

World Economic Forum on East Asia (2013) opens

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June—Inauguration of World Economic Forum on East Asia (2013) was held at Myanmar International Convention Center (MICC), here, today.

Chairman Klaus Schwab of the forum said that it was held with two aims—to encourage long-term inclusiveness and development and to make constructive connections with Myanmar. Myanmar is likely to see progress in a generation. So, inter-national economic communities needed to make cooperation with Myanmar.

In his inaugural speech, President U Thein Sein said:

It is my great pleasure to be here with you today at this opening of the World Economic Forum's East Asia Summit.

We are honored that this year's Forum is taking place in Myanmar and our capital Nay Pyi Taw and I wish you all the best of success in your deliberations and discussions over the coming days.

We meet at a very special moment in Asia's history. Over the past few decades we have witnessed great economic advances in this region. In many countries a generation of young people have come to age in a period of unparalleled peace and prosperity, free of colonialism, and equal in their opportunities to young people anywhere else in the world.

I trust that in your panels and meetings you will discuss and debate the challenges to come and identify ways to overcome them. I urge you to be



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein makes inaugural speech at World Economic Forum on East Asia (2013) at Myanmar International Convention Center (MICC).—MNA

practical, to steer clear of abstractions, to place at the centre the needs of the poor and vulnerable, and examine ways in which both the public and private sectors can come together to ensure a shared prosperity.

You come to Myanmar at a pivotal moment in our history. We are working hard to move from military rule to democracy, to end the multiple armed conflicts that have ridden this nation since independence in 1948, and to reform the economy, away from a centralized economy to one based on free markets.

I promise you that we

will not waver in this task. But help and support, your investment and knowledge, will be critical for us to fully succeed.

I would like nothing more than for the young people of Myanmar to share too in the greater peace and prosperity of this region.

I hope many of you will also take the opportunity of being here to also travel around my country. You will see first hand the determination of people to improve their lives and build a better future.

Again, I wish you all the best for this important

Forum.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung said Vietnam took pride for Myanmar's reform processes. Vietnam would promote its cooperation with other world countries including Myanmar.

He pointed out that it needed to get improvement by creating new thoughts and views through that forum.

Laotian Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong said that it was the time to carry out poverty alleviation tasks. It was of great importance for Laos to connect other

world countries as being a land-locked country. Plans were under way to build a railroad that connects Kunming of China and Vientiane of Laos. He strongly believed that that forum would prioritize poverty alleviation and

regional development.

The inauguration ceremony came to an end after the forum chairman said thanks to the heads and leaders of the countries. The forum will go on till tomorrow.

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“We are working hard to move from military rule to democracy, to end the multiple armed conflicts that have ridden this nation since independence in 1948, and to reform the economy, away from a centralized economy to one based on free markets.”



Livestock and Fisheries Ministry to cooperate with MICB



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MMCWA donates K 3 million for surgical treatment of cleft lip and palate patients



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Myanmar-India Trade Fair organized in Monywa



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NATO fleshes out details of smaller, post-2014 Afghan mission



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Mr Naoyuki Shinohara,
IMF Deputy Managing
Director.

1. How significant is this World Economic Forum for East Asia?

The discussion in the WEF for East Asia will be an important input in the efforts of ASEAN leaders to enhance information sharing and improve regional cooperation. ASEAN is a dynamic region. Market forces are bringing ASEAN countries closer together, including through increasing trade links and increasing flows of direct investment. ASEAN leaders aim to enhance regional economic integration through the establishment of an ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2015. This dialogue will intensify in the months ahead. While enormous progress has been made in trade integration and deepening financial links, much more remains to be

done.

Discussions in the Forum will focus on some critical issues for integration, notably strengthening resilience to risks; improving the connectivity of ASEAN's frontier economics such as Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar and providing an enabling environment that supports and facilitates the region's growing links. Improving the quality of Asia's hard and soft infrastructure, and harmonizing standards and regulations more broadly, will be critical in this regard and should help to make growth more inclusive. It is also important for Asian countries to strengthen labour market and social protection institutions to deal with the possible adverse effects of greater trade integration on certain groups. All this requires strengthening the region's institutional capacity. The IMF stands ready to assist ASEAN institutions strengthen their capacity in its areas of expertise.

2. What can Myanmar gain from hosting this Forum?

Hosting the Forum provides an opportunity for Myanmar to showcase its achievements in reengaging with the global community and in advancing the economic transition. At the same time, the focus on

Exclusive Interview by news team of News and Periodicals Enterprise with Mr Naoyuki Shinohara, IMF Deputy Managing Director

Myanmar in this forum gives the international community a chance to better understand the prospects and challenges Myanmar is facing.

The Myanmar authorities have made impressive strides in opening and liberalizing the economy, despite limited capacity. They are also committed to ensuring the macroeconomic stability that is crucial for sustaining growth. The IMF is happy to be supporting them in this endeavor.

3. How is IMF assisting Myanmar for its sustainable economic development?

The IMF has been closely cooperating with the authorities throughout the reform process, providing both policy advice and hands-on technical assistance.

The IMF is helping the authorities prioritize macroeconomic reforms and to monitor progress. We are doing this through a jointly-monitored program which aims to maintain macroeconomic stability and build the institutions and framework for macroeconomic management. It is carefully prioritized to take account of constraints. The program covers 2013 and progress so far has been good.

4. Please comment on the potential of Myanmar's economy?

The short-term outlook remains strong—growth is expected to accelerate slightly to around 6¾ percent in 2013/14, led by rising production and investment, including in the transport and telecommunications sectors, and a recovery in agriculture.

5. What areas does IMF see Myanmar to focus more for its economic development?

The authorities' economic reform program is very ambitious, and progress has been good. The government's high-level reform strategy—the Framework for Economic and Social Reforms—emphasizes sustainable and inclusive growth, with a focus on reducing poverty, and building much-needed human capital and infrastructure. We welcome that sectoral reform programs are being developed.

Good progress has been made in the macroeconomic area. Unifying exchange rates and removing restrictions on current account transactions has been largely completed—a very significant step forward. The financial sector is also being

modernized and opened to the outside world. A key priority is to build the tools for conducting monetary policy and supervising the financial sector. A new central bank law to give greater autonomy to the Central Bank of Myanmar, which is expected in mid-2013, will be an important step. The IMF will continue to provide technical assistance in this area.

Raising more revenues to finance public spending on Myanmar's development is also critical. The FY2013/14 budget has been approved by the parliament, and further raises spending on health, education and infrastructure, after significant increases last year. The authorities are also beginning to reform the tax system, with a view to increasing tax revenues, which are at very low levels.

6. What factors should Myanmar be cautious of in integrating into the international monetary arena?

Key risks facing Myanmar arise from the still incomplete set of macroeconomic policy tools at the authorities' disposal. The central bank needs to be equipped with the instruments to conduct domestic monetary policy to enable it to keep inflation in

check, which is necessary for sustained economic growth.

In integrating to the international financial market, risks in the financial sector could also emerge from weak capacity of both supervisors and banks. The IMF is working closely with the authorities to build their capacity in this area.

7. How do you see Myanmar in the next five years?

Myanmar's medium term prospects are bright. Myanmar has significant economic potential, which could yield growth of around seven percent in the medium term, with a stable external balance. In addition to abundant natural resources, it has fertile land; a young, cheap labor force; and a strategic geographic position, which could provide an entry point into Asian supply chains. Investor interest is high.

However, to translate these favorable endowments into sustained and inclusive growth, institutions and policies to manage the economy and supervise the financial system need to be built rapidly. In addition, policies supportive of private-sector investment, as well as public spending on infrastructure, health, and education are required.

WEF reverberated with voices of businessmen from around the world

News Team from NPE

Business leaders and decision-makers from around the world are participating in the ongoing World Economic Forum on East Asia 2013 in Nay Pyi Taw.

Their discussion would help us Myanmar to ensure its preparation for ASEAN chairmanship and for the ASEAN community.

Leaders from business firms from six countries discussed matters on cooperation in business sector in Myanmar.

Six communications service providers from East Asia led the discussion on goal of future communication network in East Asia.

Young leaders also talked over role of young people in business sector and matters on new view on cooperation in agricultural sector, banking economy system and labour sector.

At the press conference, Union Minister for Hotels

and Tourism U Htay Aung talked over the importance of travel and tourism in Myanmar's economy and communication sector.



U Ko Ko Hlaing.

In the interview, the deputy minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Dr Set Aung, said there is no points that can make Myanmar economy stall.

Those countries that have made reforms like Myanmar has already

faced challenges that could hinder the progress of their economies, he said.

Unlike other countries, Myanmar people want to



Dr Set Aung.

overcome challenges within days while other countries would take 10 years to overcome such kind of the challenges, he said.

He hoped that business firms which would do responsible investment in Myanmar, creating good job opportunities that would also

help the country to ensure its efforts for promoting the image of the country.

Dato Adam Htoon (Principal, Air Mandalay) stressed the need for expansion of airlines as the country is beginning its opening up for economy and in the face of new market challenges in Myanmar due to ASEAN integration programs in the future.

He called on the government for promoting the transportation and communication sectors while it is making efforts for improving the hotels and tourism sector.

U Ko Ko Hlaing, Adviser to the President

World Economic Forum on East Asia is held in Myanmar today while our country is carrying out reforms, and so it is beneficial not only for Myanmar but also for the foreign business firms.

Because, multi national corporations gather at the forum. Through the forum, we can find out their views on our country and we can try how to prepare for the future of our country. The forum can also promote the image of our country.

Myanmar is so popular today. In an article, I read that there has emerged a saying in international business community that "you are still an ordinary man if your passport has not yet stamped with Myanmar visa." The forum can help Myanmar to ensure promoting its image and attracting investments. Thanks to hosting this economic forum, Myanmar has seen progress in conference tourism and young people can gain international experiences at home. Besides, this forum also creates the interaction between the people of Myanmar and international community. That is important for Myanmar. Economic opportunities cannot be

created without interaction among the peoples. I hope the image of Myanmar would be promoted through the success of this forum.

U Ko Ko, Yangon Media Group

"I am very interested in this forum and also participate in the discussion. Thanks to this forum, businessmen can do more investment. On the other hand, the country needs to promote its human resources sector-wise. It's sure we are going to see progress in areas into which investment are flowing."

Daw Aye Hnin Swe, Managing Director, Nango Media Limited

"Most foreign businessmen have much more expectation of making progress in mobile advertisement and social media in Myanmar. Yesterday, I discussed current commercial sector in Myanmar. TV advertisement is ranked first, the print media the Third and radio

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PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 7 June, 2013

Grow more trees

With the advancement of science and technology, our planet has to face a number of natural disasters. People have to suffer the consequence of climate changes, causing huge losses to lives and property. Global warming has become a more significant one among others. Global warming is the increase of Earth's average surface temperature due to effect of green house gases, such as carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossils fuels or from deforestation.

While all living plant matter absorbs CO₂ as part of photosynthesis, trees process significantly more than smaller plants due to their large size and extensive root structures. Trees are important tools in the fight to stave off global warming, because they absorb and store the key green house gas emitted by our cars and power plants, carbon dioxide (CO₂), before it has a chance to reach the upper atmosphere where it can help trap heat around the Earth's surface.

Ultimately, trees of any shape, size or genetic origin help absorb CO₂. Most scientists agree that the least expensive and perhaps easiest way for individuals to help offset the CO₂ that they generate in their everyday lives is to plant a tree...any tree, as long as it is appropriate for the given region and climate. To save our mother Earth, we need to educate and cultivate our younger generation to love tree-planting as well as to grow the plants ourselves right now.

Sale schedule for 50th Anniversary Myanma Jade, Gems and Pearl Emporium

Sales of pearl lots

- Inspection of pearl lots by gem merchants and putting of bidding forms into tender boxes for pearl lots that will be sold through the open tender system at 9 am to 5 pm on 15-17 June.
- Sales of pearl lots at floor prices of 2000-10000 Euro and pearl lots at floor prices of 10,000 and above through the open tender system at 9 am to 5 pm on 16-17 June.

Sales of gem lots

- Inspection of gem lots by gem merchants and putting of bidding forms into tender boxes for gem lots that will be sold through the open tender system at 9 am to 5 pm on 15-18 June.
- Sales of gem lots at floor prices of 500-20000 Euro and gem lots at floor prices of 20,001 Euro and above through the open tender system at 9 am to 5 pm on 19 June.

Sales of jade lots

- Inspection of jade lots by gem merchants and putting of bidding forms into tender boxes for jade lots that will be sold through the open tender system at 8 am to 5:30 pm on 15-23 June.
- Sales of jade lots at floor prices of 4000-349999 Euro through the open tender system at 8 am to 8 pm on 19-24 June.
- Sales of jade lots at floor prices of 350,000 Euro and above through the competitive bidding system at 8 am to 8 pm on 24-27 June.

Remark:

- (a) If sales of gem lots finishes on 19 June morning through the open tender system and the competitive bidding system, jade lots will be sold through the open tender system.
- (b) If sales of jade lots finishes on 24 June morning through the open tender system, jade lots will be sold through the competitive bidding system.

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein receives UNDP administrator



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with UNDP administrator and Chair of UN Development Group Ms Helen Clark and party.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June—President U Thein Sein received a delegation led by UNDP administrator and Chair of UN Development Group Ms Helen Clark who will assume as co-

chairperson of World Economic Forum on East Asia, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here this morning.

Also present at the call were Union ministers U

Wunna Maung Lwin and Dr Kan Zaw and departmental heads.

They had cordial talks on capacity building of public servants, ensuring all-inclusive economic

growth, socio-economic improvement of rural people, and promotion of disaster prevention and environmental conservation.

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Investment in oil-palm and sunflower production discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing and Indonesian Deputy Agriculture Minister Dr Rusman Heriawa, at the

ministry this morning held talks on investment in agriculture sector of Myanmar ranging from cultivation to production of high-value products and marketing, including

oil-palm cultivation and processing, construction of pineapple processing plant and paddy-growing.

The Union minister also received Chief Operating Officer Mr Harish

Manwani of London-based Unilever UK Central Resources Ltd separately to discuss manufacturing of tea leaves-based value-added products, and investment in sunflower refinery and sunflower products factory.

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Livestock and Fisheries Ministry to cooperate with MICB



Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint receives responsible persons from MICB.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June—Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint addressed a coordination meeting on cooperation with Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank (MICB) for development of livestock and fishery, at the ministry here this noon.

The Union minister said he wanted to open current and saving accounts at MICB for its public livestock company so that potential investors can make investment through MICB. Personnel of Finance and Revenue Ministry and MICB explained banking matters.—MNA

Singapore to provide training to Myanmar college lecturers

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June—Singapore Senior Minister of State for Law

and Education Member of Parliament for Tanjong Pagar GRC Ms Indraneel

Rajah and party paid a call on Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye

at his office this morning and discussed providing of training to college lecturers of Myanmar by Singaporean lecturers on teaching methods.

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NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein receives Vietnamese PM

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June— President U Thein Sein met a delegation led by Mr Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam who is in Nay Pyi Taw to attend World Economic Forum on East Asia, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, this evening.

Present on the occasion together with the President were Union ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thane, U Myat Hein,

Dr Kan Zaw and Dr Ko Ko Oo, Deputy ministers U Ye Htut and U Htin Aung and departmental heads.

The Vietnamese Prime Minister was accompanied by the Minister of Government Office, the Minister of Science and Technology, the Vice-Chairman of National Assembly Foreign Relations Committee, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar.

At the call, they cordially discussed promoting economic cooperation between the two countries, investments in communication, banking and energy sectors, cooperation in garment, manufacturing of value-added foodstuff, breeding of freshwater fish, finished rubber products, reforestation, finished wood industry and promoting aviation including Ho Chi Minh-Yangon airlines.—MNA



President U Thein Sein receives Vietnamese PM Mr Nguyen Tan Dung.—MNA

Debate at World Economic Forum



Union Minister U Soe Thane and Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at a debate.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June— As part of the World Economic Forum on East Asia, a debate between Union Minister at President Office U Soe Thane and Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Daw Aung San Suu Kyi took place at World Economic Forum on East Asia-2013 today.

They debated Myanmar's current reform processes, amending of the Constitution, transparency, national unity, poverty alleviation, media freedom, bribery and corruption, the Rakhine conflict and the rule of law.—MNA

YGLs launch a programme ...

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among children under five is 35%, indicative of malnutrition. This is an integrated approach for a problem facing much of Asia and we are surrounded by people who can implement it right away - health experts to draw up menus, business leaders to offer it to large companies, and the aid workers who are on the ground and know how best to spend the money."

Mrs Karen ITse, CEO and Founder of International Bridges to Justice from Switzerland, said, "Myanmar's reforms are very extraordinary and exciting. It is important that wrong decisions are not made in moving forward without going back. Step by step steadily and quickly. Challenges in every reform process must be conquered. Generally speaking, I think Myanmar is in a position to leap and not going step by step as she compares herself with global countries. The rest of the world is also changing."

Daw Win Win Tint, Executive Director of CityMart Holdings Co Ltd said, "We have discussed how to nurture a sheer quantity of young leaders. Nowadays, young people have become stronger in their capacity and learning. In parallel with this, global partnership and cooperation and exchange of views between local and foreign businessmen should be on the list to increase the number of young global leaders. The forum I believe could bring the best results."

Over 300 young leaders across the globe are taking part in the World Economic Forum on East Asia, being hosted by Myanmar to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing Myanmar today.

Here inform the readers that the efficient work programmes of young leaders network formed by promising young leaders from over 78 countries will be launched across East Asia including Myanmar.

Trs: TKK

WEF reverberated with voices...

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is the second and mobile is the last. Our company is planning to expand our business. I am very delighted to see that Myanmar media industry is developed, and also the government sector has become more friendly and transparent."

Nguyen Huu Thai Hoa, Chief Strategy Officer (CSO), FPT Corporation

"The issue I will discuss in this forum is ICT development in Myanmar.

I believe that this forum would help Myanmar to ensure its ways for bringing about internet development. Our company is famous in Vietnam and has worked together with American and Japanese companies for 25 years. The investment of our company reached USD1.3 billion and has created 15,000 job opportunities.

Our company is willing to invest in the ICT sector in Myanmar and we

want 5000 engineers from Myanmar. We have a plan to help Myanmar establish



Nguyen Huu Thai Hoa.

an engineering school and this project will take shape within five years."



U Ko Ko (Ko Ko Sethmu Tekkatho).

Publication of the undertakings of respective ministries in response to complaints filed to PSCAC

Ministry of Rail Transportation's undertakings on the suggestions about the delay of circular train due to there are a number of traffic red lights only on the one side of the road.

The Ministry of Rail Transportation is scrutinizing the regular running of train schedules. International standard Automatic Signalling System is installed at the circular rail road sections for safely running of trains

at five-minute interval. **Undertakings on the complaints about farmland compensation disputes in Wethmae village, Ywarshay village-tract of Salingyi Township, Sagaing Region**

Under the supervision of Sagaing Region Government, the land dispute investigation group led by the deputy head of Region Settlement and Land Record Department met local farmers in the village-tracts. According

to the investigation group, the farmland ownership is in dispute. The group has already informed the complaint of taking decisions at a respective court as the group's attempt to solve it has failed.

Ministry of Hotels and Tourism's undertakings on the suggestions about designation of hotel prices between USD 25-400 for one night

Thailand's tourist arrival in 2012 was about 22 million. There are 732

hotels alone in Bangkok. It is seen that some hotels reduce their prices while others well-known hotels accept the guests at designated prices. As Myanmar is currently implementing the market-oriented economy system, the hotels should not fix their room prices. Regarding the recent high room prices, the ministry is making coordination between the tourism companies and the hotels and educating the hoteliers to balance prices

and services and to offer full services to the foreign guests.

Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development's undertakings on the suggestions about Thailand's Immigration and Investment Laws for drawing the attentions of foreign investors as Japanese car companies in Thailand are making production with Japanese engineers and Thai skilled workers.

Directorate of Invest-

ment and Companies Administration has already studied Thailand's investment laws and procedures. Plans are under way for investment facilitation through Myanmar Investment Commission.

It is here announced that formal complaints and enquiries about undertakings of respective ministries can be sent to Public Services Capacity Assessment Committee. **Public Services Capacity Assessment Committee**

President U Thein Sein holds talks with LPDR Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June— President U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Thongsing Thammavong who is here to attend the 22nd World Economic Forum on East Asia 2013 at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 8.45 am today.

They cordially exchanged views on strengthening bilateral ties, construction of Myanmar-Lao Friendship Bridge, mutually beneficial cooperation in agriculture, breeding, culture, education, tourism industry and aviation sectors between the two countries and matters related to border safety.

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President U Thein Sein holds talks with Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Thongsing Thammavong.

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Present at the call together with the President were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, Dr Mya Aye, U Kyaw Lwin and U Zeyar Aung, Deputy Ministers U Ye Htut and U Khin Maung Aye and departmental heads. The delegation was accompanied by the Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar.

WEF launches report to help boost Myanmar's energy reforms



Meeting on New Energy Architecture sector of World Economic Forum in progress at Myanmar International Convention Centre.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June — The ongoing World Economic Forum 2013 at Myanmar International Convention Centre here

has released New Energy Architecture, to help boost Myanmar's energy reforms.

The report predicts that by renewing its energy

policy, Myanmar could emerge as the next South-East Asian frontier.

"Myanmar has a historic opportunity to

carve out its own niche in the global economy. Recasting its energy architecture will be pivotal to this transformation and to its economy's sustainable development," said Roberto Bocca, Senior Director, Head of Energy Industries, World Economic Forum.

The report provides 17 specific recommendations, highlighting the need for transparent governance and effective institutions in Myanmar as a sound basic for developing the country's energy system. In addition, creating a clear environmental regulatory framework will not only underpin sustainability and social acceptance of large-scale energy projects, but will also increase transparency for investors, the report says.

The report identifies energy as one of the

most pressing economic challenges facing Myanmar today and 74 % of Myanmar's population lack access to electricity and 70% of Myanmar's population live in rural areas, where electrification rates average only 16%.

Without electricity and a reliable energy system, Myanmar's economic progress will stall, it says.

The report also suggests that Myanmar will require new sources of domestic energy, an expanded and modernized electricity grid, and innovative solutions for rural energy access to address the energy challenge.

"Myanmar is embarking on a new phase of development and the energy sector will be very important. This comprehensive and informative study will support the economic and social development of Myanmar," said the Union Minister for Energy, U Than Htay.

The report was created

in partnership with the Ministry of Energy of Myanmar. It was produced in collaboration with Accenture and the Asian Development Bank and the report includes insights by contributors from industry, government, non-governmental organizations and academia.

"The development of an integrated new energy plan and system offers Myanmar a significant opportunity to design a path to sustainable and secure economic growth, bolstered by its energy industry," said Arthur Hanna, Senior Managing Director, Accenture's Energy industry group.

At the meeting with the press, the Deputy Minister for Energy, U Htin Aung, said that regarding the energy sector, Myanmar will focus on sufficiency at home and on the national interests, and will sell the energy to foreign countries only if the energy is surplus at home.

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YGLs launch a programme to tackle child malnutrition

Young Global Leaders (YGLs) attending the World Economic Forum have announced a programme to tackle child malnutrition across South-East Asia including Myanmar.

YGLs said it will launch the programme at schools. YGLs started Table for Two (TFT) in 2007 as a non-profit initiative based in Japan. It encourages the

developed countries to pay for children's school meals in developing economies.

TFT has served 20 million meals to school-age children in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda since it was founded. In partnership with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), it is now supporting meal programmes and sustainable school gardens at primary schools in Myanmar. The

project will provide a long-term, sustainable source of nutrition for children in Myanmar by funding the development of fruit and vegetable gardens at schools. TFT aims to encourage an economy of self-sufficiency against the economic disparities and rising food prices. More than 450 corporate and organizational partners from 12 countries across Asia, North America and

Europe raise funds for the initiative.

David Aikman, Senior Director and Head of the Forum of Young Global Leaders, said: "The Forum of Young Global Leaders is the voice of an optimistic future and an energetic catalyst for change. Table For Two is one the community's most successful task forces, and we are very encouraged to see it in South-East Asia, a region where 10% of the

population - some 65 million - are undernourished, according to the FAO."

Daniel Goldstein, Founding Member and Director, Table For Two International, said: "In Myanmar, access to adequate and nutritionally balanced food is a major challenge for the poor. Close to 3 million people are considered food-poor, according to the World Food Programme, and the prevalence of stunting

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Moe Thuzar Soe



Mrs Karen I Tse.