

# Introduction Flyer

## Myanmar and the Chamber



**AUSTRALIA-MYANMAR  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Both Myanmar and Australia have much to gain from successful business ties and the opportunities presented by Myanmar's transition to an open economy. Australian business engagement in key industries such as natural resource development and major infrastructure which are critical for Myanmar's development can play an important role in Myanmar's transition to the global economy.

### Myanmar



- **Ongoing Reform Process:** Ongoing reforms have opened the door for economic renewal. The Government has passed a new foreign investment law and is undertaking a review of over 400 additional laws and regulations.
- **Growth Potential:** Myanmar has strong growth potential. Supported by favourable demographics, a rich natural resource endowment and strategic location between China, India and ASEAN.
- **Australia's Position:** Australia has a positive and distinct reputation in Myanmar. The Australian Government was one of the first countries to lift sanctions on Myanmar and also recently increased aid efforts, both of which will be important in supporting economic development in Myanmar.

<b>Population</b>	~60 million
<b>Economic</b>	2011 Est. GDP of ~US\$51.9b., ~US\$856 per capita
<b>Currency</b>	Kyat. (exchange rate of ~800-850 Kyat / USD)
<b>Key Export Industries</b>	Natural gas, agricultural produce (pulses, beans, seeds, rice and maize), timber, precious stones
<b>Key Import Industries</b>	Machinery and transport equipment, industrial raw materials, manufactured goods

### Formation of the Chamber of Commerce

- The Chamber is a not-for profit organisation which promotes responsible trade and investment between Australia and Myanmar.
- The Chamber has developed networks and relationships in Myanmar and is supported by a team of regional and commercial experts (through a Management Committee, Board and Advisory Panel) that includes individuals in both Australia and Myanmar.

### 2013 Objectives of the Chamber

1. **Increase awareness** in Australia of Myanmar and the opportunities it presents for the Australian private sector.
2. **Facilitate Australia's role** in supporting Myanmar's economic development through enhanced business relations.
3. **Establish closer ties** between Myanmar and Australian business communities.
4. **Support Australian companies** seeking to enter the Myanmar market.
5. **Assist with capacity building** and skill transfer for Myanmar private sector with Australian best practices and industry expertise.

### Board of Directors and Advisory Panel

The Board of Directors and Advisory Panel comprises:

- **Glen Robinson (Chairman)**, Managing Director – Asia Advisory, AFG Venture Group
- **Jonathan Glickfeld (Director)**, General Manager, Visy Industries
- **Christopher Flynn (Director)**, Partner, Gilbert + Tobin
- **The Hon. Warwick Smith, AM**, Chairman of the Australian New Zealand Banking Group for NSW and ACT
- **The Hon. Janelle Saffin, MP**, Federal Member for Page, Chair of Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
- **John Hancock**, Chairman, John W. Hancock & Associates
- **Sean Turnell**, Associate Professor, Macquarie University
- **Trevor Wilson**, (Former) Australian Ambassador to Myanmar, Visiting Fellow, Australian National University
- **Christopher Lamb**, (Former) Australian Ambassador to Myanmar, Associate Professor, University of Melbourne
- **U Nyi Nyi**, Former Director of the Attorney Generals Office of Myanmar
- **U Tin Myint**, Director, Suntac Technologies, Myanmar
- **U Min Sein**, Advocate of the Supreme Court of Myanmar

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## Initiatives



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The Chamber is pursuing a targeted, efficient and industry specific approach to provide the most appropriate level of engagement, flexibility and speed to match Myanmar's evolving business landscape and enable Australian companies to capitalise on opportunities that result. Our initiatives are aimed at being member-focused and member-driven programs that match Myanmar industry needs.

### Chamber Initiatives

The Chamber offers the following programs for members:

- 1. Business briefings and updates:** Events in Australia to provide briefings on the Myanmar business environment and investment climate, as well as latest industry developments in Myanmar.
- 2. Bilateral business and government delegations:** The Chamber has hosted events for the Ministry of Mines, Ministry of National Planning & Economic Development and Myanmar Investment Commission in 2013. A delegation from Australia to Myanmar is being planned for the second half of 2013.
- 3. Industry Skills Programs:** Programs have been developed to provide the opportunity for skill transfer and knowledge sharing between the two countries.
  - i. Industry Skills Seminars:** The Chamber is assisting Corporate members to provide technical workshops to industry associations and the tertiary sector in Myanmar.
  - ii. Skill-swap Program:** A program is being developed to place Myanmar professionals on secondment with Australian companies to facilitate capacity building required for Myanmar to pursue economic renewal.
- 4. Industry Working Groups:** Formation of working groups comprising members to develop initiatives in key Myanmar industries that Australia has a global competitive advantage including:
  - i. Extractive Industries;**
  - ii. Education and Skills Development;**
  - iii. Financial Services;**
  - iv. Agribusiness, and**
  - v. Infrastructure.**

### Myanmar Presence

- The Management Committee and Advisory Panel members are based in Sydney, Australia and Yangon, Myanmar with extensive networks with government and industry in both countries. The Chamber will be establishing a formal presence in Myanmar in late 2013.
- The Chamber is in discussions with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry (**RUMFCCI**) with the intention of signing a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate broader co-operation and assistance between the Chamber and RUMFCCI.

### Invitation for Membership

- The Chamber invites both individuals and companies to become members of the Chamber by completing the membership application form located at [www.a-mcc.com](http://www.a-mcc.com)
- The Chamber is seeking expressions of interest for:
  - **Corporate members** willing to lead or participate in the proposed Industry Working Groups, business delegations and the skill-swap program
  - **Corporate members** seeking to invest or conduct business in Myanmar and connect with Myanmar counterparts
  - **Institutional members** who would like to partner with or support the Chamber in conducting projects relating to Myanmar
- The Chamber is also seeking general and event specific sponsorship from corporate and institutional members.

### Contact Details and Further Information

Please contact the members of the Management Committee for further information regarding the Australia-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce or send an e-mail to [info@a-mcc.com](mailto:info@a-mcc.com).

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