required to register the company name at the BBC Media Action office and collect a Pre-Qualification Questionnaires (PQQ) to be reviewed and submitted as an Expression of Interest by **05:00 p.m. on 26th July, 2019**.
3. Minimum requirements for pre-qualification include:
 - i) Legally registered and company license for work in Myanmar,
 - ii) At least two year's experience of TV production, and
 - iii) Able to provide minimum six staff with technical skills in audio and visual production plus selected TV production equipment.
4. Successful applicants in the pre-qualification round will be notified by **26th July, 2019** and invited to proceed to full tender.
5. Companies meeting the eligibility requirements can contract Aung Naing Oo, Logistics and Procurement Officer **from 11th July, 2019 to 18th July, 2019** within office hours on working days for collection of the tender documents (PQQ) at BBC Media Action at No. 6, Wingabar Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar under the telephone numbers: +95-1-545455 (ext - 213), +95-9-250386718 and +95-9-31366843.