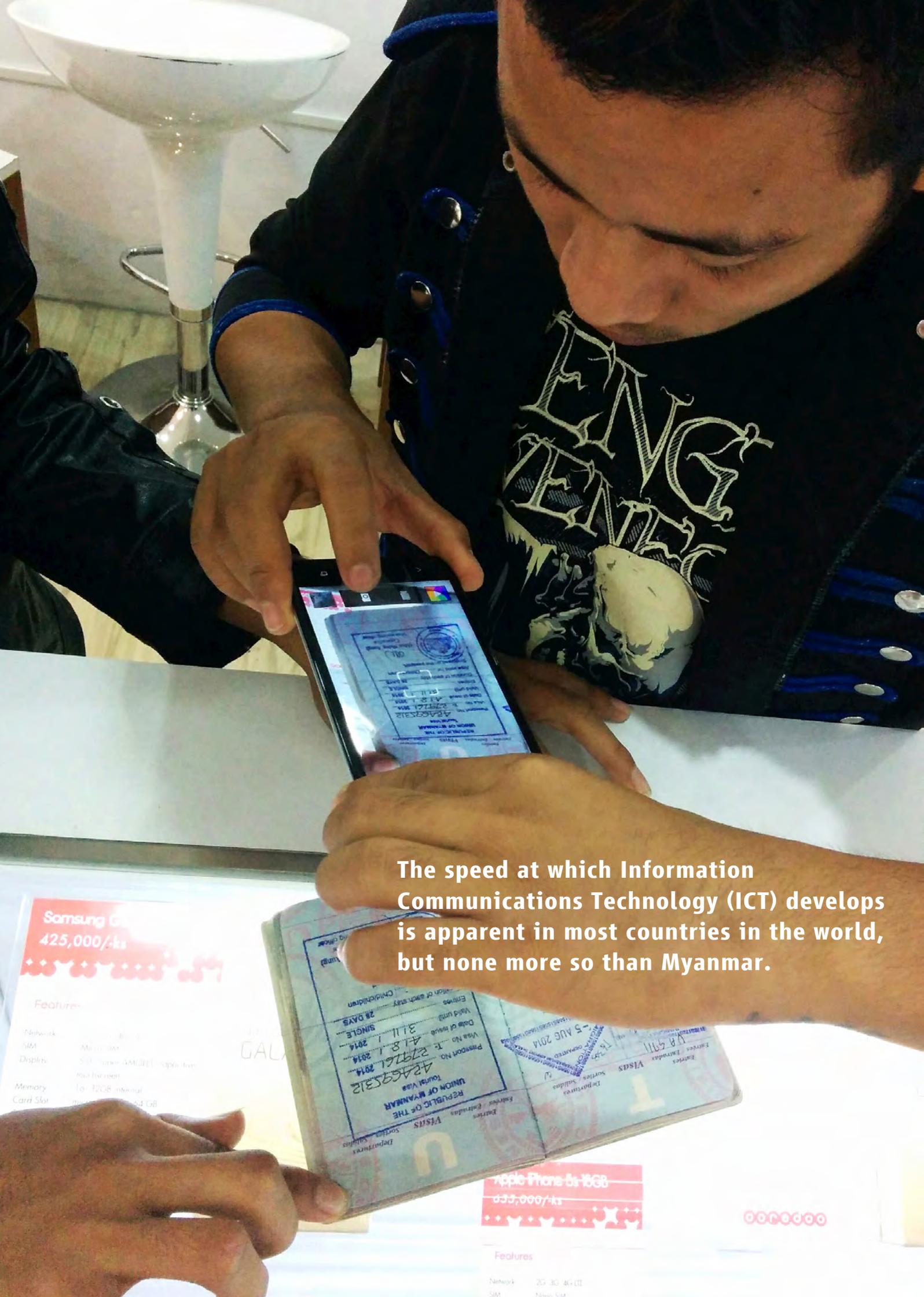# LINKED INITIATIVES

MYANMAR INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) SECTOR

AUGUST 2015

Sector-Wide Impact Assessments

The speed at which Information Communications Technology (ICT) develops is apparent in most countries in the world, but none more so than Myanmar.

Linked Initiatives: ICT Sector

CONTENTS

Access for All and Digital Literacy

Alliance for Affordable Internet (AFAI)

The Alliance for Affordable Internet (AFAI) is a technology-sector collation. Its goal is to achieve the UN Broadband Commission target of entry level-broadband priced at less than 5% of monthly income.

Myanmar joined AFAI on March 26th 2015.

www.a4ai.org

Telenor Telecentres (Telenor)

Telenor, in collaboration with Myanmar ICT Development Organization (MIDO), has promised to establish 200 Telecentres throughout the country. So far 15 Telecentres have been established. The aim of the project is to provide access to internet and ICT to rural communities and increase digital literacy and usage of mobile services.

Contact: Min Thu, Head of Corporate Responsibility at min.thu2@telenor.com.mm

www.internetjournal. media/news/2495

Safe Internet (Telenor)

Part of Telenor's Internet for All movement, this initiative educates users on cyber security and child safety.

Started in June 2014, the initiative is still ongoing.

Contact: Min Thu, Head of Corporate Responsibility at min.thu2@telenor.com.mm

www.telenor.com/media/in-focus/internet-for-all/safe-internet/

Access for All and Digital Literacy

www.fb.com/panzagar

Panzagar

In April 2014, Burmese blogger Nay Phone Latt launched Panzagar (Flower Speech) campaign to combat hate speech and dangerous speech, both online and offline. This campaign seeks to raise awareness against hate speech by launching shareable Facebook stickers for the Myanmar market. The campaign also consists of discussion amongst writers on the theme "no hate speech" and a research on how people come to believe in hate speech and how it spreads.

**www.lirneasia.net/2015/08/
results-of-baseline-survey-of-
ict-use-in-myanmar/**

Knowledge, Information and Communication Technology habits and needs in Myanmar Survey (LIRENasia/MIDO)

LIRNEasia, in partnership with Myanmar ICT for Development Organization (MIDO), conducted a nationally representative baseline survey on ICT needs and usage in Myanmar in February and March 2015. The survey focused on mobile and internet and gathered data of over 8,000 households and 420 clusters across Myanmar.

The results were presented to stakeholders at a series of events and meetings held in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw between 28 and 30 July 2015.

www.lrcmyanmar.org

Resource Centre for Yangon and Regions (LRC)

The Local Resource Centre has offices in Yangon, Mandalay, Lashio and Mawlamyine.

These offices include internet access centres.

Contact: Htin Lin Than, ICT Officer at:
it-officer@lrcmyanmar.org

Civic Technology and Transparency

Fixmystreet

Based on the UK App FixMyStreet, this app would provide a streamlined system for citizens to report problems such as broken streetlights and collapsed paths to the authorities.

The app is developed by the Myanmar Computer Professionals Association.

Mohinga - Open information about international assistance to Myanmar

Mohinga is an online knowledge base where government, development partners, civil society and others can find a wide variety of documents, from donors strategies to meeting minutes. Funded by the European Union and endorsed by Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, this resource is provided through a joint effort by the Foreign Economic Relations Department (FERD) and the Development Partners Working Committee (DPWC).

www.mohinga.info

MyCitizen.net

MyCitizen is a free platform for people in and from Myanmar to support citizen engagement. It gathers people with similar interests and problems and enables them to share important information amongst each other. It has also developed an equivalent mobile app.

The initiative is supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic within its Transition Promotion Program, developed by the Burma Centre Prague.

www.mycitizen.net

Civic Technology and Transparency

Open Myanmar Initiative

This NGO focuses on parliamentary monitoring, right to know, training, and public relations. It has developed an Android app called Myanmar MPs.

www.omimyanmar.org

Community Development

www.themimu.info

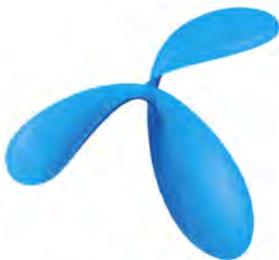## Myanmar Information Management Unit (MIMU)

The Myanmar Information Management Unit (MIMU) is a service to the UN Country Team and Humanitarian Country Team, under the management of the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator. Its purpose is to improve the capacity for analysis and decision making by a wide variety of stakeholders - including the United Nations, the Humanitarian Country Team, non-governmental organizations, donors and other actors, both inside and outside of Myanmar, through strengthening the coordination, collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of information.

The GIS Working Group (MIMU)

This initiative is an inter-agency technical working group under the Myanmar Information Management Unit (MIMU).

It brings together GIS focal points from agencies with activities related to geographic/spatial information. It provides a technical platform to coordinate, support and share information on GIS activities, and to define spatial data standards.

www.telenor.com/media/ articles/2014/telenor-and- marie-stopes-announce- joint-mhealth-initiative-in- myanmar/

Health (Telenor/MSIM)

Started in 2014 and in partnership with Marie Stopes International Myanmar (MSIM), this initiative aims to provide mother and child care through SMSES in underserved areas in Myanmar. Women will get vital advice on birth, child and reproductive healthcare via text and voice activated SMS, interactive voice response, and through call centres with customized real-time advice by healthcare professionals. A mobile app called MATE has been launched.

Contact: Min Thu at min.thu2@telenor.com.mm

Community Development

home.magpi.com/where-we-work/

Shae Thot, Swan-Yi and SHINE (Pact/Magpi)

Pact has used mobile phone data collection techniques provided by Magpi to collect baseline data for its three community development programs.

Pact started this data collection initiative by buying phones without SIM cards and transferring the data via wifi connections in township offices after the surveyors returned. Swan-yi has used Magpi to survey more than 2,000 women and 1,000 savings groups across three projects operating in 12 townships.

Shae Thot has collected data from more than 2,000 respondents for its maternal and child health component.

Contact: Jade Lamb, M & E Manager at Jlamb@pactworld.org

www.actionaid.org/videos/village-book

The Village Book (ActionAid)

The Village Book is facilitated by ActionAid's Fellows in their communities by employing various participatory rural appraisal tools.

The villagers collect demographic data about their own village which is otherwise hard to find in Myanmar; analyse their situation using visual tools such as problem trees, seasonal calendars, dream maps and cobweb diagrams; and prioritise their own context specific action plan.

The Fellows compile all this in one comprehensive Village Book, which serves as a reference document in the following implementation process. Meanwhile, ActionAid uses the village book to be adopted into national level planning.

Educational Initiatives

Cisco Networking Academy

This initiative is currently being run in University of Computer Studies Yangon and University of Computer Studies Mandalay. It provides students with information technology and networking skills to design, build, and maintain the infrastructure highway and increase the number of job-ready graduates for the country's information and communications technology sector. Cisco is donating networking equipment for labs and providing career skills training for up to 15 faculty staff from the two universities to support the program.

newsroom.cisco.com/press-release-content?type=webcontent&articleId=1166597

Connect to Learn (Ericsson)

As part of DFID's Girls' Education Challenge to support girls' education in Myanmar, this initiative will allow more than 30 secondary schools to be connected to the internet through mobile broadband, with deployment to the schools set for 2015.

Professional development programs for teachers, educational content for students, and child-friendly computing solutions to improve literacy and numeracy among females are among the aims.

Up to 600 scholarships will also be provided to marginalized girls. The deployments are supported by mobile operator Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and will benefit 11,000 students in the first two years.

Ericsson is working with UNESCO, the Earth Institute at Columbia University, Finja Five, Qualcomm Incorporated, through its Qualcomm© Wireless Reach initiative, and the external evaluator EduEval to deliver the program.

Contact: Nu Yin, Communications Manager at nu.yin.myint@ericssion.com

www.ericsson.com/news/1862181

Educational Initiatives

www.etekkatho.org

eTekkatho (e-University) Project

eTekkatho is a free, open online digital library that helps users to find books, teaching materials, journal articles, datasets and other educational resources for studies and research.

The majority of content of the library has been compressed so users can access it over a low bandwidth network. Users can also access the eTekkatho library at high speed from the library buildings of partner institutions.

www.life-global.org/en/ LIFE-IN-ACTION/News/Fourth- HP-LIFE-Center-opens-in- Myanmar.201503181000

HP LIFE e-Learning

HP LIFE e-Learning IT and business skills training is being made available to institutes of higher education and small-medium sized enterprises, through a collaboration with the Yangon University of Economics, to support innovative teaching and learning practices in their classrooms and training centers.

The program is accessed directly by self-paced learners and is also used by educators, trainers, and mentors to enrich their curriculum.

It is part of the ADEPT program designed to promote entrepreneurship skills, opportunities and capacity building for the business and higher-education communities in Myanmar.

The ADEPT program was launched by the USAID, Indiana University's (IU) Kelley School of Business, Business for Social Responsibility (BSR) and VinaCapital's Lotus Impact fund.

Educational Initiatives

www.khanacademyburmese.org

Khan Academy Burmese Translation Project

This initiative aims to provide free education through educational videos available online. Its educational videos cover K-12 and some college level math, science topics such as biology, chemistry, and physics, and reach into the humanities with playlists on finance and history.

Each video is especially purposed for viewing on the computer.

www.mymeproject.org

Mobile Myanmar Education Project (Samsung)

Samsung pledged US$50,000 worth of assistance to this project. The donation covers a mobile education bus equipped with Samsung's devices such as television and tablets, as well as one-year salaries for teachers of the project.

The project has more than 20 teachers who are providing education services to over 400 youths in Yangon and Mandalay regions, mostly to children working at teashops and restaurants.

www.fb.com/mkitc

Myanmar-Korea IT Centre (MCF/KOICA)

Founded and operated by the Myanmar Computer Federation (MCF), Korea International (KOICA) Cooperation Agency and Korea Aerospace University, this centre offers mobile android application development courses and data base management system courses.

It is located in MICT Park.

Educational Initiatives

Research & Technology Exchange Projects (MST)

The Ministry of Science and Technology is currently working with various educational institutions across the world on research and technology exchange projects.

Samsung Kids Quiz Program

Samsung works with its high school network, including TTC Kamayut and Basic Education High School (B.E.H.S) in Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi, Pathein, Myintkyinar, Bago, Naypyitaw and Magway to produce this scholarship quiz show.

www.fb.com/ samsungtechinstitute

Samsung Tech Institute Android Mobile Application Development Training Program

The program has admitted more than 100 computer science students to its courses since 2013.

It plans to offer training to 200 students in 2015 and targets students from universities of computer studies in Yangon and Mandalay.

The remaining training courses are scheduled for October and November 2015.

Regulatory Reforms

Telecommunication Sector Reform Project (WBG)

This is a US31.5 million project by the World Bank Group (WBG) in partnership with Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT).

The objectives are to:

(a) improve the enabling environment for the telecommunications sector and extend coverage in selected remote pilot locations; and

(b) establish priority e-Government technological foundations and institutional capacity for Government to embark on its public sector reform program.

Its components are

1) creating an enabling environment for connectivity;

2) extending connectivity to rural areas;

3) enabling e-Government foundations and

4) the project implementation support.

The project is due to complete on 31 December 2019.

e-Government

Design of e-Governance Master Plan and Review of Information and Communication Technology Capacity in Academic Institutions (ADB)

The aim of this project is to adopt an integrated approach in implementing government applications and online services to achieve enhanced capacity for public service delivery.

The project is estimated to complete in 2015 at a cost of $1.525 million.

http://adb.org/projects/
details?page=details&proj_
id=47158-001

Project on Capacity Building through IT-based Statistical Data Management in Myanmar (KOICA)

This $2 million project aims to improve socio-economic statistical system by developing a statistical data accumulation and dissemination system for easy data inputs and by strengthening capacity of statistical personnel at the Central Statistical Organization (CSO).

http://mohinga.info/en/profiles/
activity/MM-FERD-ID16002/

The components of the project are:

(1) formulation of national statistical infrastructure development strategy;

(2) establishment of IT based statistical database and information management and service system;

(3) capacity development in statistical management by providing trainings to statistical personnel.

Based in Naypidaw and in partnership with the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, Central Statistical Organization, the project is estimated to complete in 2015.

e-Government

Project on Establishment of Law Information System in Myanmar

This $3.6 million project aims to develop IT-based legal database and information system managed by the Union Attorney General's Office (UAGO). Its components are:

(1) formulation of the Master Plan on IT-based Legal Data and Information Management System Building;

(2) development and establishment of legal database and information management system;

(3) electrification of legal documents;

(4) provision of trainings on system implementation and management;

(5) post-project management support.

Based in Naypidaw and in partnership with the UGAO, Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, the project is estimated to complete in 2017.

Project for Port EDI for Port Modernization (JICA)

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has pledged approximately USD$1.4 million grant aid to this project.

The project will improve the port-related procedures, berth allocation, invoice issuance, statistics management and logistics monitoring systems of Yangon Port. The total duration of the project is expected to be two years starting from March 2015.

Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) is the computer-to-computer exchange of business documents in a standard electronic format between business partners.

e-Government

www.mm.emb-japan.
go.jp/profile/english/
press/2013-10-25.html

The Project for Development of ICT System for Central Banking (JICA)

This $51 million project aims to modernize the financial sector of Myanmar by introducing an ICT system to the Central Bank.

Through implementation of the project, settlement of current account and government bond will be automated.

The project will develop a core banking system that connects the central bank with 24 participants (four state-owned and 20 private banks).

The system will provide functions including fund settlement, government bond settlement and collateral management.

Funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, this project is estimated to complete in 2016.

Incubators, Co-working Space and Innovations Labs

DevLab

Developer Lab Yangon holds regular events, working space for the developer and entrepreneur community to enable collaborative growth in the digital start-up ecosystem. It claims to be 'a space for hacker-minded people to explore and extend their horizons along with the community'.

www.devlabyangon.org

Phandeeyar

Phandeeyar is an ICT initiative designed to support social innovation, civictech and ICT4D/M4D in Myanmar. It brings the tech community together with civil society organizations, social enterprises and independent media to build the digital tools, platforms and content to accelerate change and development. It was born out of Code for Change Myanmar, which organized a series of hackathons in 2014 that focussed on building tech solutions to social problems and solutions for small and medium businesses.

www.phandeeyar.org

Project Hub Yangon

Project Hub Yangon is Myanmar's first start-up incubator. In partnership with USAID, it conducts research on Myanmar's start-up landscape and advises development agencies on their support to the private sector.

Its incubation programs provide tailored training, mentorship, coaching, publicity, and access to finance.

www.projecthubyangon.com

Infrastructure

www.jica.go.jp/english/news/
press/2014/150326_02.html

Communication Network Improvement Project (JICA)

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is providing a loan of approximately US$8.6 million for this project.

The project will improve the communication network between three major Myanmar cities (Yangon and the Thilawa area, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay) as well as partial urban improvements to increase the communication capacity and meet the growing demand for communication, thereby contributing to economic development and better lives for residents in Myanmar.

The project will announce the tender of the initial procurement package for international competitive bidding on project construction in April 2016.

Business Initiatives

photos.state.gov/libraries/burma/895/
pdf/20141219USMyanmarICTCouncil.
pdf

US-Myanmar ICT Council

Its current members are Google, Microsoft, HP, Qualcomm, and Cisco. Membership is only available to US companies.

The council is focused on the following issue areas:

1) policy reform/enabling environment (e.g. internet management, intellectual property, product standards and cyber security);

2) capacity/skills building (with a focus on job readiness skills and SME promotion); and

3) infrastructure development (e.g. national broadband policy, connectivity and mobile spectrum plan).

Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business
15 Shan Yeiktha Street, Sanchaung, Yangon, Myanmar

web: www.mcrb.org.mm
email: info@myanmar-responsiblebusiness.org

Myanmar Centre for
Responsible Business

Sector-Wide Impact Assessments