

# Thura NewsViews

## Politics

### ■ Myanmar launches its own satellite into orbit

After more than two years of preparation, Myanmar successfully launched its first satellite to orbit on August 6. The latter is under a joint ownership system. The country drew on Arianespace, the French launch service provider, to send Intelsat 39/Myanmar Sat 2 into orbit from the Guiana Space Centre. The telecommunication satellite was designed with high-powered steerable beams, which meets the needs of broadband networking.

The Ministry of Transport and Communications (MOTC) aims at granting 95 percent of Myanmar's population with broadband connectivity by 2022. It will receive C-band and Ku-band services from the satellite as soon as the first quarter of 2019 in order to help the ministry achieve its ambition. The satellite is poised to be incorporated into Myanmar's expanding telecommunication network. Analysts expect it to be a cornerstone of the expansion of critical e-banking services and information channels even in the most remote locations. Overall the new satellite will significantly beef up MOTC's network bandwidth and expand 3G and 4G services.

For the satellite, MOTC will invest about USD 155.7 million (MMK 235 billion) throughout the whole leasing period. U Myint Swe, Myanmar's Vice President, has stressed the significant improvements in public services and eco-

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### August Highlights

MyTel can roll out 5G services next year if the license is granted.

YCDC is setting out a tender for a smart-parking system this month in a move to curb indiscriminate parking for the traffic woes in Yangon.

There have been no last-minute policy changes in regards to joint ventures for both the life and non-life segments of the insurance market.

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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**

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Myanmar Blockchain Forum 2018  
July 14, 2018

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Myanmar Supply Chain Summit  
August 29, 2018

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Health & Humanitarian Supply Chain Forum  
August 30, 2018

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Myanmar Global Investment Forum  
September 11, 2018 - September 12, 2018

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Myanmar Connect 2018  
September 18, 2018 - September 19, 2018

[More Events](#) [Submit Event](#)

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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 ...

conomic spill-over effect. The demand for bandwidth is steadily increasing within many sectors, which will ultimately steer the government towards full ownership of satellites in the future.

#### ■ **Refugee issues discussed between Japan and Myanmar**

Meeting with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Tara Kono discussed Myanmar's refugee issues. Japan pledged support for investigations into the longstanding crisis on the Myanmar-Bangladesh border. "As a friend of Myanmar, Japan wants to help its government and people resolve the challenges it is facing," Kono told reporters after the August 31st meeting. He expressed his hope for a safe return of hundreds of thousands of displaced Muslims who self-identify as Rohingyas.

The positive meeting with a key trade partner is a political win for the State Counsellor and NLD government. The administration has been beset by allegations of human rights abuse after the Myanmar military carried out mass "clearance operations" of Muslims in Rakhines State in September, 2017, leaving more than 700,000 displaced. The actions have tainted Aung San Suu Kyi's global reputation and many political alliances for Myanmar. Some blame it for a downturn in both foreign investment and tourism.

#### ■ **UN recommends sanctions against military-backed businesses**

The United Nations has called for international sanctions against businesses linked to Myanmar's military, which holds a stake in a wide variety of industries, including oil, jade, minerals, construction, aviation and beer. The statement by the UN Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar encourages foreign investors to cut all business ties with Military-owned or affiliated enterprises, claiming that it directly funds what the UN has labelled "extensive and systematic" human rights violations against Rohingya Muslims on the western border. In addition to so-called "crony companies" with strong ties to the military, the statement specifically targets the Union of Myanmar Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited (UMEHL) and Myanmar Economic Corporation (MEC), two military-backed companies primarily known for jade and ruby mining operations, but with investments in dozens of other companies and industries, including a 45% share of Myanmar Brewery Limited, the country's largest beer manufacturer.

Shortly after the statement's release, Myanmar's foreign ministry responded by saying it "categorically rejects the latest report and its conclusions", adding that "we regard the report as an action intended to harm the interests of Myanmar and its people". For decades, Myanmar languished under strict global economic sanctions against its former military regime. These were gradually lifted following the country's 2015 election, although several former and current military officers remained on global blacklists. Many key political and economic allies distanced themselves from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her NLD government following the alleged human rights abuses in 2017, but it remains to be seen whether or not the US, the EU and other trade partners will reinstate official sanctions.

#### **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/\$ = 1,508K/1\$ (08/08/19)

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## Economy

### ■ **Burgeoning solar power to address electricity demand**

Myanmar launches the first commercial solar plant in June 2019 and has completed the first stage of construction. Each of the three stages will add up 40 megawatts (MW) while the fourth and last stage will add 50MW. It will ultimately be ASEAN's largest solar power plant according to The ASEAN Post. The plant covers 836 acres of land (i.e. the equivalent of more than 500 football pitches). The plant will have a capacity of 170 MW and could electrify up to 210,000 households in the region. The government is racing against a booming demand for energy. It has recently reiterated its commitment to provide electricity coverage to 100 percent of the population by 2030. Myanmar currently produces between 2.9 gigawatts (GW) and 3.1 GW according to official estimates. Supply barely meets the needs of 44 percent of the 55 million population. Furthermore, the June 2019 World Bank's figures point out that the average national energy consumption will grow at an annual rate of 11 percent until 2030. The international economic institution estimates that the peak demand will reach 12.6 GW by 2030.

The flip side is that Myanmar should invest twice as much as the current level in order to meet the demand of up to USD 2 billion (MMK 3.014 trillion) (World Bank, 2019). Regular blackouts and unfulfilled electricity requirements raise concerns about international investors. In addition to LNG and hydropower, authorities praise solar power for its low environmental impact and low maintenance costs. Solar energy also significantly bolsters national technological development and Myanmar appears to have 'an incredible potential for solar energy' according to the International Growth Center (IGC) from LSE.

### ■ **Mandalay to become smart city**

Myanmar's royal city, Mandalay, has tumultuous history marked by decades of British rule and the fall of the country's royal dynasty. Myanmar's second largest city's officials now strive to metamorphose the agglomeration into the first smart city in Myanmar.

Mandalay's first municipal government with a majority of civilians has launched a regional initiative in order to foster technological development and transform the city. New technologies, such as social networks for instance, play an utterly important role in the process. The mayor, U Ye Lwin, now communicates with residents and subordinates via Facebook. Authorities undertake online digital surveys or tap into 3D images shot by drones in order to improve tax collection efficiency. To monitor the most congested roads, sensors installed on CCTV cameras adjust the sequencing of traffic lights. Moreover, the local government has heavily invested in waste management systems enhancements. Authorities have installed tracking systems on garbage trucks as a way to ensure they are collecting the litter everywhere.

In recent weeks, Mandalay has attracted international attention due to a proposed deal between the regional government and Huawei, the Chinese tech giant. The latter could provide the city with cameras equipped with cutting edge facial recognition technology coupled with other security equipment. This is part of the local government's "safe city" project worth USD 1.24 million (MMK 1.8 billion). The Trump administration has recently warned against Huawei's technology because of alleged fears that it could be a vehicle for Chinese espionage..

## Companies and Investments

### ■ **Plant in Mandalay to produce first Chinese cars**

A new plant near Mandalay is poised to build the first Myanmar-made Chinese cars by Gold AYA Motor International. According to a report by the Myanmar Times, the subsidiary of the Chinese Shining Star Group of Companies, invested around USD 30 million into the plant. It is located in Mandalay's Myotha Industrial Zone. The plant will initially produce ten car models, including luxury cars, commercial cars, pickup trucks and SUVs for Chinese brands. The company plans to make 50,000 cars in the next five years. Initially, these will be composed of roughly 40% Myanmar-made parts. A company spokesperson said eventually Gold AYA Motor plans to broaden its parts manufacturing capacity and produce the first entirely "Myanmar-made" vehicles.

Although Gold Aya Motor will produce Myanmar's first Chinese cars, Japanese automakers have been operating in Thilawa SEZ for years. The largest, Suzuki Motor Corp, assembles cars from two Myanmar-based plants, according to The Straits Times. In May, Japanese automaker Toyota announced plans to build a factory in the Thilawa SEZ, near Yangon.

## Events

Name	Details	Organizer/Ministries	Contact Information
Myanmar FoodBev	<b>Venue:</b> Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 15-17 Aug 2019	Icvex	info@icvex.com +66-2713 3033
Myanmar Retail Sourcing Expo	<b>Venue:</b> Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 15-17 Aug 2019	Icvex	info@icvex.com +66-2713 3033
Arena Convention & Exhibition	<b>Venue:</b> Novotel Yangon Max Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 23-24 Aug 2019	Malaysian Institute of Estate Agents	secretariat@miea.com.my +603-7960 2577
Myanmar Phar-Med Expo	<b>Venue:</b> Rose Garden Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 5-7 Sept 2019	Minh Vi Exhibition & Advertisement Services Co., Ltd (VEAS)	info@veas.com.vn +95-9-4200 25684
Myanauto	<b>Venue:</b> Rose Garden Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 6-8 Sept 2019	AMB Tarsus Exhibitions Sdn Bhd	darren@ambtarsus.com +95-9-3149 6493
Pintech Myanmar	<b>Venue:</b> MEP at Mindama, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 12-14 Sept 2019	UBM Allworld Exhibitions	yeemon.chen@ubm.com +95-1-378957
International Processing & Packaging Exhibition	<b>Venue:</b> Myanmar Expo Hall, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 12-14 Sept 2019	UBM Myanmar	yeemon.chen@ubm.com +95-1-378957
Myanmar Connect	<b>Venue:</b> Pan Pacific Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 17-19 Sept 2019	TelCap/ Capacity Media	info@capacitymedia.com +44-020-7779-7227
Agri Myanmar	<b>Venue:</b> Rose Garden Hotel, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 26-28 Sept 2019	Minh Vi Exhibition & Advertisement Services Co., Ltd (VEAS)	info@veas.com.vn +95-9-4200 25684
International Construction Power & Mining Exhibition	<b>Venue:</b> Fortune Plaza, Yangon <b>Date:</b> 9-11 Oct 2019	UBM Myanmar	yeemon.chen@ubm.com +95-1-378957

## Tenders

### ■ Ministry of Transport and Communications: Invitation for Bids

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) towards the cost of the **Yangon Mandalay Railway Improvement Project Phase 2**. The bid is invited by Myanma Railways as follows:

Invitation for Bid	Description: Procurement of FD Clips and Concrete Sleeper's Moulds	Issuing Date	Closing Date & Time	Non-refundable Document Fee
IFB No: IFB-MR/BD/2107	(1) Supply of 673,500 units of PAN-DOROL FD Clips  (2) Design,, manufacture and supply of the concrete sleeper's moulds as follows:  (i) 470 sets of the concrete sleeper's moulds for FD clip sleeper	5th August, 2019	18th September, 2019	USD 1,000

2. Bidding will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the Loan Agreement.
  - (a) The eligible Nationality of the contractor (s) shall be Japan in case of the prime contractor.
  - (b) In case where the prime contractor is a joint venture, such joint venture will be eligible provided that the nationality of the lead partner is Japan, that the nationality of the other partners is Japan and/ or the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and that the total share of work of Japanese partners in the joint venture is more than fifty percent (50%) of the contract amount.
3. The Myanma Railways, Ministry of Transport and Communications now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for design, manufacture, supply, installation, delivery, testing and commissioning of FD Clips and Concrete Sleeper's Moulds as described above ("Procurement of Goods"). International Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with JICA's Single-Stage (One Envelope) Bidding Procedure.
4. A complete set of the bidding documents may be purchased and inspected by interested bidders upon submission of a written application to the address below during office hours.
5. Bids must be submitted to the address below on or before **2:00 p.m. on 18th September, 2019** and must be accompanied by a bid security of Japanese Yen forty-four million (44,000,000 JPY). Electronic submission is not allowed.
6. The address (es) referred to above is (are):  
 Managing Director, Myanma Railways, Ministry of Transport and Communications  
 Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station Compound, Pobba Thiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar  
 Telephone: +95-67-77024  
 Fax: +95-67-677164  
 Email: [dgmplan.rail@mrt.gov.mm](mailto:dgmplan.rail@mrt.gov.mm), [dgm.planning.mr@gmail.com](mailto:dgm.planning.mr@gmail.com)

### ■ Ministry of Health and Sports: Invitation for Prequalification

1. The Ministry of Health and Sports (MOHS) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received funds from the Agence Française de Development ("AFD") towards the cost of the "**National Health Laboratory Project**" and intends to apply part of the funds to payments under the contract for "**the Design and Build of the new National Health Laboratory, rehabilitation of NHL historical building and renovation of the Public Health Laboratory in Mandalay**".

2. The employer intends to prequalify firms for all the works and the conceptual design (architectural and technical design) at the same time. The applicants (single entity or joint venture) shall have all qualifications necessary for the whole design/ build contract.
3. Interested eligible applicants may obtain the complete set of the prequalification documents in English electronically on <http://tenders-afd.dgmarket.com/tender/28991350> and at National Health Laboratory/ Ministry of Health and Sports, 35th Mawkun Tike Street, Dagon Township, Yangon.
4. Applicants for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to administration office of National Health Laboratory/ Ministry of Health and Sports, at the address mentioned above by not later than **20th September, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.**, and be clearly marked “**Application to Prequalify for Design and Build contract of National Health Laboratory (Contract No. MM-MoHS-DB-P-01)**”.

■ **Ministry of Hotels and Tourism: Sealed Bids**

1. In conformity to the tenders guidelines of Myanmar government, Directorate of Hotels and Tourism under the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism would like to invite proposals for “Making Design for Tourism Promotional Materials such as Destination brochures, Travel Magazine, Posters and Buntings” to use in tourism promotion activities and Travel Fairs of inland and international.
2. The Directorate of Hotels and Tourism now invites sealed bids from eligible firms for the above-mentioned tourism promotional materials.
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 at the address given below. Electronic bidding will not be considered and late bids will be rejected.
4. Further information or clarification for this may be obtained from Tourism Promotion Department, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism starting from 1st August, 2019 within office hours.
5. The address referred to above is:

Department of Tourism Promotion, Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism

Office: Building No. (33), Nay Pyi Taw

Telephone: +95-67-3406129

Email: [promotion@tourism.gov.mm](mailto:promotion@tourism.gov.mm)