

**Supplement to
ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY OF BURMA/MYANMAR (Fourth Edition)**

Articles for October 2012

This is the sixth 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 October, 2012.

The fourth edition of the **compendium** can be accessed using the following URL:

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs2/ELEC-Burma-4th-edition.pdf>.

Previous supplements for April-May 2012, June 2012, July 2012, August 2012 and September 2012 are available at

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/Elec-Sup-April-May2012.pdf>,

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/Elec-Sup-June2012.pdf>,

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/Electricity-Sup-3July2012.pdf>,

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/Elec-Sup4-August-2012.pdf>, and

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/Elec-Sup5-Sept-2012-red.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.

Myanmar: A power play on the Irrawaddy River

Jeff Howe, Global Post, 29/10/12. Summary.

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/regions/asia-pacific/myanmar/121026/myanmar-power-play-on-irrawaddy-river>

The writer of this article visited Pein, one of the villages displaced by the construction of the 790-MW Yeywa hydropower dam on the Myitnge river, and found that the residents are still without power in their new location. He speculates that most of the electricity produced at Yeywa is being exported to China in compensation for the \$600 million investment loan advanced by Chinese state firms involved in the construction of the facility. The article also takes a long look at the possibility that construction may restart on the shelved 6000-MW Myitsone hydropower project near the source of the Irrawaddy river in Kachin State, financed by another of China's state companies. According to Global Post reporter Jeff Howe the report was supported by a grant from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting. Much of the information in the article was sourced from Grace Mang, the China program director at International Rivers, an NGO that studies the impacts of dams on the environment and local communities.

Self-reliant power supply launched in Nanhsin-Kyundaw

Myanma Alinn, 27/10/12. Edited. (on p.7 of the print edition of NLM of 28/10/12)

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-28.pdf>

A ceremony to launch the supply of electricity on a self-reliant basis was held in Nanhsin-Kyundaw Village of Indaw Township, Sagaing Region, on 23 October. Local authorities cut the ribbon to launch the power supply for the village round the clock.

Deputy Minister answers question about Gunkul's wind power project

New Light of Myanmar, 27/10/12. Edited. (on p.9 of the print edition of NLM)

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-27.pdf>

At the session of the Amyotha Hluttaw on 26 October, Representative U Myo Myint of Mandalay Region Constituency No. 6 urged that small-scale hydropower development [be undertaken] to provide an immediate answer to the need for electricity security in the country. His remarks followed questions about the plan to supply electricity generated by wind power in Kayin State and the availability of power supply from the national grid in Kawkaik. Deputy Minister for Electric Power Aung Than Oo replied that an agreement had been signed with Gunkul Engineering Public Co Ltd to implement a 1000-megawatt wind power generation project in Kayin and Mon states and Taninthayi Region. The project is under feasibility study. With regard to the power supply to Kawkaik, measures will be undertaken in the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Proposal to study B.O.T. agreements on electric power projects submitted to Amyothaw Hluttaw

New Light of Myanmar, 26/10/12. Edited. (on p.16 of the print edition of NLM)

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-26.pdf>

At the session of the Amyotha Hluttaw on 25 October, Representative Myo Myint of Mandalay Region Constituency No.6 moved a proposal to review electrical power projects which will be operated with the investments of the State, under the B.O.T. system and JV/B.O.T. systems with the aim of ensuring harmonious development in the country. His motion was seconded by Dr Soe Win of Mon State Constituency No. 2.

Two new power plants opened in Thayawady

MNA, 23/10/12. Edited. (on p.2 of the print edition of NLM, 24/10/12)

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-24.pdf>

Power plants with a generating capacity of 315 KVA were opened in Thabaung and Nyaungbinbo villages in Zeegon township of Thayawady District on 21 October. Minister U Nyan Win formally opened the power plants and met with members of the village electrification committees of Zigon and Natalin townships.

Solar panels penetrate domestic market

Myanmar Alinn, 22/10/12. Edited. (as printed on p.7 of NLM on 23/10/12)

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-23.pdf>

Solar panels have been flooding the market in Myanmar since last year. At present, the panels are being used increasingly in rural areas facing a shortage of electricity, said a sales person from an electronics shop in Tatkon. "Solar panels are useful in the rural areas. They can be used for illumination as well as to supply electricity for portable TVs. Solar panels that generate 100 watts can be used to power 21-inch TVs. Village people can now enjoy TV by using solar panels," said the owner of electronics shop. At present, various sizes of solar panels with capacities from 20 watts to 200 watts are on sale in the market. Solar panels that generate 20 and 30 watts are in high demand. These panels can generate electricity for at least a two-foot fluorescent light. The 30-watt panels can be used for VCDs, DVDs and portable TVs. The panels that sell for K 76,000 can be used for 21-inch TVs. Solar panels are being manufactured by local industries for the domestic market. Panels are also being imported from China and India.

Sufficient electricity to be supplied to Mohnyin, Mogaung, Hopin, Nanma in December

New Light of Myanmar, 22/10/12. Edited.. (p.2 of the print edition)

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-22.pdf>

The local people in Mohnyin, Mogaung, Hopin and Nanma regions along the Myitkyina-Mandalay railroad in Kachin State will enjoy sufficiency of electricity as of December this year, said Kachin State Minister for Electricity and Industry Sai Maung Shwe at a meeting with local people in the office of Mohnyin District General Administration Dept on 15 October. "The 99-megawatt hydropower plant built on Chipwe creek has been completed. The 132 KV-powerline linking Chipwe, Waingmaw and Myitkyina has been installed. At present, the powerline between Myitkyina and Mogaung (Namti power station) is under installation. In December, the local people will be supplied with electricity," he continued. The 100-mile long Naba-Mohnyin 66 KV-powerline is completely finished. However, the electricity is yet to be supplied. Thus, the local people are being supplied with electricity on a rotation basis from the small-scale Namkhamkha and Galkaichang hydropower stations built in the 1990s. Under an arrangement with the Buga Company, the Malichaung Power Station in Waingmaw Township supplies electricity to Myitkyina and Waingmaw townships at K 300 per unit for industries, K 160 per household and K 100 per religious organizations.

Transformer installed in North Okkalapa

Myanmar Alinn, 21/10/12. Edited. (As published on p.2 of the print edition of NLM on 22/10/12)

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-22.pdf>

With a view to supplying electricity to North Okkalapa Township at full capacity, the Yangon City Electricity Supply Board has installed a 500-KVA, system improvement transformer at the corner of Thunanda and Karuna roads in North Okkalapa Township. The supply of electricity through the transformer was launched on 10 October, said the engineer-in-charge of the North Okkalapa Electricity Supply Board. Preparations are being made for supply of electricity to Kyaukyedwin and Tadagyi wards at full capacity. A 315-KVA transformer will be installed in these two wards and electricity should be available before the end of October.

Entrepreneurs permitted to supply electricity in Mandalay

Kyemon, 21/10/12. Edited. (from p.7 of the print edition of NLM,22/10/12)

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-22.pdf>

For the first time, private entrepreneurs have been licensed to engage in the supply of electricity to the local people of Mandalay. To be able to meet the supply of standard voltage, fourteen 22/11-KVA transformers are being installed in the wards. In the past, Myayinanda, Kanthaya and Htunton wards of Chanmyathazi Township could enjoy about 160 volts in the evening. The Pacific Company is permitted to supply electricity extensions and to repair power lines and construct power stations in order to minimize the waste of electricity. The company has announced that it will not change the meter rate and is now making preparations not to cut off the supply of electricity in the summer.

Teacher uses solar panels to bring light to Elephant Island

Bill O'Toole, Myanmar Times, 22/10/12. Edited and abridged.

<http://mmtimes.com/index.php/national-news/mandalay-upper-myanmar/2597-with-solar-panels-teacher-brings-light-to-elephant-island.html>

Despite its rapidly diminishing shoreline, the residents of Sin Kyun, or Elephant Island, continue to endeavour to raise their standard of living. During the past year, Sin Kyun, just to the north of Mandalay, has been the focal point of a pilot project to bring solar power to rural communities in upper Myanmar. The project was initiated by Ko Thant Zin, a teacher from nearby Mingun, who used to live on the island. Working with a grant from the German Foundation for World Population (Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevoelkerung), Ko Thant Zin and his partners in the village council have provided more than 200 homes with solar panels and halogen lamps. He told The Myanmar Times he had always been keen to ensure the project was not charity; residents are required to rent the panels, which cost about K100,000 each, for K1000 a month. The money is collected by a three person group of village leaders who use it for public works. The council has so far put most of the money into a project for an electricity grid on the island. It has already saved enough for a gas generator and is saving up for the necessary copper wire. Though the panels are only capable of providing a small amount of light, for families in the village they represent a significant opportunity to boost income. About 80 percent of women on Sin Kyun make bamboo hats, which are sold in markets in Mandalay. "Before we could only work in the daylight," said Daw Mam Yu, as she assembled a hat. "Now we can work late into the night."

New transformer will serve over 300 houses in Myitkyina

Kyemon. Edited. (from p.8 of the print edition of NLM of 20/10/12)

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-20.pdf>

A transformer installed in Kyunbintha Ward of Myitkyina launched supply of electricity to Region 8 of the ward on 15/10/12. It will supply electricity to over 300 houses. Installation was carried out using heavy machinery under the supervision of the Township Electrical Engineer's Office, the Buga Electricity Supply Co and the Ward Electricity Supply Committee. Ward residents contributed to the cause.

National seminar brainstorms future of energy and electric power security

New Light of Myanmar, 19/10/12. Edited. (on p.6 of print edition)

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs14/NLM2012-10-19.pdf>

A national seminar on planning for the development of the energy and electricity sectors took place in Nay Pyi Taw on the 16th and 17th of October. During the first day measures on co-operation with international oil companies and the policy on adoption of national reserve resources to satisfy domestic demand for oil and natural gas were outlined. Also discussed were the extent to which Region and State governments should participate in exploring for, extracting, storing and distributing oil and gas and the appropriate mix for joint ventures between private companies and governments in the oil and gas industry. The second day of the seminar was concentrated on the fundamentals involved in pricing policy, the measures needed for increased profitability of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), and the conversion of the offshore drilling section with MOGE included as an operator. The discussions also extended to development of the electricity sector with a focus on the appropriate mix of hydro and coal power using clean coal technology. Several Union cabinet ministers as well as deputy ministers, advisers, experts, related organizations and retired officers took part in the discussions.

Hyundai Engineering & Construction opens door to Myanmar

4-traders.com, 19/10/12. Edited and abridged.

<http://www.4-traders.com/news/Hyundai-Engineering-Construction-Co-Ltd-The-unexplored-world-in-Southeast-Asia-Hyundai-E-C-op--15396091/>

Hyundai Engineering and Construction has obtained a concession on the first social overhead capital project since Myanmar opened up its economy. Korea's primary builder signed an MoA on the construction and operation of a combined cycle gas power plant with the Burmese electric power authorities on October 4. The signing ceremony was attended by Hyundai E&C CEO Jung Soo-hyun, Minister of Electric Power Khin Maung Soe, Korea Western Power Co. CEO Kim Moon-deok, CEO of the IB unit of Hana Daetoo Securities Jang Seung-chul and Busan Korea Biotechnology (BKB) chairman Chung Si-woo. This is the first project commissioned by the Burmese government since economic sanctions imposed by Western countries for 23 years were lifted. The consortium consisting of Hyundai E&C, Korea Western Power Co., Hana Daetoo Securities and BKB succeeded in winning an order to build and operate the 500-megawatt plant in Thakayta near Yangon, the center of the country's economy. The first phase of the project is valued at 700 billion won. Hyundai E&C will be in charge of the engineering, procurement and construction phases of the generating plant.

Minbya residents in the dark due to electricity shortages

Narinjara, 17/10/12. Edited and abridged.

<http://www.bnionline.net/index.php/news/narinjara/13923-residents-continue-to-suffer-from-electricity-shortages-in-arakan-state.html>

Residents of Minbya in Arakan State are continuing to face difficulties from supply shortages and rising costs of electricity. The problem is caused by the old diesel-generators that generate most of the electricity in the region. "There are four generators supplying electricity to our town. The one in Ward 3 is the worst. It's attached to an ice factory located in Zayhaung Ward. There was no electricity for a month after the ice-factory closed when an ammonia cylinder blew up," said a Minbya resident, who didn't want to be named. The woman said her household electronics, electric bulbs, tubes and televisions, had been damaged by the voltage irregularities. Businesses have also suffered financial losses due to the power shortages. Some locals claim that ice-factories are supplied with electricity on a priority basis while everyone else is left in the dark. Despite the power irregularities, residents are still charged the full amount, plus an additional Kyat 2000 for costs associated with meter-boxes and re-connection fees.

US bioenergy company signs deal on growing Giant King Grass in Burma

The Irrawaddy, 17/10/12.

<http://www.irrawaddy.org/archives/16666>

Viaspace, Inc, a California-based alternative energy company, announced on Tuesday that it had reached an agreement with Burma's June Industry Ltd to grow Giant King Grass, a trademarked species of grass that is used for renewable electricity generation. Viaspace CEO Dr. Carl Kukkonen and June Managing Director Dr. Nu Nu Win signed development and confidentiality agreements at a ceremony held at the Chatrium Hotel in Rangoon, according to a report by CisionWire. Kukkonen said the grass could be used "not only for electricity generation, but also for biofuels and other applications."

Locals protest against coal power plant in Kawthoung

Naw Noreen, Democratic Voice of Burma, 16/10/12. Edited and abridged.

<http://www.dvb.no/news/locals-protest-against-new-power-plant/24284>

About 100 people in the southern Burma port of Kawthoung protested in the streets on Tuesday morning against a coal power plant that recently became operational there. The protesters led by members of the Democratic Party (Myanmar) and the All-Mon Region Democracy Party held placards that read: 'No to the Coal Power Plant' and 'Bring Us Sustainable Energy'. "The coal plant is located in a residential area and all the smoke and dust coming out from it could be very harmful to the local population," said the DPM's Than Htun. "Local residents previously had sent a letter to President Thein Sein and also carried out public awareness campaigns, but the government wouldn't respond to them so they are now staging a protest." According to the party official, the Than Phyto Thu Mining Company manages the eight-megawatt power plant. The facility completed a test run in August and became fully operational on 5 October. Rumours have been circulating around Kawthoung that the plant was relocated from Thailand's Prachuap Khiri Khan province after protests forced a similar project to be aborted. The Than Phyto Thu

Co began constructing the plant in October 2010 after securing a contract with Burma's Electric Power-1 Ministry in January of that year.

Fisheries sector not ready for Western markets: Myanmar Fisheries Federation

Soe Sandar Oo and Myat Nyein Aye, Myanmar Times, 15/10/12. Abridged.

<http://mmtimes.com/index.php/business/2420-fisheries-sector-not-ready-for-western-markets-mff.html>

Myanmar's fisheries sector is not yet ready to take advantage of the proposed easing of sanctions by the European Union and United States, exporters said last week. "Even though it looks like sanctions will be eased, it is just an announcement made at high levels of the government – and the practical measures needed to make it reality have not been taken," said U Han Tun, general co-secretary of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF), on October 9. U Han Tun, general co-secretary of the MFF noted that the fisheries industry is not ready to supply the EU and US markets immediately because the commonly farmed species in Myanmar are not attractive to consumers in those markets, he said. Daw Toe Nandar Tin, spokesperson of the Myanmar Fisheries Products Exporters and Processors Association, said the industry was battling a number of other problems that hindered its ability to make high-quality products. "Exporters need 24-hour electricity to make fisheries products, as well as a stable exchange rate," she said. "GSP [Generalized System of Preferences] is a dream for us and has not been implemented yet," she added.

Private companies take up offer to participate in the electric power sector

Sithu Lwin and Soe Sandar Oo, Myanmar Times, 15/10/12. Edited and abridged.

<http://www.mmtimes.com/index.php/business/2427-private-companies-take-up-electricity-generation-offer.html>

Pacific Company plans to invest up to K2 billion (about US\$2.3 million) to improve electricity supply in Mandalay's Chanmyathazi township following the regional government's decision to partly liberalise the sector. The private firm began upgrading the electricity infrastructure in the township in August after winning a contract from the Mandalay Region government. "We have been collecting data on the power requirements [in Chanmyathazi] since we were designated as a power supply company. Power line cables need to be replaced and there is a pressing need to install 22 [315-KVA] transformers," said U Than Naing, deputy chief engineer of the company. Chanmyathazi has more than 36,000 household electricity meters and consumes about 18 megawatts. U Than Naing said Pacific was consulting with foreign companies to ensure it could provide adequate supply in summer, when the nation's hydropower dams run low. Pacific secured a five-year contract from the Mandalay Region government to sell electricity to consumers in the township, although the contract must be renewed each year. Rates will remain the same, at K35 a unit for households and K70 a unit for industry.

Mandalay Region Minister for Electric Power and Industry Dr Myint Kyu said the government had invited private companies to manage electricity distribution because urgent upgrades were needed to the network infrastructure. "About 20pc of power generated is lost in distribution because of a lack of transformers and worn-out power line cables. It will take time to repair everything if the government has to pay for it so the job was transferred to private companies to make it more convenient for customers," he said. "The company will change the cables, build substations and install new transformers. Only then will the lost power be retrieved and the state will get some more revenue."

Meanwhile, Myanmar Paungse Swanar Company has won a contract for Chanayethazan township. "We are studying the requirements for supplying power to Chanayethazan township. There are a lot of requirements," said U Paw San, an engineer from the company. An announcement calling for private companies to sell power onto the national grid, via the Ministry for Electric Power, was made through the state-run New Light Myanmar newspaper on October 7. Myanmar Sugar Development Public Co's spokesperson, U Zaw Min, told The Myanmar Times last week the company, which is located in Sagaing Region's Katha District, was interested in taking part in the project. "This is good for the country and we plan to sell about 12.5 megawatts from our sugar factory to the ministry," he said. "And I'm sure we will be able to increase the amount we sell in future," he said. A Ministry of Electric Power official said the call for privately generated power has been made because the demand for electricity outweighs supply, with 1890MW needed but only 1500MW available.

Myanmar president's S. Korea visit strengthens bilateral ties

Feng Yingqiu, Xinhua, 12/10/12. Edited. Excerpt.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/article/article_xinhua.asp?id=101106

Myanmar President U Thein Sein returned to Nay Pyi Taw Friday from a three-day state visit to South Korea, bringing the improved relations to a new high. It was Thein Sein's reciprocal visit following S. Korean President Lee Myung-bak's visit in May. Lee was the first president of South Korea to go to Myanmar in 29 years. In 1983 when a South Korean presidential delegation was bomb attacked in Yangon in which 21 people were killed. Thein Sein was accompanied by five ministers including Foreign Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin, the Minister of Electric Power, the Minister of Industry as well as the three Chief Ministers of Yangon, Mandalay and Bago regions.

Long reliant on China, Myanmar now turning to Japan

New York Times, 11/10/12. Edited and abridged.

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/11/world/asia/long-reliant-on-china-myanmar-now-turns-to-japan-for-help.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

As Myanmar seeks to shed its authoritarian past, Japan is rapidly ramping up its presence in the country with a heavyweight deployment of government assistance and corporate investment that is challenging China's dominant position in Myanmar. . . . On the fourth floor of Yangon's City Hall, two dozen Japanese engineers are drawing up a master plan to remake the roads, telephone and Internet networks, and water supply and sewage systems of Yangon, the country's long-neglected commercial capital. Japan's overall strategy is to deploy the full force of what used to be called Japan Inc. Some of the country's largest conglomerates — Mitsubishi, Marubeni and Sumitomo — are working in cooperation with the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry. "We haven't had a project like this in at least 20 years," said Masahiko Tanaka, the chief representative of Japan's International Cooperation Agency, which will provide financing for the projects. The Japanese government says it is willing to lend Myanmar money for the projects on terms that are near giveaways: loans with an interest rate of well under one percent payable over 50 years, with no payments due for the first 10 years. It is also studying plans for mass transit systems, the rehabilitation of four power plants that provide electricity to Yangon, the construction of a second bridge over the Bago River and the addition of six berths to the port near Yangon that will serve the Thilawa project. The Japanese say they will have a better idea about the cost of the projects once feasibility studies are completed at the end of the year. But it is sure the price tag will be in the billions of dollars. It has already reached a deal that would forgive or reschedule Myanmar's outstanding debt to Japan.

Mandalay Region government looks at power supply options

Si Thu Lwin, Myanmar Times, 08/10/12. Edited.

<http://mmtimes.com/index.php/national-news/mandalay-upper-myanmar/2271-mandalay-govt-looks-at-power-supply-options.html>

The Mandalay Region government is investigating possible means of providing electricity to the region all year round, chief minister U Ye Myint said last week. He said the government was considering a range of methods of generating electricity but was conscious of keeping prices down for consumers. "We are negotiating with a number of companies. One company has proposed generating power from garbage at a cost of about K350 a unit," he said. "Another has offered to do it with solar panels at K450 a unit but it would not be affordable to the public. We will consult with companies for cheaper ways of generating power." Residential users pay K 35 per unit of electricity — a kilowatt hour — in Mandalay while commercial and industrial customer are charged K70 per kWh. In October 2011, the regional government sent a proposal to the union government to provide adequate electricity supply to Mandalay's seven districts, U Ye Myint said. However, regular power cuts during the summer sparked a wave of protests and the government resorted to using large generators. Demand for electricity in Mandalay Region is estimated at 300 megawatts, while supply fluctuates depending on the amount of water in the nation's hydropower dams. "If electricity runs 24 hours in all three seasons, it's okay. But if the rates would double or triple in order to provide electricity, the price of goods and services will inevitably go up. The price of power needs to be affordable," said Ko Latt, who runs a car workshop in Mandalay. Meanwhile, U Ye Myint said about 280 new transformers are needed in Mandalay Region, while much of the existing cables also needs to be replaced.

Korean group launches 500 megawatt gas-fired combined cycle power project in Thaketa

New Light of Myanmar, 07/10/12 (p. 2 of the print edition). Edited and abridged.

http://www.myanmararchives.com/newspapers/The-New-Light-of-Myanmar/2012/10_Oct/07-10-2012.pdf

A ceremony to launch a 500 megawatt gas-fired combined cycle power plant project was held at the project site in Thaketa township on 06/10/12. The plant is a joint venture between the Electric Power Department of the Ministry of Electric Power and five Korean companies: Busan Korea Biotechnology Co Ltd, Korea Western Power Co Ltd, Hyundai Engineering & Construction Co Ltd, Hana Daetoo Securities Co Ltd and Hexa International Co Ltd. The ceremony took place at the project here this morning. Yangon Region Electric and Industry Minister Nyan Tun Oo, Chairman of Yangon City Electricity Supply Board Aung Khaing, CEO Chang Seung Chul of Hana Daetoo Securities Co Ltd, CEO Chaung Si Woo from Busan Korea Biotechnology Co Ltd, President Jung Soo Hyun of Hyundai Engineering & Construction Co Ltd cut the ribbon to open the ceremony. Yangon Region chief minister U Myint Swe said that the start-up of new industries together with increased foreign investment necessitated an increase in the supply of electricity. Increased use of gas-fired and coal-fired plants necessitated a firm base load of electricity. Emphasis is being placed on a proper mix of generating sources. Plans are underway to implement energy security in the future by systematically using natural resources of the State, he added. The main purpose of implementation the project is to supply electricity for Thilawa Industrial Zone, one of the special economic zones in Myanmar, he said. President Jung Soo Hyun of Hyundai Engineering & Construction Co Ltd explained facts about 500-MW CCGT project

Private entrepreneurs invited to supply electricity

New Light of Myanmar, 07/10/12. Edited. (p.16 of the print edition)

http://www.myanmararchives.com/newspapers/The-New-Light-of-Myanmar/2012/10_Oct/07-10-2012.pdf

The Ministry of Electric Power intends to allow private entrepreneurs to supply power on an independent basis on a manageable scale. "The move is aimed at increasing power supply volume in the nation. The suppliers have to submit their investment plan, work proposal and proposed area for supply of electricity to get permission from the ministry," said an official of the Ministry of Electric Power. Permits will be only be issued when the entrepreneurs proposing to engage in small and medium scale power projects provide exact information on the type of electricity to be generated, use of equipment, supply systems, balance between generating voltage and actual consumption, reserve volume for power cut-out situations and collection of meter billing. "The entrepreneurs are to generate 230 KV and 66 KV service standardized by the ministry and to supply electricity in line with the prescribed volume," said the official. Private entrepreneurs are to sign agreements with the Ministry of Electric Power and then submit the agreements to the office of the Union Attorney-General, the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and the government step by step. A private entrepreneur who sells locally-made transformers welcomed the move. "This should have been done years ago," he said. Competition will create better services. However, scrutiny will be necessary so as not to favour any one company monopolizing the supply of electricity."

MoU on implementation of gas-fired combined cycle power project (Thaketa) inked

New Light of Myanmar, 06/10/12. Edited and abridged. (p.7 of the print edition)

http://www.myanmararchives.com/newspapers/The-New-Light-of-Myanmar/2012/10_Oct/06-10-2012.pdf

An MoU on the implementation of a gas-fired combined cycle power plant in Thaketa township in Yangon was signed between the Union government's Dept of Electric Power and five Korean companies: Busan Korea Biotechnology Co., Ltd, Korea Western Power Co., Ltd, Hyundai Engineering & Construction Co., Ltd and Hana Daetoo Securities Co., Ltd through BOT system, took place in Nay Pyi Taw on 05/10/12. Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister for Electric Power Khin Maung Soe said that the arrangement had been under consideration since the time of the previous government when the Korean BKB company had first submitted a proposal to invest in the construction of gas turbine in Yangon. A feasibility study was initiated in December 2011. It is necessary agreements that agreement be implemented as quickly as possible in order to meet demand for electric power by the summer of 2014. The project will distribute electricity to the Thilawa industrial zone and will link to the regional power network.

Officials press charges against 'electricity protestors'

Democratic Voice of Burma, 09/10/12. Abridged.

<http://www.dvb.no/news/officials-press-charges-against-%E2%80%99electricity-protestors%E2%80%99/24158>

Activists who joined the widespread protests calling for sufficient electricity supplies in Mandalay in May have been charged by the city's police for demonstrating without official permission. Following frequent power cuts during the hot season, protests kicked off in Mandalay on 20 May and eventually spread throughout the country to Rangoon,

Monywa and Prome. Ahmar Ni, who participated in the demonstrations in May, said Mandalay's Police Station-8 informed her on 6 October that she would be charged for protesting without a permit. While demonstrations are technically legal in Burma, in accordance with the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law, permission to publicly protest must be sought five days in advance and applications can be rejected at the authorities' discretion. Several protesters, were taken in for questioning by Mandalay Police's Criminal Investigation Department on 23 May. According to Min Htet Nyein Chan, vice president of Mandalay Base Environmental Group, at least 10 other activists, including himself, have been charged by the police.

Myitsone Villagers Plan to Sue China Power Investment Corp

Tha Lun Zaung Htet, Irrawaddy, 02/10/12. Edited and abridged.

<http://www.irrawaddy.org/archives/15560>

Backed by local activists, a group of ethnic Kachin villagers says it plans to sue China Power Investment Corp, the Chinese state-backed company that was granted a license by the former military regime in Burma to construct the Myitsone Dam. Bawk Jar, a well-known Kachin activist and spokesperson for the group, told The Irrawaddy that local residents in the Myitsone area are investigating ways to take legal action against CPI for destroying the local environment and forcing hundreds of people to relocate. "They [CPI] destroyed our land. They destroyed our environment. They destroyed the livelihoods of our people. They also destroyed our heritage," said Bawk Jar who is currently the chairwoman of the Kachin State National Democratic Force (NDF) and the founder of an NGO called Vision of Peace. "Now the locals are preparing to sue CPI and are looking into legal representation from law firms," she said. Bawk Jar said that hundreds of people from the Myitsone area were forced to relocate miles away to new villages where they have faced many difficulties, not least of which is a lack of food and jobs, and high levels of disease and depression. Win Myo Thu, the head of a local environmental NGO called Ecodev, told The Irrawaddy that Burma has no law whereby a company can be sued for damaging the environment. "As far as I understand, our country has no environmental law whereby CPI can be sued," he said. "However, the villagers can take legal action against CPI for forcing them from their homes and off their land."