

NEWS

Panasonic and UNESCO donate solar PV systems in Bagan area – 27th October 2015

Panasonic, in partnership with UNESCO, will donate 500 solar PV systems to 40 schools without connection to the national grid. All the schools are located in the surrounding area of the ancient city of Bagan. Each “Eneloop Solar Storage” kit (PV system) consists of a 15Wp solar panel, 2 or 3 LED lights (~6.5W-600 lumens) and a 3Ah Nickel-metal hybrid battery incorporated into the main unit. According to their joint press release, this project aims to “*support the development of a school environment where young people can study anytime of the day under safe and bright lights.*” Panasonic will also run a 2-year educational project aiming to promote the sustainable development of communities that are living in this area. A video describing the project is available online.

Source: Panasonic, [Panasonic to release “eneloop solar storage” with LED lighting](#), press release, October 27, 2015.

Upper Paunglaung hydropower plant officially launched – 9th December 2015

After more than 10 years of construction, a new hydropower plant on the Sittaung river system officially started on December 8th. The Upper Paunglaung power plant has a capacity of 140MW and will bring an additional 454 million kWh per year to the national electricity grid. It is entirely funded by the Ministry of Electric Power and was carried out by the Department of Hydropower Implementation. Over 10,000 residents have been relocated for this project according to Myanmar Times article. The total cost of the project is estimated at US\$24 million. According to the Myanmar energy master plan (see article below), eight hydropower plants are now under construction which make up a total capacity of 1834MW.

Source: Shin, A., [Controversial Upper Paunglaung dam joins national grid](#), *Myanmar Times*. December 11, 2015.

Myanmar news agency, [New hydropower station opened at Upper Paunglaung power project in Pinyinmana](#), *Global New Light of Myanmar*, December 9, 2015.

Seminar on Myanmar’s wind energy potential – 19th December 2015

On December 15th, DNV GL invited investors, developers, CSOs and official representatives involved in Myanmar’s power sector to attend a seminar on Myanmar’s wind energy potential and possible solutions to harness it. Experts from the private sector presented their analysis of the barriers to developing wind projects and covered all areas of project development: financing, regulations, technical aspects and environment management.

Source: Zhong, A., [Eyes on wind energy in Myanmar: high potential with a great challenge](#), *Mizzima*, December 19, 2015.

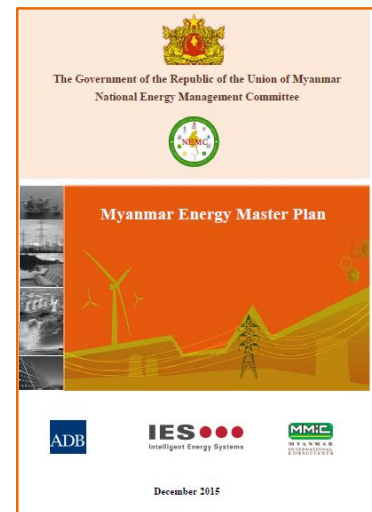
Coal-fired power plant halted in Mon state – 5th January 2016

Preparation for the development of a coal-fired power plant in Ye township, Mon state, has recently been suspended by the Ministry of Electric Power (MOEP) until they receive the consent of local residents. Since the agreement was signed in April 2015 by Toyo Thai and the MOEP, local inhabitants have continuously demonstrated their opposition to the project. According to Toyo Thai, the total investment amounts to \$2.8 billion and the designed capacity is 1280MW.

Source: Snaing, Y., [Official vows to suspend plans for controversial power plant in Mon state](#), *The Irrawaddy*, January 5, 2016.

IN DEPTH**NEMC officially launches the Myanmar Energy Master Plan**

In January 2015, two years after its creation, the National Energy Management Committee (NEMC) finalized its first policy paper for the energy sector. It consists of nine points (see box below). One year later, the NEMC has released the Myanmar Energy Master Plan, a comprehensive report that provides the latest data on Myanmar's energy sector (energy resources, consumption patterns and projection of future demands, etc.) and examines different scenarios to ensure Myanmar's energy security and reliability over the long-term. According to the NEMC, the Myanmar Energy Master Plan "*prioritises the long term benefit of the country by ensuring sustainable energy sector development and conserving the environment sustainably.*" In reference to the power sub-sector, the report examines five fuel mix scenarios and compares their least cost of electricity (LCOE). It concludes with an outline of the 'optimum' scenario for Myanmar. One of the key recommendations of the report is to create an Integrated Energy Planning team to assist the NEMC in its mission. This 900-page report concludes two years of work that have been possible thanks to the support of the Japan Fund of Poverty Reduction and the ADB's expertise.



Nine points of the national energy policy:

1. *To implement short term and long term comprehensive energy development plan based on systematically investigated data on the potential energy resources which are feasible and can be practically exploited, considering minimum impact on natural environment and social environment*
2. *To institute laws, rules and regulations in order to promote private sector participation and to privatize State Energy Organizations in line with State Economic Reform Policy*
3. *To compile systematic statistics on domestic demand and supply of various different kinds of energy resources of Myanmar*
4. *To implement programs by which local population could proportionally enjoy the benefit of energy reserve discovered in the areas*
5. *To implement programs on a wider scale, utilizing renewable energy resources such as wind, solar, hydro, geothermal and bio energy for the sustainable energy development in Myanmar*
6. *To promote Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation*
7. *To establish R, D, D&D (Research, Development, Design and Dissemination) Institution in order to keep abreast with international practices in energy resources exploration and development works and to produce international quality products in order to manufacture quality products and in order to conduct energy resources exploration works in accordance with international standard*
8. *To promote international collaboration in energy matters*
9. *To formulate appropriate policy for energy product pricing meeting economic security of energy producers and energy consumers*

Source: [Announcement of the national energy policy, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar, President Office, January 6, 2015.](#)

[Myanmar Energy Master Plan Launched, mitv news, January 9, 2016.](#)

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

Myanmar National Electrification Program: new technical specifications for solar PV systems – 4th December 2015

In preparation of the national tender for solar PV systems in off-grid areas, the Department of Rural Development (DRD) presented a draft of the new technical requirements to the private sector. These standards apply to Solar Home Systems and public facilities (schools, health centers, public lights, religious sites). The DRD also presented an overview of the tender process and its key milestones for 2016.

Source: Energypedia, [Achieving universal access to electricity in Myanmar](#), technical consultation workshop, December 4, 2014

Business seminars on Renewable Energies by “Renewable-Made in Germany” – 26th November 2015

The Delegation of German Industries and Commerce in Myanmar (AHK), in partnership with the German development agency GIZ, organized a series of seminars aiming to foster investment in renewable energy technologies in Myanmar and to strengthen business relationships between Myanmar and German companies. This initiative was part of the broader program “Renewables – Made in Germany” supported by the German Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy. The presentations made by GIZ and German industries focused on three industry sectors: buildings, telecommunications and manufacturing. For the attendees, it was the occasion to gain a better understanding of bankable business models and technical possibilities of renewable energy. Presentations are available on the link below.

Source: Delegation of German Industry and Commerce of Myanmar, [Renewables made in Germany – Myanmar projects](#), November, 2015.

New website to report existing mini-grids in Myanmar.

The *Myanmar SPP Map* project, at www.myanmarsppmap.com, has been launched as a collaborative site through which stakeholders can report and find information on small power producers throughout the country. The site is designed to provide up-to-date information on existing mini-grids (location, capacity, ownership, etc.) and will be supported by the ongoing input of interested actors. As the project is in

the early phase of development, content will be added in the upcoming weeks. All are encouraged to participate.

Small Hydro Power Association Myanmar (SHPAM)

The growing association of Small Hydro Power developers created a new website: www.shpam.org. Check out the website to learn more about their vision, current activities and members.

CONTACT

This free newsletter aims to facilitate the exchange of information related to the power sector and electricity access in Myanmar. Everyone is welcome to contribute updates and/or articles.

This newsletter is available on [energypedia](#).

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