Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves 5 million euro loan from Austria

PYIDAUNGSU Hluttaw has approved a 5 million euro soft loan and grant package from Austria to fund public projects.

The loan was approved yesterday following a discussion among seven lawmakers.

"The loan is aimed at promoting bilateral friendship, assisting in projects which will directly benefit the people, buying materials which will be used for the projects at reasonable prices, and attracting investment from Austria," said Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win.

The loan, provided by Austria's Unicredit Bank, extends 25 years, with 15 per cent of the loan being a grant and 85 per cent to be reimbursed with no interest, according to lawmakers.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is being convinced in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

According to those involved in the discussions last week, the loan will be used to build the King Chaung bridge in Yanbye, Kyaukpyu District, in Rakhine State.

The bridge will provide direct access between Kyaukpyu and Yanbye townships and will link up with the Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road.

The bridge will be helpful in attracting foreign investment to Rakhine and will also benefit the socio economic development and job opportunities for the local population, said lawmakers.

The Ministry of Construction is to use the allocated funds to purchase steel for the bridge, which will be 1256 ft long and have a capacity to carry up to 75 tonnes. The bridge, which is already under construction on the Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road, is targeted to completed in more than two years. During the meeting yesterday, lawmakers also discussed a proposal urging the Union Government to sign an agreement to establish an Animal-Human infectious disease centre in ASEAN countries.

Following discussion by several lawmakers, the proposal was approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.—Mi Mi Phyo (Myanmar News Agency) ■

Union Minister for Information attends 27th anniversary of IPRD

THE 27th anniversary of the Information and Public Relations Department was commemorated at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Attending the ceremony were Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint and Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun.

The Union Minister gave a speech to the civil service employees in attendance on the importance of working hard during challenges in one's career. He also said everyone should adapt to the changing technology.

The Union Minister highlighted some of the processes and workings of the IPRD such as converting their offices to community centres, facilitating children's literary festivals, coordinating public talks, curating museums for traditional ethnic handiworks and history, and facilitating literary festivals for ethnic literature in Hpa-an, Kayin State and Taunggyi, Shan State.

Next, the Union Minister awarded the first, second and third prizes to outstanding individuals from district-level community centers.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint presents prize to outstanding staff from district-level community center in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Afterwards, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun awarded first, second and third prizes to outstanding individuals from township-level community centers. He also handed out awards for other achievements from State and Regional Governments.

The Director General of the IPRD U Ye Naing handed out awards for outstanding students and literary works from their staff members. This was followed by a screening of a documentary video on the community centres.

Later in the afternoon, the Union Minister met with officials from the IPRD and State, Regional and District authorities to give further instructions on facilitating community centres, handling public libraries and children's reading corners, facilitating literary seminars, book clubs and book reviews, holding public talks and encouraging the reading and writing of more ethnic literature.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Deputy Attorney-General receives Executive Director of European Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar

DEPUTY Attorney-General U Win Myint received a delegation led by Mr Filip Lauwerysen, Executive Director of the European Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar, at the Union Attorney-General's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, the role of the Union Attorney-General's Office in the law-making process, the legal framework being developed for the economic sector, the importance of maintaining law and order in investments and economic development, the importance of the Myanmar Companies Act in accepting investments from European companies, Myanmar Investment Law and the Contract Law were discussed.

Directors-General Daw Khin Cho Ohn and U Min Swe and Director Dr Kyi Kyi Than Aung from the Union Attorney-General's Office attended the meeting.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar-Japan joint workshop on natural disaster management held

U Kyaw Myint Hlaing, Director -General of the Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Department, attended a workshop on natural disaster management, held in the meeting hall of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in Nay Pyi Taw, on 23 January morning. The workshop was jointly organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan.

At the workshop, they discussed and exchanged views on the process of conservation of the dams and the environment, environmental management and technical assistance. —Myanmar News Agency ■