Pyidaungsu Hluttaw gives green light to euro 30 million soft loan from Italy

At the eighth-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s ninth regular session held at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning, the Hluttaw decided to accept a euro 30 million soft loan from Italy to implement projects of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

The matter was sent to the Hluttaw by the President. During the meeting, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives also discussed a US$40.5 million loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for projects of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. This matter was also sent to the Hluttaw by the President.

Euro 30 million soft loan from Italy

Responding to suggestions made by Hluttaw representatives on the loan from Italy, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw said that in continuing the implementation of rural electrification work, selection of villages, formation of village electrification committees, assuring quality and maintenance work would be conducted systematically, according to suggestions from Hluttaw representatives. In the same way, tenders would be called with the help and advice of international consultants, and a group consisting of international experts and departmental officials will assess and evaluate, sign agreement, inspect samples, conduct preliminary project works, monitor and assure quality. The people putting up funds in proportion to the installed system are for them to have a sense of participation and for the sustained existence of the system. For people who are unable to put up their portion of fund, discussions would be made with the World Bank and current partner organizations, to determine suitable ways and means.

Private investors and rural people need to discuss first. Only when the private investors and rural people agree and the rural people can afford, should the work on the small scale electricity generation system work be conducted by the Rural Development Department, investors and rural people.

The Italian government is providing the soft loan with the aim of supporting electrification of the entire country through a preliminary electrification system in villages far away from the national grid. With this loan, villages in states and regions that are far from the national grid and where transport is difficult will be provided with electricity.

The euro 30 million is interest free with a grace period of 18 years and repayment period of 10 years. Starting from fiscal year 2036-2037, euro 3 million will be repaid every year. The repayment amount will be included in the yearly budget and will be conducted with the permission and agreement of the Union Government and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, said the Deputy Minister.

In the same way Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing said the government is striving towards providing electricity to the entire country. At the moment, 41 percent of the population is receiving electricity from the national grid but for people in places where transport is difficult, there are difficulties in constructing national grid lines and independent mini-grids need to be constructed. As this loan will enable the construction of mini-grids, it will provide electricity to such places speedily.
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Similarly, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win said the works to be conducted with the loan will be implemented by the Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. Ministry of Planning and Finance, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Department of Rural Development and representatives from Italy will coordinate and continue the work of acquiring, utilizing and repaying the soft loan. Together with the loan regulations, procedures and regulations on purchasing materials should be followed as discussed by the Hluttaw representatives, said the Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy.

Discussion on US$40.5 million loan from ADB

Next, matter sent by the President regarding the US$40.5 million loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), matter sent by the President, for projects of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation was discussed by Hluttaw representatives.


Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kingdom of Thailand arrives Nay Pyi Taw

At the invitation of U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, His Excellency Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, arrived in Nay Pyi Taw by air in the evening of 13 August 2018 to hold the 9th Meeting of Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand and to attend the reception commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Thailand. The Thai Foreign Minister was welcomed at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by U Than Shwe, Director General of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Juky Boon-Long, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar and officials concerned.

— Myanmar News Agency

ASEAN+3 working group meets for student mobility, quality assurance of higher education

Sixth MEETING of the Working Group on Student Mobility and Quality Assurance of Higher Education among ASEAN Plus Three Countries (APTWG) was held yesterday morning in Amara Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, drafts on guideline and assessment on student exchange and mobility programs, work processes for 4th ASEAN plus Three (APT) Education Ministers meeting and 9th ASEAN + 3 Senior Officials Meeting on Education (9th SOMED + 3) were discussed, it is learnt.

The meeting will be held for two days and is attended by representatives from ASEAN countries, representatives from three partner countries of China, Japan and South Korea and officials from department of higher education.—Myanmar News Agency