



**Flash Report for Myanmar**  
**SWITCH-Asia public-private dialogue on Environmental Management Plans (EMPs),  
Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Initial Environmental Examinations (IEEs) in  
two key sectors: the garment & textile and food & beverage industries**  
4-5 July, 2019, 5th July, Naypyitaw



**Tha Bar Wa**  
A sustainable future for industry



**SMART  
Myanmar**

## Background

As we are aware that exact numbers of enterprises are always dynamic and are changing, the garment, footwear, textile and food processing and beverages industries are thought to collectively employ over two million individuals in Myanmar across thousands of industrial facilities. The economic importance of these sectors and the environmental impacts of business activity deserve greater attention. It is an utmost priority for Myanmar to start promoting these businesses in a sustainable manner to allow an environment where these industries are in position to reach their potential and geared towards green and environmentally-friendly technologies and processes.

In this context, the Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) issued a Notification No. 616/2015 on Environmental Impact Procedures (2015) and the National Environment Quality (Emission) Guidelines in 2015. Implementation of the Environmental Impact Procedures has been constrained not only for planned investments but for existing industrial facilities. So far, regulations and procedures are not well understood or applied by the private sector and review/assessment of plans at ministry level is compounded by limited capacities and low quality of document submitted. Therefore, an opportunity exists to steer the process in a more effective and positive direction through discussing on how the process (e.g template to use, guidelines for industries and third party) could be improved and bringing greater awareness and capacity at many levels.

In light of this, a one and half day seminar was hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MoNREC), in close collaboration with SMART Myanmar (partners sequa & MGMA), Tha Bar Wa (partners WWF & MFPEA), EU Delegation to Myanmar, SWITCH Asia SCP Facility on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2019.

The overall objective of the event was to build better understanding on Sustainable Production and Consumption (SCP). The event specifically looked into opportunities and challenges on implementation of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), Initial Environmental Examinations (IIE) and Environmental Management Plans (EMP). The event also facilitates a discussion on how the requirements are better regulated and implemented in partnership between public, private and civil society.

Specific objective includes:

- Bringing awareness to private sector stakeholders on EMP requirements and more generally on environment sustainability
- Encouraging technical discussions among various stakeholders groups with a view of improving EMP preparation, submission and review processes
- Identifying areas of support which the SWITCH Grant projects; SMART Myanmar and Tha Bar Wa, and the SWITCH SCP Facility could jointly provide.

## Key Observations

More than 70 representatives from Government ministries, departments, business associations, donors, development partners, private enterprises, academicians, civil society organizations and environmental activist actively participated in this event. The event steered healthy discussions on how industries could support environmental conservation and to structure ways and means of complying and implementation of national environmental regulation/ standards.

The event started with the opening remarks by Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and the EU Head of Delegation, followed by presentation by ECD on current legal requirements and constraints for environmental management especially around EIAs, EMPs and IIEs.



Discussion between private businesses associations i.e. Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA), Myanmar Textile Manufacturers Association (MTMA), Myanmar Food Processors & Exporters Association (MFPEA), and Myanmar Industry Association (MIA), the government representatives on environmental issues and challenges the stakeholders face in complying with national environmental safeguards were thoroughly discussed.

Presentations from Tha Ba War and SMART Myanmar in order to contextualize environmental issues in Myanmar and a brief about support to industry provided by SWITCH Asia Grant projects; SMART Myanmar provided practical examples from garment/textile/footwear, and Tha Bar Wa from food & beverages. The SWITCH Asia SCP Facility shared its objective and mandate to provide support in responding to the country's demand-driven, and presented few selected experiences and learnings from other countries.

A thorough discussion between private businesses, ministries, departments and among civil society institution representatives were organised in order to understand challenges, opportunities, as well as way forward.

Some of the major topics that were discussed in the event were:

- Guidelines and template for environmental management plans (EMPs) for "light industries" and reflection on the current procedures including potential improvements to existing processes.
- Enforcement and accountability issues on these regulations.
- Clarification on how small and medium industries in these two sectors will be handled in terms of non-compliance with new emissions and water quality standards.
- Mechanisms and possible ways for public-private consultation.
- Greater clarity for investors and business associations on the development and promulgation of new environmental regulations and environmental quality standards.
- Discussion on the growing problems of water's over-extraction and groundwater management, and wood fuel and coal usage by factories. Recommendations and steps are made towards addressing these issues.
- Clarify roles and responsibilities of different institutions on monitoring and accountability.

### Recommendations and Next Steps

The major recommendations that came out of the seminar were as follows:

- The private sectors are willing to comply with environmental regulations and laws such as; Initial Environmental Examinations (IIE), Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), and Environmental Management Plans (EMP)
- The private sector recommended the government to reflect on the existing requirements, guidelines and templates of EMP and modify the requirement as per the capacity of the existing industries. Additionally, the industries expressed the needs for additional awareness for the private business on regulation and guidelines
- To disseminate information on requirements of EMP by posting on social media and websites by ECD
- Creating an online platform of the listed factories that are in the process of applying for EMP, announce the status of submitting EMP/ reviewing state/ ECC issued/ still need to submit (notification)
- Awareness Program that benefits the resource efficiency and cleaner production measures including incentives for compliance
- Clear guideline on requirements to write EMP including a sample and template for EMP
- Capacity building and trainings for industries including online training
- To establish an environmental lab/center which will be led by ECD in order to support and help industries to set and determine industries' baselines



- Additional public consultation on the EMP requirements
- Capacity building for the review team of ECD
- To assign specific review team for sub-sector (multi-stakeholders group to review submitted EMPs)
- More factory visits should be conducted for review team to understand its requirement and capacity
- Well-established monitoring mechanisms initiated by factories

The following points were recommended from the workshop:

- Official announcement should be done by ECD for EMP implementation.
- Multi-stakeholder discussion for EMP guidelines and template needs to be established.
- Provide in-house training to the industry on EMPs including TOTs for factory staffs on EMP preparations and implementation, and on job training for the development and implementation of EMP for SMEs.
- To set up complete baseline data (for easy reference from industries)
- Provide technical support to industries to monitor resource consumption, production efficiency, and waste minimization.
- Effective communication between Governments, industries and EMP's consultants.
- Factories must follow integrated management approach/systems
- To establish clear information /effective registration for consultants.
- Government to provide/offer possible economic incentives (ie. tax concession) for industries
- Strategy for independent monitoring and whistle blowing systems.

### **Follow-up activities**

As an outcome of the event following major steps were agreed:

- Supporting ECD to develop guidelines or templates for specific industry and/or sector to avoid confusions on existing EMP, and to make it implementable for the industry
- Capacity building program for government and industries will be also considered followed by support for technical consultants, workshop, ToTs, multi-stakeholder consultations, and strengthening of knowledge platform across the region, working with SMART Myanmar and Tha Bar Wa
- Awareness raising for industries and government officials will be considered as part of technical support.
- Additional workshops which will be followed by another multi-stakeholder consultation to disseminate and consult on the findings

In order to implement these activities, a brief concept note will be submitted to ECD after receiving a formal request from the Department where further discussions and detailed amendments can be made. Draft concept will be developed and agreed that will include a detailed action plan such as number of trainings, activities to develop guidelines along with a specific timeline.



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## ANNEX 1 – PRESS STATEMENT

### **Business associations and government ministries meet with EU funded environmental projects and GIZ in Naypyitaw**

#### **Discussions on improving consistency, clarity of environmental impact assessments and environmental management plans for manufacturers**

On July 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 2019, representatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MoNREC) hosted a public-private meeting with business associations which was jointly organized by the EU's SWITCH-Asia funded grant projects, SMART Myanmar and WWF's Tha Bar Wa project, as well as representatives of the SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

The Union Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation opened the event, speaking on the importance of environmental conservation and the need to implement regulations protecting the environment while maintaining economic growth. He also spoke on Myanmar's commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Welcome remarks by the European Union Delegation to Myanmar were provided by, Dr. Johann Hesse who emphasized, "As Myanmar's industrial sector grows, the need for pollution control, whether solid waste, air pollution and wastewater treatment, becomes evident... It is, therefore, timely for the government to evaluate its current implementation and to identify what would make progress faster."

Participants attending included the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, the Myanmar Food Processors and Exporters Association, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Industries Association, private enterprises and several other representatives of business and civil society, as well as government attendees from MoNREC, the Ministry of Industry and the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

The particular focus of this two-day event is on consulting with MoNREC environmental protection and sustainable production. This event particularly focused on improving capacities and consistency in the implementation of environmental impact assessments, initial environmental examinations and environmental management plans for the manufacturing sectors. In particular, discussions focused on the garment/textile and food and beverage products manufacturers.

The regional GIZ FABRIC project, working on behalf of the German government, also co-organized parts of the 2-day discussions. GIZ in collaboration with Solidaridad has previously been in consultation with MoNREC, organizing a series of public-private meetings during 2018 and 2019 on environmental regulations in the garment and textile industries. This event in Naypyitaw built upon the learnings from these previous meetings and advanced some of these topics into the food processing and manufacturing sector via the Tha Bar Wa project of WWF.

*"The garment sector has grown rapidly during the previous years, and now numbers about 630 garment, textile and footwear factories producing for the export industry at an industrial scale, and there are many hundreds of small workshops producing traditional garments for the local market. Especially, effective environmental impact measuring and monitoring is critically important, and this is an area in which factories need significant education and capacity building. We were pleased to help facilitate this discussion, which brought sector stakeholders and government together to outline a realistic and coherent path forward.*

- **Jacob A. Clere, Team Leader of SMART Myanmar**





*“Manufacturing expected to account for ca. 70% of Myanmar’s growth in 2030. 60% of the companies in Myanmar are in the Food and Beverage (F&B) sector of which 89% of Myanmar’s F&B companies are small and medium enterprise. Hence, it is important that these enterprises are supported through a concept of sustainable production so that the industry moves toward clean and green production contributing to sustainable economy and impact on climate change.”*

**- Ujjwal Pokhrel, Project Manager, Tha Bar Wa Project**

*“Myanmar is at a critical point for action. Many local and international investors show interest in textile manufacturing. At the same time, suppliers’ performance in water usage, waste management and chemical management has never been so important in the buyers’ decision making. The capacity to set-up, implement and assess effective EIAs and EMPS is key in this regard. We are pleased that we could contribute to this event and look forward to continue the public-private dialogue towards an enabling environment that will promote investments and sustainable growth in the textile sector in Myanmar.”*

**- Petra Schill, GIZ Country Director**

For further information about SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility, please visit [www.switch-asia.eu](http://www.switch-asia.eu)

## ANNEX 2 – PHOTOS: SERIES OF SESSIONS AND GROUP PHOTO
























ANNEX 3 – ONLINE LINKS AND AGENDA

<https://www.switch-asia.eu/news/press-release-business-associations-and-government-ministries-meet-with-eu-funded-environmental-pro/>

Agenda

      	
<p><b>July 4th, 2019   Venue: The Lake Garden Hotel MGallery, Naypyitaw</b></p>	
Time	Agenda
8.30	registration

9.00	Welcome remarks by Union Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
9.15	Opening remarks by European Union Head of Cooperation, Dr. Johann Hesse
9.25	photo session
9.30	tea/coffee break
9.45	<b>Current procedures and requirements on EIAs, EMPs and IEEs, focused on the garment, textile and food &amp; beverage industries</b> Environmental Conservation Department representative
10.45	<b>Perspective and challenges in the effectiveness of current procedures on EIAs and EMPS.</b> Interview/moderated discussion with Yangon Region ECD and Mandalay Region ECD. Q&A with audience.
11.45	<b>Perspective from manufacturers</b> Interview/moderated discussion with Dr. Aung Win, Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, U Sein Thaung Oo, Myanmar Food Processors and Exporters Association and board member of Myanmar Industries Association
12.30	<b>lunch break</b>
13.30	<b>Perspectives from environmental impact assessment firms</b> - Moderated discussion with 3 members of Myanmar Environmental Assessment Association Executive Committee.
14.15	<b>Presentation from SMART Myanmar on observations of current environmental challenges in garment &amp; textile industry. Q&amp;A with audience</b>
14.45	<b>Tea/coffee break</b>
15.10	<b>Presentation from Tha Bar Wa on observations of current environmental challenges in food &amp; beverage industries</b>
15.40	<b>Regional perspective from the SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility and concluding remarks on the day's discussions, by Ira Larasaty, SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility.</b>
16.30	Concluding remarks

