

## Union Government Consultation on the World Bank Group's Country Partnership Framework for Myanmar, Nay Pyi Taw, 15th August 2014

A meeting with representatives of the Union Government of Myanmar was held in Nay Pyi Taw, on August 15th, 2014, as part of a series of consultation meetings to inform the World Bank Group's new Country Partnership Framework and priorities emerging from the Systematic Country Diagnostic for Myanmar. The list of government representatives who participated in the meeting is attached hereto as Annex A.

Following is a brief summary of input and feedback received from the meeting organized under eight broad themes discussed: Operations and Stakeholder Engagement, Agricultural Development, Private Sector Development, Tourism Sector Development, Education, Health, Electricity, and Transportation & Communications.

***Note:** Numbers (eg. (3), (6) etc) in brackets indicate the number of times that a particular point was made by different participants during the meeting.*

### *Operations and Stakeholder Engagement*

- The WBG should **NOT** carry out any activities that cause harm to the environment, the socioeconomic status or culture and religion of the people. **(2)**
- It would be best if all of the programs that WBG implements are in line with government policy.
- Please prioritize sustainable development and environmental conservation in all WBG projects.
- The WBG should **NOT** get involved in 'securing the political transition', or in capital market development.
- Please prioritize socio-economic development for rural areas in WBG programming, and consider the need of community before carrying out any project.
- Please prepare concise presentations for government staff as senior officers do not have time to read lengthy documents.

### *Agricultural Development*

The WBG should provide support to the agricultural sector **(4)** including,

- Supporting the transformation from conventional farming to mechanized farming. Mechanized farming will result in increased productivity, and we will then require packaging and storage facilities, it would be helpful if the WBG could also support for this. Additionally WBG should provide technical assistance for processing of raw materials into value added products.
- The provision of insurance for all kinds of crops. **(2)**
- Technical assistance (use of pesticides, agricultural related tools)

- Financial assistance to grassroots level population.
- Development of effective land governance policies and farmers networks to prevent disputes.
- Crop substitution programs for opium farmers.

### *Private Sector Development*

- Although we anticipate an increase in FDI, many local businessmen are concerned that they do not have the capacity to compete with foreign investors. We would welcome FDI in sectors other than the minerals and extractives sector.
- The development of SMEs is very important for poverty reduction.
- The WBG should advise the government on which sectors Myanmar should focus on for exports and imports.
- The WBG should provide financial and technical support to develop a mobile banking system that is in line with government monetary and fiscal policies.
- Myanmar needs to transform from agriculturally based economy to an industrialized one. In this we must not leave the development of mining sector behind. For this advanced technology is critical. We would like to ask the WBG to provide this kind of support.
- The mining sector is very capital intensive. A huge amount of investment is required. Yet we have not seen a significant increase in FDI, as our rules and regulations are not in line with international standards. We are in the process of reforming the law related to the mining sector. Our draft law has been discussed in the both Hluttaws, and will submit to Pyi Htaung Su Hluttaw soon. We would like to thank the WBG for the advice that has been given to date and request continued input and assistance in this regard.
- The WBG should promote FDI as this has been shown to be key to development in other countries such as South Korea.
- As long as it meets environmental and social standards, we welcome FDI.
- Although FDI is important, promoting FDI should not be a priority for the WBG over the next few years.
- We need support for job creation. We need to consider what kind of jobs we would like to create for long term development, how we can have a middle class. I believe that the WBG has the ability to invite and collaborate with other development partners to work towards these goals.

The WBG should work to improve access to finance. However in regard to reducing poverty it is important to be aware that poor communities do not know how to manage money properly.

### *Tourism Sector Development*

- I would like to ask the WBG to add hotel and tourism sector as one of your priorities. Because we have seen that the hotel and tourism sector has expanded greatly over the past two to three years. Last year

2.04 million tourists visited to our country. This year we expect 3 million tourists and in 2015, 5 million. The WBG should support the development of hotel infrastructure and and technical assistance to develop the capacity of staff. Myanmar is currently ranked as one of the best destinations to visit. Expansion of the tourism sector would create many job opportunities in hotel related jobs, restaurants, transportation and communications. These benefits will flow directly to the people.

- It would be good if the WBG could support the development of tourism in borders area such as Chin and Shan state.

### *Education*

- Myanmar needs support for human resource development programs **(2)** for government, private sector and at the community level.
- Support for higher, as well as basic, education is important. We are a victim of a ‘testing’ system that does not equip graduates with the skills they need for the labor market. We therefore have a critical shortage of skilled labor. The WBG should therefore support not only basic but also higher education.
- The Myanmar Accountancy Council is trying to create accountancy standards for the country, and to develop an accountancy training curriculum. Although we have contact with the Association of Chartered and Certified Accountants (ACCA) and other accounting agencies, we need further support. We would therefore like to ask the WBG to support accountancy development in Myanmar.
- The WBG has the resources and expertise to help Myanmar build a world class education system.

### *Health*

- Comprehensive health care and health insurance are important. The WBG should support in developing the health insurance system in Myanmar. **(2)** Quality health insurance is critical for all. We need affordable, accessible and quality healthcare.
- The WBG should provide nutritional awareness training to the population. In some countries, once a person has consumed food, a receipt is issued to indicate how many calories they have consumed.
- Please provide support for community health care.

### *Electricity*

- The WBG should support increased energy production in Myanmar. **(3)**

### *Transportation and Communications*

- The WBG should support the development or transportation and communications infrastructure in Myanmar. **(3)**

- The WBG should **NOT** prioritize support for transportation and communications.

## Annex A

No.	Name	Organization
1	Daw Nwe Ni Soe	Myanmar Microfinance Supervisory Enterprise
2	Daw Lai Lai Soe	Budget Department
3	U Nyan Win Maung	Ministry of Cooperation
4	U Ngwe Zin	
5	U Ko Ko Oo	Budget Department
6	Daw Kyi Yin	Office of the Auditor General
7	U Kyaw Kyaw	Myanmar Economic Bank
8	U Htay Win	Ministry of Hotels and Tourism
9	Daw Swe Swe Win Shein	Budget Department
10	U Ko Ko Lwin	Ministry of Mines
11	Naw Kay Zar	Budget Department
12	Thawe Thawe Toe	Budget Department
13	Thawe Thawe Zin	Budget Department
14	Khaing Nwe Linn	Road Transport
15	Mya Hnin Wai Pwint	Budget Department
16	Yin Min Htwe	Budget Department
17	Aung Myo Than	Budget Department
18	Aung Min Oo	Budget Department
19	U Nang Aung	Budget Department
20	Daw Thida Tun	Budget Department
21	U Tin Hlaing	Office of the Auditor General
22	U Wai Than	Myanmar Microfinance Supervisory Enterprise
23	U Ko Ko Mg	Myanmar Microfinance Supervisory Enterprise
24	Naw Siblu	Ministry of Border Affairs
25	Daw Aye Ei Phyu	Ministry of Border Affairs
26	Daw Lwin Lwin Khine	Budget Department
27	Daw War War Tun	Budget Department
28	Daw Pa Pa Win	
29	U Sein Lwin	
30	Daw Myint Win Kyi	Cooperatives Department
31	U Sein Lin	Ministry of Education, Department of Basic Education 2
32	Daw Ni Ni Swe	Budget Department
33	Mya Mya Oo	
34	U Tin Hlaing Shwe	Internal Revenue Department
35	Daw Aye Sanda Kyaw	Internal Revenue Department
36	Daw Tin Tin Ohn	Budget Department
37	Daw Si Si Pyone	Budget Department
38	Daw Khin lay Myint	Budget Department
39	Daw Phyu Phyu Thant	Forest Department
40	Daw N.we N.we Win	Budget Department

41	Daw San San Oo	Budget Department
42	Daw Lin Lin Nge	Budget Department
43	U Kyaw Thet	Department of Mines
44	U Khin Aung	Ministry of Education, Department of Basic Education 2
45	U Tun Tun Naing	Foreign Economic Relations Department
46	U Khin Maung Win	Pensions Department
47	U Tun Zaw	Foreign Economic Relations Department