

VP U Henry Van Thio discusses digital economy development



Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers the opening speech at the second meeting of the Digital Economy Development Committee at the Ministry of Planning and Finance in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Statistics showed that digital businesses would grow 2.5 times faster than other businesses and investing in digital businesses could garner 6.7 times more benefits than investing in other types of businesses, said the Vice President.

He said the digital economy, also referred to as digital trade and e-commerce, would bring about the 4th Industrial Revolution by incorporating e-Government and e—Community systems.

The Vice President said over

80 per cent of mobile phone users in Myanmar own a smartphone, and this is a perfect opportunity to leapfrog development in our country's digital sector.

He said adapting to the 4th Industrial Revolution would require creating a digitally connected society to enable the public to receive the necessary skills and technology to adapt along with the times. He said this would allow people from both rural and urban areas to have access to digital services such as electronic trading, digital healthcare, and

online education.

Myanmar must anticipate digital change

The Vice President said e-commerce, digital payment, and digital markets must be developed in order for the public to have widespread usage. He said government services and payments must become available over a digital network too. He said an innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem needed to be established in Myanmar to encourage the digital economy

and the emergence of new jobs related to technology.

The Vice President said we must create an attractive environment for foreign investors so that we can bring about a digital transformation and establish a digital economy ecosystem. He said we must consider the effects on businesses employing conventional selling techniques and the lives of workers without adequate digital skills who may face unemployment. He said we must plan carefully to handle the digital disruption.

The Vice President said experts from the private sector have conducted capacity development courses for civil servants and in technological universities. He said many of Yangon's technological universities and hospitals have been outfitted with high-speed fiber optic networks and international technology companies have been invited to bring internet connectivity into every school. He said plans were underway to build innovation centers in Yangon and Mandalay, and the Digital Myanmar Report has been officially published.

Closing remarks

The main purpose of today's meeting, said the Vice President, was to analyze the strengths, requirements, and challenges of the digital economy system, and to approve a draft roadmap for the Digital Economy Development Committee (DEDC) that was in line with the country's existing situation. He said the roadmap would be a living document that could be edited and improved overtime.

He said the roadmap would have 6 strategy frameworks, 9 priority projects, and short-term and long-term action plans designed depending on the needs of the current strategy. He concluded by urging the attendees to pour out ideas and suggestions that would enhance the livelihoods of the people of Myanmar.

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SWRR Ministry provides aid to displaced people in Rakhine State

A CEREMONY to provide assistance to the displaced people and local residents was held yesterday at the Rakhine State government's office, where Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye attended and delivered a speech.

In his opening speech, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye said that efforts were being made to fulfill the requirements of the local residents who stayed away from their own places due to conflicts through the cooperation of Union Government and Rakhine State government, and we understood that there remained many requirements

before making a systematic resettlement while distributing the provisions, cash and other assistances to them.

Moreover the government is striving to ease the people's sufferings and worries out of loving-kindness while working together to bring about a good result in the long run for the displaced people through mutual trust and transparency.

Then Union Minister handed over rice provision worth K 40 million for one month, mats and blankets worth K 9.9 million for 970 households.

Next the Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and displaced people accepted the



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye hands over cash assistance at the ceremony to provide aid to displaced people from Ponnagyun, Buthidaung, Kyauktaw and Yathedaung townships in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

supply and expressed their thanks.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

has lakh provided a total of K 70 lakh cash assistance, including K 20 lakh for provisions and relief aids to the displaced people

in Ponnagyun, Buthidaung, Kyauktaw and Yathedaung townships. — MNA (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)