



Digital Rights Forum: the community and the agenda expands

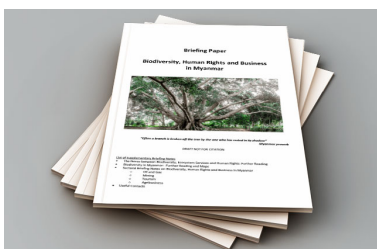
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Sector-Wide Impact Assessment (SWIA) on mining published

On 8 March, MCRB published a [sector-wide impact assessment \(SWIA\) on mining](#) based on field research focussed on tin, gold and limestone in eight states and regions, and an analysis of the policy and legal framework, with recommendations to government, companies, ethnic armed organisations and others on how to make mining in Myanmar more sustainable. This is the fourth [SWIA](#) by MCRB.

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Comments wanted on Briefing Paper on Biodiversity, Human Rights and Business

MCRB is seeking comments on a draft Briefing Paper on 'Biodiversity, human rights and

business in Myanmar', sponsored by the [Helmsley Trust](#). The Briefing Paper aims to create sensitivity amongst local and international businesses in Myanmar to key biodiversity issues in general and oil and gas, mining, agriculture and tourism sectors in particular. A consultation meeting will be held on 20 March 2018, in Yangon, all welcome. **The draft is available on MCRB's website in English and Burmese (upcoming) deadline for comments 22 April 2018.**

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Forthcoming biodiversity and EIA workshop for EIA consultants

MCRB will hold biodiversity-focused workshop for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Consultants on 19 March 2018, in Yangon. The workshop will be conducted by Sally Johnson a biodiversity expert with extensive experience of IFC performance Standard 6, as well as experts from leading environmental agencies and EIA consultancies.



Discussion of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPSHR)

On 28 February, MCRB and Peace Nexus co-hosted a multistakeholder discussion on the potential for establishing an in-country Pilot Implementation Group for the VPSHR. The discussion wrapped up ten days of stakeholder consultation as part of a scoping study by consultant David Nyheim.

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Pwint Thit Sa 2018 to be published 26 March

ON 26 March, MCRB will publish the 2018 Pwint Thit Sa/Transparency in Myanmar Enterprises report. This year's report is based on the ASEAN Corporate Governance Scorecard, and has been conducted in partnership with Yever, to rate the transparency and corporate governance of around 175 large Myanmar companies.



MCRB Submits Comments on Draft Universal Service Strategy for Telecommunications

MCRB has provided a response to the [consultation](#) by the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications on the draft Universal Service Strategy. MCRB's comments mainly focus on the governance of the proposed Universal Service Fund, including the need for it to be transparent, and have consumer interests represented in its membership.

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Round-up of MCRB's Work on Gender Equality

MCRB has summarized its work on Gender Equality for a display at the [Nordic Day](#) on 9 February hosted by the Nordic Embassies. MCRB has been funded by the governments of Norway and Denmark, and which has also worked closely on [digital rights](#) with the Embassy of Sweden. MCRB staff also participated in a number of events to mark International Women's Day on 8 March.

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