

**To:** Australia-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce Files  
**From:** Australia-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce  
Management Committee  
**Date:** 28 January 2013  
**Subject:** **January 2013 Update**

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### **AUSTRALIA-MYANMAR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (AMCC) INITIATIVE**

In early January 2013, the Management Committee of the proposed Australia-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce (AMCC) initiative met with Myanmar government officials, as well as members of the Myanmar business and Australian ex-pat communities in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw. These meetings followed an initial scoping visit in September 2012, and were aimed at garnering further support for the Chamber initiative and engaging with relevant stakeholders prior to formal incorporation.

### **REQUIREMENT FOR AMCC INITIATIVE**

It is clear to the Management Committee that a co-ordinated approach to responsible investment and engagement by Australian companies in Myanmar will be of benefit to both Australia and Myanmar. Myanmar is at a critical stage in its process of economic renewal and would benefit greatly from Australian technology and expertise, particularly in industries where Australia has a global competitive advantage. It is important that Australia engages at this early stage as to do so will:

- Demonstrate Australia's commitment to act as a resource to our neighbours
- Assist with the development of legislative frameworks and national planning that will impact Australian corporate investors
- Protect Australia's reputation in the country and region
- Allow Australian companies to remain apprised of first mover opportunities

The Management Committee indicated at each of the in-country meetings that the AMCC was a newly established initiative which was yet to gain formal incorporation approval. The issues discussed included the need for a Chamber, key AMCC objectives, and potential practical initiatives.

### **KEY MESSAGES**

Key messages received throughout the meetings included:

- Recognition of Australia's positive reputation and ongoing support to Myanmar including being the first to lift sanctions and ongoing aid efforts
- Strong desire to work co-operatively with Australia to pursue economic development
- Australia has a global competitive advantage in key sectors including mining, agriculture, infrastructure, financial services and education with Myanmar keen to pursue opportunities for Australia to assist and share skills, knowledge and technology
- The reforms are ongoing and significant work is still required, however there is a focus on considering the environmental and social impact of development
- The Myanmar Government is focused on improving transparency and accountability

## **NEXT STEPS**

Next steps in relation to the Australia-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce initiative include:

- Formal incorporation request for the Australia-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce
  - Garnering Australian corporate support including membership and sponsorship
  - Implementation of 2013 strategic plan
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## **REPRESENTATIVES CONSULTED**

### ***Myanmar Government***

Meetings were held with the following Government representatives and their Ministries in Nay Pyi Taw on 8-10 January 2013:

- Amyotha Hluttaw: Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein and Chairpersons of the Committees
- Ministry of Mines: H.E. Dr. U Myint Aung (Minister)
- Ministry of Commerce: H.E. U Win Myint (Minister)
- Ministry of National Planning & Economic Development: H.E. Professor Dr. U Kan Zaw (Minister)
- Ministry of Construction: U Kyaw Linn (Managing Director, Public Works)
- Myanmar Investment Commission: H.E. U Soe Thane (Chairman)
- Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry: U Nyi Nyi Kyaw (Director General)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs: U Thant Kyaw (Deputy Minister)
- Pyithu Hluttaw: Deputy Speaker U Soe Tha and Chairpersons of relevant Committees

### ***The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry (RUMFCCI)***

The Management Committee met with Dr U Maung Maung Lay, Vice President of RUMFCCI on 11 January 2013. The Vice President was supportive and indicated that RUMFCCI would be interested in signing a Memorandum of Understanding once the Australia-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce had been established.

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