



## RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS WORKSHOPS LAUNCH EVENT

**5 JULY 2018**

**08:00 – 10:00**

**Eureka Room, Novotel Yangon Max**

### BACKGROUND

Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business (MCRB), in co-operation with a number of companies and business associations and with the involvement of Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and the Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration (DICA), is launching a series of breakfast seminars and/or half-day workshops on responsible investment, in support of the Myanmar's December 2016 Investment Policy which states that *“Responsible and mutually beneficial foreign investments are welcomed....Local and foreign investors shall comply with the principles for responsible investment and business conduct, including environmental and natural resources matters on an equal basis and in a non-discriminatory manner at all times”*.

This first event of the series will focus on responsible investment and is co-hosted by DICA, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and MCRB. The Government of Myanmar and the OECD are collaborating on several projects to support deeper reforms to improve the investment and business climate. This includes co-operation to promote and enable responsible business conduct, supported by a joint EU-ILO-OECD initiative on *Promoting Responsible Supply Chains in Asia*, with funding from the European Union. The OECD will also undertake a 2<sup>nd</sup> Investment Policy Review of Myanmar, led by DICA, in 2018-2019.

The event will be an opportunity to launch in Myanmar the new OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct adopted in May 2018. This guidance provides practical support to businesses and provides plain language explanations of due diligence recommendations and associated provisions included in the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. Implementing these recommendations can help enterprises avoid and address adverse impacts related to workers, human rights, the environment, bribery, consumers and corporate governance that may be associated with their operations, supply chains and other business relationships. The guidance helps companies implement the recommendations in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the ILO Tripartite Declaration for Multinational Enterprises as international standards on responsible business are closely aligned.

*This event is open to journalists – presentations will be uploaded on MCRB website.*

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## OBJECTIVES

The objective of the 5 July event is to set a framework for the wider workshop series and to:

- introduce responsible business workshops
- receive an update from DICA on responsible business efforts and the planned investment policy review
- launch new OECD guidance for responsible business in Myanmar
- hear from international and Myanmar companies.

Future events will cover issues such as:

- **Business Integrity:** Anti-corruption and compliance, Codes of business conduct and whistleblowing, Human rights due diligence
- **People:** Gender equality, diversity, inclusion and non-discrimination
- **Decent work:** Employment, working conditions, industrial relations and unacceptable forms of work
- **Planet:** Efficient stewardship of natural resources (energy, water etc); Environmental management systems
- **Community:** Community engagement and development; Building local business and community capacity; Governance and 'do no harm' in corporate philanthropy and humanitarian assistance; Responsible marketing and product stewardship; Responsible use of social media.

*Additional topics may be added depending on availability of speakers, and audience interest.*

## TARGET AUDIENCE

The primary target audience for these seminars is staff from Myanmar and foreign businesses of various sectors and sizes (including beyond Yangon) and government officials working with businesses. Guest speakers will be drawn from companies and experts (e.g. from the OECD, ILO, and others).

## AGENDA

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|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 08:00 – 08:30 | Registration & Networking   |
| 08:30 – 08:50 | Welcome and Key Note Speech |
| 08:50 – 09:35 | Presentations by speakers   |
| 09:35 – 10:00 | Q&A                         |

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- 1) Welcome from **Inga Makusheva, Programme Manager, Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business (MCRB)** to briefly explain the responsible business seminar series (5 min)
  - 2) Keynote speech from **Deputy Director General U Than Aung Kyaw, Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration (DICA)** on responsible business conduct, 2016 investment law, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Investment Policy Review (15 min)
  - 3) Presentation by **Ms Tihana Bule, Economist/Policy Analyst, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** to introduce new guidance on responsible business (10 min)
  - 4) Presentation by **Ms Holly Bostock, Corporate Affairs Director Heineken** on why companies are contributing to the responsible business series and the experience of RBC due diligence in Myanmar from the perspective of an international investor (10 min)
  - 5) Presentation by **Mr Giuseppe Sardone, Chief Operating Officer, Shwe Taung Group** on experience of due diligence for Apache cement and hydro, and lessons to share (10 min)
  - 6) Q&A

