

Supplement to

ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY OF BURMA/MYANMAR (Fourth Edition)

Articles for July 2012

This is the third in a series of supplements to the fourth edition of The Electrical Industry of Burma/Myanmar which was published in April 2012. Approximately 350 cross-linked articles in the original cover many aspects of the industry including the development of the hydro and thermal power resources of the country, the increasing intervention of foreign and national companies in this economic sector, the production of electrical and electronic goods, government plans and regulation of the industry, the development of the national power grid and alternative and sources of electricity among others. This supplement covers articles published in July, 2012. The fourth edition can be accessed using the following URL: <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs2/ELEC-Burma-4th-edition.pdf>. Previous supplements for April-May 2012 and June 2012 are available at <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/Elec-Sup-April-May2012.pdf> and <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/Elec-Sup-June2012.pdf>. Note that the titles of some of the articles included in the supplements have been altered to indicate with more precision the contents of the item or article. Summaries of some of the articles are included.

Oil and gas companies to meet in Myanmar for updates on a new round of bidding and the investment potential in upstream oil, gas and power generation

PRWeb, 31/07/12.

<http://www.digitaljournal.com/pr/816210>

CMT's 2nd Myanmar Oil, Gas & Power summit will convene in Yangon from 3 – 6 September 2012, to unveil a new round of bidding for upstream oil, gas and power generation, plus workshops focusing on joint ventures, project financing and the geological outlook of Myanmar's hydrocarbons. The Myanmar oil, gas and power sector is the last frontier market in South East Asia and the Myanmar government aims to accelerate growth by encouraging foreign direct investment. Organized by Myanmar's Ministry of Energy and CMT, the summit is the platform for key officials, global and local energy/power companies and investors to receive first-hand information on the latest regulatory reforms, oil and gas fiscal regime (e.g., production sharing contracts) and tax structure updates. The official speakers' panel will present investment opportunities as the second round of bidding invitation commences for the upstream oil, gas as well as for the electric power sector. The first MOGP Summit in March 2012 was attended by over 150 companies from more than 35 countries. Myanmar President U Thein Sein announced in June that the country will embark on a "second wave of reforms" in Myanmar's energy sector to encourage and increase participation from the private sector and foreign investment. Currently, Myanmar is inviting prospective IPPs and PPPs for the electric power sector and discussions are already ongoing. At the summit official speakers from both of the electric power ministries will lay out requirements for new power plants to increase capacity, fuel mix requirements and their role in facilitating foreign investment.

50-MW coal-fired power plant to be built near Myeik by Than Phyo Thu Mining Co Electricity Supply Enterprise to distribute power from 8-MW coal-fired plant in Kawthoung Myitta subtownship receiving power from wind-driven generating station Survey underway to supply power to Dawei from natural gas-fuelled plant at Kanbauk

New Light of Myanmar, 30/07/12

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-30.pdf>

State and union ministries to coordinate efforts to supply electricity

New Light of Myanmar, 29/07/12

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-29.pdf>

Paletwa, Matupi residents petition President Thein Sein for more hours of electricity

Khonumthung News, 27/07/12.

<http://www.bnionline.net/index.php/news/khonumthung/13463-paletwa-residents-send-letter-to-thein-sein-demanding-more-electricity-.html>

Kalewa coal-fired power plant between Kalewa and Tamu under feasibility study

New Light of Myanmar, 27/07/12

<http://myanmargeneva.org/NLM2012/eng/7jul/n120727.pdf>

During the session of the Amyotha Hluttaw on 27/07/12, U Thein Win of Sagaing Region Constituency No 9 asked whether there is a plan to establish a coal-fired power plant at a suitable place in the coal-producing Kalewa-Tamu region. Deputy Minister for Electric Power No 1 U Myint Zawn replied that a study of the coal deposit had been conducted with a view to implementing a 600-megawatt coal-fired power project seven miles north of Kalewa in Kalay District of Sagaing Region. The study showed that from 1.35 million tons to 1.89 million tons of coal would be needed annually for operation of the plant and that adequate coal could be extracted from the Paluzawa coal mine for the plant. The necessary survey has been conducted by the Ministry of Mines. Paluzawa Mine is one of two coal deposits in Kalay Township where the Ministry of Mines has conducted surveys. The deposit has 55.6455 million tons of coal and there remained 55.4466 million tons of coal at the mine in June 2012. As such, the ministry has held several meetings with regard to the environmental and technological issues involved in operating a coal-fired power plant that would have an installed capacity of 600-megawatts. Feasibility studies are being conducted.

Power supply plans for Taungyi, Mohnyin and Indawgyi clarified by EPM-2

New Light of Myanmar, 25/07/12

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-06-25.pdf>

USDP chairman qualifies remarks on Myitsone dam

Saw Yan Naing, Irrawaddy, 25/07/12 (excerpt)

<http://www.irrawaddy.org/archives/10023>

The chairman of the ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) in Rangoon Division, Aung Thein Linn, denies that he made controversial comments during an interview with Chinese publication Southern Weekend, according to the party's general-secretary Htay Oo who spoke to The Irrawaddy on Wednesday. Htay Oo said that he had spoken to Aung Thein Linn, a central executive member of the USDP and a former mayor of Rangoon, who assured him that his comments had been misconstrued and mistranslated in Southern Weekend. "He [Aung Thein Linn] didn't really remember what he said. He said it was not an official interview. That these were just informal comments," said Htay Oo. "He told me that if it transpires that he said something offensive, then he would take responsibility for his comments, and that the party could take action against him," the USDP general-secretary said. In an interview with Popular Myanmar News Journal on July 23, Aung Thein Linn said that the Chinese newspaper "perhaps misinterpreted his words." "I said that it is necessary to conduct an assessment of the Myitsone Dam project—for transparency's sake. If the project harms people's property and livelihoods, then nobody will be contracted to work on it," [Aung Thein Linn reported he had said]; though the published interview quoted him as saying he opposed President Thein Sein's decision to suspend the Myitsone Dam project, and that construction on the dam must be resumed.

Installation of supply equipment continuing at Pyuchaung hydropower project

New Light of Myanmar, 24/07/12

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-06-24.pdf>

Myanmar in the dark over hydropower for Asia

Thin Lei Win, Alert Net, 24/07/12

<http://www.burmariversnetwork.org/news/11-news/847-myanmar-in-the-dark-over-hydropower-for-asia.html>

Villages in Kayah State receive 92-watt solar home lighting packages

New Light of Myanmar, 23/07/12

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-23.pdf>

General Electric negotiating with EPM-2 on supply mobile gas turbines

Sandar Lwin, Myanmar Times, 23/07/12

<http://mmtimes.com/2012/news/636/news63605.html>

Thai PTT group to invest up to \$3 billion in Myanmar energy

Bangkok: Reuters, 17/07/12

<http://in.reuters.com/article/2012/07/17/ptt-myanmar-idINL4E8IH10020120717>

Thailand's top energy firm, said today it planned to invest \$2 billion-\$3 billion in projects in Myanmar, including a 150,000-barrel-per-day refinery, coal mines and a power plant, as part of its drive to expand in Southeast Asia. "We are preparing the investment plans for the Myanmar government, which should involve around \$2-3 billion," Nattachat said, adding that the planned refinery would help feed a new petrochemical plant to serve growing demand in Myanmar. The company plans to set up a subsidiary, PTT Myanmar, to oversee its investment in the country, where it also wants to have 60 petrol stations within five years, Nattachat said. Its investment in Myanmar has been spearheaded by 65 percent owned PTT Exploration and Production Pcl (PTTEP), which already has five projects there.

Marubeni to repair Ywama thermo plant

Tim McLaughlin, Myanmar Times, 16/07/12 (Issue 635)

<http://mmtimes.com/2012/business/635/biz63506.html>

General Electric signs deal to supply X-ray machines to Burmese hospitals

Mizzima, 16/07/12

<http://www.mizzima.com/business/7524-ge-signs-deal-to-enter-the-burmese-market.html>

General Electric lands first deal as US firms descend on Myanmar

Martin Petty, Reuters, 14/07/12

<http://in.reuters.com/article/2012/07/14/usa-myanmar-ge-idINL3E8IE05120120714>

Soil survey for 600-MW Tenasserim river hydropower dam nearing completion

Eh Na, Karen News, 13/07/12

<http://karennews.org/2012/07/italian-thai-company-dam-survey-on-final-leg.html/>

Parliamentarians question EPM-2 over plans to link Mogok, Momeik and Mabein to transmission grid

New Light of Myanmar, 12/07/12

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-12.pdf>

Myanmar's minorities: Caught in the middle

Banyan Blog, The Economist, 11/07/12 [excerpt]

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/banyan/2012/07/myanmars-minorities>

Both Myanmar's army and the KIA have repeatedly linked Chinese-funded dam projects to the fighting, none more so than the controversial Myitsone dam. Set to be the first and largest of seven dams that are planned down the length of the Irrawaddy river, Myitsone would have sent 90% of the electricity it generated to China, in exchange for \$17 billion over 50 years. Adding their numbers to the tens of thousands displaced by the war, another 12,000 Kachin have been forcibly relocated by Myanmar's government into Chinese-built "model villages" (pictured above), in order to clear the way for the dam site. The transplants have received free homes and appliances but they lack freedom of movement. A host of mining and timber projects have ravaged their native lands in the meantime. Last year the work at Myitsone was halted by the president, Thein Sein, after unprecedented protests over its social and environmental impact. His move was a shot in the arm for civic groups, yet many observers are convinced it was merely a temporary postponement. China is lobbying hard in Myanmar with a mix of carrot-and-stick measures designed to jump-start the dam's construction; sometimes they insist that work on the dam has never actually stopped. The rights groups also harbour doubts about the ultimate authority of Myanmar's new civilian leadership, which is bound by a rigid constitution and anyway largely comprised of former military figures. The consensus among locals in Kachin state is that work on the Myitsone dam will start up again at full steam after the monsoon rains have subsided. "Even if [President Thein] Sein is serious about reforming this country, his power is limited; he can be removed at any time," says a Kachin community leader in the northern city of Myitkyina, who refused to be identified. "How do we really know he's not just being used by the military leaders to extract more money and prestige from the West?"

Is it time to energize the power market in Myanmar?

Demand for power in the country has shot up by 15pc in 2012

Power Grid International, Electric Light & Power, 11/07/12

<http://www.elp.com/index/display/article-display/6908222210/articles/electric-light-power/t-and-d/2012/July/Is+it+time+to+energize+the+power+market+in+Myanmar+.html>

Myanmar: Japan makes up for lost time

Ben McLannahan, Blogs.ft.com, 11/07/12

<http://blogs.ft.com/beyond-brics/2012/07/11/845741/#axzz20n1XM69Z>

On Tuesday Marubeni, Japan's fifth largest trading house, said it had been awarded a contract to overhaul a gas-fired power plant it built seven years ago, before tighter Western sanctions took hold. Marubeni described the award to upgrade the creaking Ywama plant as the first infrastructure order to a Japanese company since the government of president Thein Sein took over in March 2011, ushering in democratic reforms. Myanmar depends on hydropower for about 70 per cent of its electricity, making the economy highly vulnerable to the vagaries of weather. When water levels at hydroelectric dams fall during the dry season that runs from November to April, blackouts plague the country. In a report published in May, the IMF identified "inadequate infrastructure" as one of the main factors limiting GDP growth last year to 5.3 per cent, and to a projected 5.5 per cent this year. Marubeni, which relies on power projects for one-eighth of net income – the third highest earner behind metals and energy – is now aiming to get involved in more brownfield and greenfield projects in Myanmar, according to Hirohide Sagara, senior operating officer in the company's power, projects and infrastructure division. Marubeni launched a liaison office in the capital city of Naypyidaw in January, intending to develop stronger relationships with government officials in anticipation of April's resolution of the debt problem. It has maintained an office in the port of Yangon, the former capital once known as Rangoon, since 1942. Plenty of other Japanese companies have similar ideas. Most of the country's biggest trading companies have followed Marubeni in setting up offices in the capital this year. The Japan Bank for International Co-operation, the state-owned lender specialising in supporting Japan-led infrastructure projects, has included Myanmar as a key destination in what it calls the 'Southern Economic Corridor', extending from Vietnam to India through Cambodia and Thailand. Keidanren, the powerful business lobby, last month urged the government to position Myanmar as one of several targets for infrastructure exports, and to take effective policy measures to support them. Foreign minister Koichiro Gemba is doing his bit: last week the Nikkei newspaper reported that Gemba met his counterpart in Myanmar to propose the setting up of a Japan-Myanmar Joint Initiative, with the aim of clearing barriers to direct investment. The hope is to do for Myanmar what a similar body did for Vietnam – now one of the biggest recipients of Japanese investment – from the early 1990s.

Marubeni to overhaul Myanmar power plant

Kyodo, 11/07/12.

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/text/nb20120711b3.html>

Marubeni Corp. says it has been awarded a contract by the public utility Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise to overhaul a thermal power plant. The plant in Ywama, about 20 km northwest of Yangon, is now out of service due to its age. Marubeni plans to replace parts in its gas turbine with Hitachi Ltd. components. The restoration of the Ywama Combined Cycle Power Plant, which Marubeni delivered in 2005, will bring its output capacity to 34,000 kilowatts. The contract represents the first power project since a civilian government replaced military rule in Myanmar in March 2011, according to Marubeni. The trading house is trying to boost its infrastructure business in resource-rich Myanmar.

MEPE signs agreement with Marubeni to supply spare parts for Ywama power plant

New Light of Myanmar, 11/07/12

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-11.pdf>

Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise of the Ministry of Electric Power No. 2 and Marubeni Corporation Co Ltd signed an agreement to import machinery spare parts to be used in a major overhaul of H-25 gas turbine (NEDO) of the Ywama Power Plant on July 9. The contract is valued at 272 million yen. Marubeni Corporation is to supply 534 kinds of spare parts within 10 months. Engineers from Hitachi Company will help to carry out the overhaul of the turbine. Upon completion of the repair work, the turbine will be able to generate about 30 megawatts per day and produce 240 million KWhs of electricity annually to the national grid.

Amarapura township villages want electricity oftener than once every four days; township rep pushes EPM-2 to ease restrictions on power supply

New Light of Myanmar, 11/07/12

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-11.pdf>

Yedashe township in Bago region gets round-the-clock electricity

New Light of Myanmar, 09/07/12

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-07-09.pdf>

\$20 billion: The cost of powering Burma

William Boot, Irrawaddy Business Roundup, 07/07/12

<http://www.irrawaddy.org/archives/8553>

EGAT, Synohydro ready to resume work on Hatgyi hydropower dam

Charlie Campbell, Irrawaddy, 03/07/12

<http://www.irrawaddy.org/archives/8289>

Swedish consulting group training Myanmar grid engineers

ÅF Group website, n.d.

<http://www.afconsult.com/fi/toimialat/energia2/sahkoverkot--jarjestelmat/references/consultancy-services-for-myanmar-power-grid/>