

POLITICAL MONITOR NO. 16

OFFICIAL MEDIA

INDIAN PRIME MINISTER MAKES OFFICIAL VISIT

Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh arrived in Burma on 27 May for a 3-day official visit. He met President U Thein Sein, cabinet members and other senior officials in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 May, where they discussed political developments in Burma and held frank discussions on further strengthening of existing ties between the two countries. This was followed by bilateral talks on cooperation between India and Burma on a wide of range of issues including trade and economic investment as well as regional and international issues, after which the two leaders attended a signing ceremony of 12 bilateral agreements and MoU's. On 29 May he met Aung San Suu Kyi in Rangoon and also held discussions with Chief Minister U Myint Swe and other ministers from the Rangoon Regional government. He also attended and gave a speech at a Ceremony for Mutual Cooperation for Development between India and Burma organized by the Burmese Chamber of Commerce (UMFCCI). A joint statement was issued at the conclusion of the visit.¹ (*Please see Annex A for the full text of the joint statement*)

US SENATOR COLLINS MAKES OFFICIAL VISIT

As part of her South East Asian tour, US Senator Susan Collins (member of the Senate Homeland Security Committee and Senate Armed Services Committee) met President Thein Sein, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and Foreign Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin on 29 May and discussed bilateral relations and cooperation on matters of mutual interests and strengthening of friendly ties between the two countries, including exchanges between the US Congress and the Burmese parliamentary assemblies. While at the World Economic Forum in Bangkok, she also met Aung San Suu Kyi, who was on her first trip abroad since she was released from house arrest.²

¹ Indian Prime Minister and wife arrive in Nay Pyi Taw –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-28.pdf> (NLM) 28 May 2012 (p. 1) /

President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win welcome Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and wife Shrimati Gursharan Kaur –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-29.pdf> (NLM) 29 May 2012 (p. 1)/

The aim of government is that all the Myanmar people, including national race armed groups, must be able to live equally within framework of law. (President Thein Sein) / India is willing to cooperate more deeply in various sectors of the two countries (Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh) –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-29.pdf> (NLM) 29 May 2012 (p. 1 & 8)/

President U Thein Sein meets Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-29.pdf> (NLM) 29 May 2012 (p. 16, 8, & 9)/

Indian Prime Minister wraps up Myanmar visit –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-30.pdf> (NLM) 30 May 2012 (p. 10) /

Joint Statement on the occasion of the State Visit of Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-29.pdf> (NLM) 29 May 2012 (p. 16, 10 & 11)

Press Release issued by the Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh -

<http://pmindia.nic.in/press-details.php?nodeid=1439> (Office of the Indian Prime Minister) 28 May 2012

² President U Thein Sein receives US Senator Hon Susan M. Collins and party –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-30.pdf> (NLM) 30 May 2012 (p. 1) /

Union Foreign Affairs Minister holds talks with US Senator –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-30.pdf> (NLM) 30 May 2012 (p. 8) /

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives US Senator and party –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-30.pdf> (NLM) 30 May 2012 (p. 16)

Press Release: Senator Collins Meets with Noted Burmese Political Dissident Aung San Suu Kyi –

<http://www.collins.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=610ea87f-5b6c-4880-b1a7-1dac065c2b26>

(US Senator Susan Collins official website) 31 May 2012

GERMAN PARLIAMENT VICE-PRESIDENT LEADS DELEGATION ON OFFICIAL VISIT

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham received a parliamentary delegation led by German Parliament Vice President Dr. Otto Solms on 29 May in Nay Pyi Taw. They cordially exchanged views on socio-economic developments, assistance for investment and technologies, anti-corruption, training for the emergence of skilled workers, cooperation in the education, health, culture and language sectors and promoting cooperation between both countries' parliaments. The delegation also met with the Speaker of the Lower House, the Deputy Speaker of the Upper House and the Chairman of Union Election Commission, and discussed the further strengthening of bilateral cooperation between the two countries and parliaments. Dr. Solms praised the democratic reforms in Burma, saying that Germany was willing and ready to assist in the economic reforms of country.³

US SENIOR INTL TRADE AND ECONOMIC ADVISOR MEETS DEP PARLIAMENT SPEAKERS

Senior International Trade and Economic Advisor to the U.S. Senate Finance Committee Gabriel Adler held separate meetings with the Deputy Speakers both the Lower House U Nanda Kyaw Swa and Upper House U Mya on 29 May in Nay Pyi Taw. They discussed matters related to political prisoners and amnesty affairs, as well as peace talks and ethnic armed groups.⁴

UK DFID CHIEF MEETS LOWER HOUSE DEPUTY SPEAKER & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

British Department for International Development (DFID) Director-General Joy Hutcheon met Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa and several Committee Chairpersons in Nay Pyi Taw on 30 May, where they held frank discussions on assistance provided by the British government and future possibilities, taking into account the recent political developments in Burma, as well as bridging programmes designed to foster mutual friendship between the parliaments.⁵

NORWAY DEP FM MEETS PEACE-MAKING COMM UNION MINISTER AT KNU OFFICE

Union level Peace-making Committee Member Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi met Norway's Deputy Foreign Minister Torgeir Larsen at the Karen National Union (KNU) Liaison Office in Kyaukkyi Bago Region on 29 May, where Minister Khin Yi said that the government was striving to end the on-going conflicts while at the same time promoting democracy and regional development. Charles Petrie, a member of the visiting delegation, gave a detailed explanation on the peace-making process taking place between the government and the KNU and implementation of programmes related to displaced persons in Kyaukkyi region.⁶

³ Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives Vice-President of German Parliament – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-30.pdf> (NLM) 30 May 2012 (p. 1) / Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Vice-President of German Parliament – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-31.pdf> (NLM) 31 May 2012 (p. 1) / Myanmar, Germany to cooperate in parliamentary functions – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-31.pdf> (NLM) 31 May 2012 (p. 8) / UEC Chairman meets Vice-President of German Parliament – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-30.pdf> (NLM) 30 May 2012 (p. 9)

⁴ Pyithu Hluttaw Dy Speaker receives Senior Advisor of US International Trade and Economic – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-30.pdf> (NLM) 30 May 2012 (p. 8) / Amyotha Hluttaw Dy Speaker receives Senior International Trade and Economic Advisor – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-30.pdf> (NLM) 30 May 2012 (p. 9)

⁵ Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Director-General of Britain DFID – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-31.pdf> (NLM) 31 May 2012 (p. 8) / Pyithu Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee Chairman meets DFID Director-General – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-31.pdf> (NLM) 31 May 2012 (p. 9)

⁶ Union Minister, Norwegian Dy Foreign Affairs Minister, KNU officials meet in Kyaukkyi – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-30.pdf> (NLM) 30 May 2012 (p. 9)

UNOFFICIAL MEDIA

GOVERNMENT PEACE NEGOTIATING TEAM & KIO HOLD TALKS

The Union government's chief peace negotiator and Vice-Chairman of the Peace Working Committee U Aung Min and his team arrived in Mai Ja Yang, Kachin State on 31 May to begin another round of peace talks with the KIO. The meeting is the second between Aung Min and KIO Vice Chief of Staff Brig-Gen Gun Maw in less than two weeks (they last met in Chiang Rai Province in Thailand on 21 May), and it is seen as a significant step toward ending almost a full year of fighting following the breakdown of a 17-year-old ceasefire agreement in June 2011. According to a high ranking KIO officer, the meeting was to focus on discussions rather than negotiations. Previous meetings have failed to bring any concrete results as Burmese government troops have continued their offensive into KIO territory. There are an estimated 75,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in KIO-controlled territories. KIO Chairman Lanyaw Zawng Hra sent a letter to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon on 15 May urging for intervention to help broker an agreement and to provide humanitarian aid to Kachin IDPs who have been affected by the on-going conflict.⁷

ANALYSIS

The historic visit of Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh to Burma has yet again added another character to the unfolding political saga unfolding in the country. As Burma and India share a 1,600 km border and long historic ties, the visit is seen as a move by India to forge close relations with Burma while also attempting to counter China's growing influence as a regional leader and asserting its standing. The Burmese leadership will no doubt have welcomed the visit as yet another opportunity to gain and forge new alliances and move away from the traditional reliance on China. As it moves to democratization, Burma is now in the position of dealing the world's most populous nation on one hand and the world's biggest democracy on the other. How President Thein Sein will play his cards in dealing with the two remains to be seen and could yet prove to be a win-win situation for all.

⁷ New Burma peace negotiating team arrives in KIO – <http://kachinnews.com/news/2308-new-burma-peace-negotiating-team-arrives-in-kio.html> (KNG) 31 May 2012/
Govt and KIA to Hold Informal Talks – <http://www.irrawaddy.org/archives/5531> (Irrawaddy) 31 May 2012

APPENDICES

Appendix A:

**Joint Statement
on the occasion of
the State Visit of Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh
to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar⁸**

1. The Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh is paying a State Visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar from May 27 to 29, 2012 at the invitation of the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein. He is accompanied by his wife Shrimati Gursharan Kaur.
2. The Prime Minister was accorded a ceremonial welcome in Nay Pyi Taw and the President of Myanmar hosted a banquet in his honour.
3. The visit of the Prime Minister, the first after 25 years, is a historic milestone in the relations between Myanmar and India.
4. The two leaders held a restricted meeting, followed by delegation level talks, on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. The talks were held in a warm, cordial and constructive atmosphere reflecting the close and friendly relations between the two neighboring countries and peoples.
5. During the official talks, the Prime Minister of India was assisted by the External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna, National Security Adviser Shri S. Menon, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Shri Pulok Chatterji, Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai, the Ambassador of India to Myanmar Dr.V.S. Seshadri and other senior officials.
6. The President of Myanmar was assisted by U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs and other Union Ministers, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Zin Yaw and Senior Government Officials.
7. The Prime Minister of India and the President of Myanmar comprehensively reviewed the multifaceted bilateral relationship and took stock of developments since the very successful State visit of President U Thein Sein to India in October 2011. They expressed satisfaction at the ongoing official exchanges and the growing economic, trade and cultural ties, as well as people-to-people exchanges.
8. The two leaders agreed on a vision for the future in the pursuit of the common good - bilaterally, regionally and globally. They agreed to cooperate in the areas such as border area development, transportation, connectivity, agriculture, trade and investment, promotion of friendly exchanges and human resource development. They recognized that peace and stability in the region is necessary for development and wellbeing of the people of their respective countries. In this context, they emphasized the importance of close cooperation between India and Myanmar and the need to effectively harness their respective resources for the good of the peoples of the two countries.
9. The Prime Minister of India congratulated the President of Myanmar on the path breaking reform measures taken by the Government of Myanmar towards greater democratization and national reconciliation. He commended the ongoing efforts at political, economic and social reform, which included negotiation of preliminary peace agreements with several ethnic groups as well as dialogue with various democratic political parties including the National League for Democracy led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. He also expressed appreciation for the free, fair and peaceful conduct of the recent by-elections.
10. The Prime Minister of India reiterated India's readiness to extend all necessary assistance in accelerating the country's democratic transition and developing the capacity of democratic institutions such as the Parliament, National Human Rights Commission and the Media. Recalling the very successful visit of a

⁸ Joint Statement on the occasion of the State Visit of Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs13/NLM2012-05-29.pdf> (NLM) 29 May 2012 (p. 16, 10 & 11)

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Parliamentary delegation led by Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, to India in December 2011, the Prime Minister conveyed India's readiness to undertake training programmes for Myanmar Parliamentarians and staff.

11. The following instruments for enhancing bilateral cooperation were signed during the visit:
 - (i) Memorandum of Understanding regarding US\$ 500 million Line of Credit.
 - (ii) Air Services Agreement between Myanmar and India.
 - (iii) Memorandum of Understanding on the Myanmar-India Border Area Development.
 - (iv) Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Joint Trade and Investment Forum.
 - (v) Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education (ACARE).
 - (vi) Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Rice Bio Park at the Department of Agricultural Research in Nay Pyi Taw.
 - (vii) Memorandum of Understanding towards setting up of Myanmar Institute of Information Technology.
 - (viii) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between Dagon University and Calcutta University.
 - (ix) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS) and the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA).
 - (x) Agreement on Cooperation between the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS) and the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA).
 - (xi) The Cultural Exchange Programme (2012-2015).
 - (xii) Memorandum of Understanding on establishing Border Haats across the border between Myanmar and India.
12. The two leaders underscored that bilateral relations between India and Myanmar are rooted in shared history and geography, culture and civilization. Welcoming that the range and frequency of engagement between the two countries had intensified significantly since Myanmar's transition towards a more democratic form of Government in March 2011, they committed to further enhancing these exchanges so as to take bilateral cooperation to a higher level. The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the recent successful visits from Myanmar including that of the Foreign Minister of Myanmar U Wunna Maung Lwin in January 2012; the Minister of Construction of Myanmar U Khin Maung Myint in February 2012; and from India including the visit of the Minister for Water Resources and Parliamentary Affairs of India Mr. P.K. Bansal to Myanmar in February 2012. The two sides agreed to continue with the frequent exchanges of visits at the leadership level.
13. Both leaders reaffirmed their shared commitment to fight the scourge of terrorism and insurgent activity in all its forms and manifestations. Both of them emphasized the need for enhanced cooperation between security forces and border guarding agencies for securing peace, security and stability in the border areas, which was crucial for overall development. In this context, the two leaders welcomed the holding of the first meeting of the bilateral Regional Border Committee whose deliberations were useful in promoting such cooperation and understanding for better border management. Both leaders reiterated the assurance that territories of either country would not be allowed to be used for activities inimical to the other, including for training, sanctuary and other operations by terrorist and insurgent organizations and their operatives.
14. Both leaders also alluded to the importance of sound border management as an intrinsic part of maintaining border security. In this context, they directed that the respective Survey Departments should inspect and maintain boundary pillars in a systematic manner. They also directed the respective Heads of Survey Department to finalise dates for an early joint inspection of the sectors jointly identified at the 17th National Level Meeting.

15. The two leaders emphasised the importance of enhancing connectivity between the two countries as a means of promoting commercial, cultural, touristic and other exchanges between the peoples of the two countries. They expressed satisfaction at the steady progress being made on the Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport Project. They welcomed the finalisation of the site of the Land Customs Station at Zorinpui (Mizoram) following joint inspection by Indian and Myanmar delegations in April 2012. It was noted that the project would enhance, bilateral trade, people-to-people contact and contribute to the development and prosperity of the people living in the 'land locked' North Eastern region of India.
16. The Prime Minister of India announced that India would undertake the task of repair/upgradation of 71 bridges on the Tamu-Kalewa friendship Road. The two leaders decided that India would undertake the upgradation of the Kalewa-Yargyi road segment to highway standard while Myanmar would undertake the upgradation of the Yargyi-Monywa stretch to highway standard by 2016. This project would help in establishing trilateral connectivity from Moreh in India to Mae Sot in Thailand via Myanmar. The two leaders welcomed the revival of the Joint Task Force on the Trilateral Highway between India-Myanmar-Thailand. It was agreed that efforts would be made to establish seamless trilateral connectivity by 2016.
17. Taking into account the importance of enabling people-to-people contacts, the two sides agreed to launch a trans-border bus service from Imphal, India to Mandalay, Myanmar. The two leaders directed the concerned officials from both sides to finalise all modalities to enable its early implementation.
18. They also welcomed the signing of the new Air Service agreement which would enhance direct air connectivity and facilitate easy business interaction, tourism and people-to-people exchanges.
19. The two leaders decided to constitute a Joint Working Group to determine the technical and commercial feasibility of cross-border rail links and the commercial feasibility of direct shipping links between the two countries.
20. The two sides also discussed the possibility of Indian participation in development of key infrastructure projects, like Dawei port in Myanmar.

Development Cooperation

21. The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the growing dimension of development cooperation between the two countries which is being financed under grants and concessional loans amounting to US\$ 1.2 billion till date. Taking stock of ongoing projects in the areas of infrastructure, agriculture, human resource development, industrial development, power, health etc., the two leaders agreed to identify more projects of benefit to the people of Myanmar in future.
22. Both leaders welcomed the signing of the MoU on the US\$ 500 million Line of Credit extended by India to the Government of Myanmar which would pave the way for its early implementation. The Line of Credit will be utilized in the infrastructure development projects, including in the fields of Agriculture and Irrigation, Rail Transportation and Electric Power in Myanmar.
23. Identifying the need for special focus on the development and prosperity of the people in bordering areas, the two leaders agreed to cooperate to bring about overall socio-economic development in the border areas by undertaking both infrastructure development and micro-economic projects, including upgrading of roads and construction of schools, health centres, bridges, agriculture and related training activities in the area in accordance with the MoU on India-Myanmar Border Area Development that was signed during the visit. The President of Myanmar also welcomed India's offer of assistance in production of large Cardamom in the Naga Self Administered Zone.
24. Expressing their commitment to enhance cooperation in science and technology, the two leaders noted with satisfaction that the first meeting of the India-Myanmar Joint Working Group on Science and Technology was held on 3 April 2012. The Joint Working Group has identified some priority areas for future cooperation in the fields of agricultural biotechnology, post harvest technology, medical biotechnology, medical research and renewable energy. The two leaders welcomed these decisions and agreed that Myanmar would prepare specific proposals on some of its priority projects so that they can be taken forward for implementation.
25. Under a MoU signed during the visit, the two leaders decided to set up the Myanmar Institute of Information Technology with financial and technical assistance from India. The Indian Prime Minister announced continued technical and financial support for the India-Myanmar Centre for Enhancement of IT Skills in Yangon for a further five-year period when it will also undergo a technology upgrade. The Indian Prime Minister announced a Fellowship for Myanmar Researchers to work in Indian Universities and Research Institutions, under which 10 slots would be allocated every year. Each Fellowship would be for four-six months duration in the areas of Atmospheric and Earth Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Engineering

Sciences, Life Sciences, Medical Sciences, Mathematical and Computational Sciences and Physical Sciences.

26. The Prime Minister of India announced that in keeping with India's commitment to developing human resource capacity in Myanmar, the existing number of training slot for Myanmar, including under the Indian Economic and Technical Cooperation (ITEC) Programme would be doubled from the current 250 to 500. The President of Myanmar welcomed this significant gesture.
27. The Myanmar President thanked the India side for its offer to train Myanmar diplomats in conference management and for the assistance in setting up of language laboratories and conference rooms in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon and e-research centre in Nay Pyi Taw for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
28. The two sides also expressed their commitment to enhanced cooperation in the area of Agriculture. The President of Myanmar thanked India for the agricultural machinery that had been gifted to Myanmar under a grant of US\$ 10 million and conveyed that the machinery had been distributed to various locations of Myanmar and is being used for the benefit of Myanmar's farming community. Under the MoU signed during the visit the two leaders decided to establish the Advanced Centre for Agriculture Research and Education as a Centre for Excellence using cutting edge technology along with traditional knowledge and ecological conservation with financial and technical assistance from India. They also agreed to set up a Rice Bio Park within the Department of Agricultural Research, Yezin in Nay Pyi Taw in order to demonstrate available techniques of sustainable rice biomass utilisation. These two institutions together will provide technological and research inputs to the Myanmar farming, academic and business communities. The President of Myanmar also thanked the Prime Minister for India's support to the construction of a modern cyclone-proof rice silo within the Model Integrated Farm at Nay Pyi Taw.
29. The Myanmar side requested for India's assistance in arranging training programmes/fellowships in the areas of dairy development, cattle breeding, vaccine technology and assistance in setting up a milk and milk product factory in Shan State. The Indian side agreed to consider the proposal favorably.

Trade and Investment

30. Alluding to the mutually agreed target of doubling the bilateral trade by 2015, both leaders emphasized that there is considerable untapped potential for greater trade and urged the business community to capitalize on this potential. Investments by India companies in areas like ports, highways, oil & gas, plantation, manufacturing, hospitality and ICT would be specifically encouraged. In this context, the two leaders underscored the importance of the newly created Trade and Investment Forum in enabling timely and accurate exchange of information and ideas.
31. They assured that both Governments would work to identify and remove various impediments to bilateral trade. In this context, they welcomed the establishment of a representative office of the United Bank of India in Yangon as a first step in facilitating business friendly banking transactions between the two countries. The Myanmar side welcomed the proposals for the training of Myanmar officials in the Banking sector by Indian banks and for cooperation in the Agriculture Banking sector. Considering the vast potential for promoting trade between the two countries, both sides agreed that the Reserve Bank of India would sign an MoU with the Central Bank of Myanmar on currency arrangements between India and Myanmar in the near future. Further, the Reserve Bank of India would also conclude an MoU with the Central Bank of Myanmar to serve as a platform for an exchange of views on issues of mutual interest. The two sides agreed upon sharing of banking experiences and technical know-how from State Bank of India or any other banks as mutually agreed.
32. Both leaders urged the business community to enthusiastically participate in each other's trade fairs and also to share information on the prevailing trade and investment policies through organization of seminars and business related events in specific sectors of mutual interest. In this context, they welcomed the organization of the first Enterprise India Show in Yangon in November 2011 by CII and UMFCCI and the decision taken to make it an annual event.
33. Taking into account the needs of communities residing near the border, the two leaders welcomed the decision to set up border haats along the border and the MoU agreed for this purpose. They also noted that the decision to upgrade banking infrastructure at border trade points would also facilitate greater trade between people living in these areas.
34. The two leaders directed that a bilateral Border Trade Committee should be set up to implement the earlier decision that meetings would be held regularly between the border trade officials and businesspersons in Tamu-Moreh and Rhi-Zowkhathar.

Power and Energy

35. The two leaders emphasized the need for closer cooperation to further energy security. In this context, they welcomed the signing of the Production Sharing Contract between the Government of Myanmar and the Jubilant Energy of India. They encouraged investment by Indian companies in Myanmar oil and gas sector, including in available blocks that are being offered for investment which have good prospects. They also agreed to encourage investment by Indian companies in downstream projects in the petroleum industry.
36. The Myanmar President expressed his appreciation to India for undertaking the preparation of Detailed Project Reports of the Tamanthi and Shwezaye hydropower projects. Both leaders directed their respective officials to study the contents of the DPRs and finalize the future course of action, taking into account technical, commercial and socio-environmental considerations.

Culture and People-to-People Exchanges

37. The two leaders emphasized the centrality of culture in further deepening the close bonds between the peoples of India and Myanmar and expressed satisfaction with the signature of the Cultural Exchange Programme for the period 2012-2015. It was noted that the CEP would also promote cultural exchanges between the North Eastern States of India and the bordering areas of Myanmar.
38. They also welcomed the preparations that have been made towards organizing the international Conference on Buddhist Heritage in Myanmar in December 2012 with the cooperation of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Ministry of Religious Affairs of Myanmar and the Sitagu World Buddhist Association.
39. The Myanmar side thanked India for its decision to gift a 16 feet sand stone replica of the Sarnath Buddha later in the year that will be installed in the precincts of the Shwedagon Pagoda. A smaller replica will be unveiled by the Prime Minister during the visit. The Myanmar side also conveyed its appreciation to India for the facilities and courtesies being extended to Myanmar pilgrims visiting India.
40. The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the ongoing pace of work on the project for conservation and restoration of the Ananda Temple in Bagan, Myanmar by the Archaeological Survey of India which is expected to be completed over the next 2 years.
41. The two leaders also welcomed the formalization of contacts between Indian and Myanmar think tanks and academic institutions and urged scholars to participate actively and exchange views in academic events being held in either country.
42. The President of Myanmar welcomed the announcement made by the Prime Minister regarding the Government of India's support for setting up of a school with technical assistance from India.

Regional and Multilateral

43. The two leaders discussed a broad range of regional and international issues of mutual interest. They agreed to continue their coordination on issues of common interest on the international agenda.
44. The two leaders emphasized the importance of close coordination towards the cause of regional cooperation. The Prime Minister of India extended his good wishes to Myanmar for a successful term as BIMSTEC Chair, including its proposal to host the next BIMSTEC Summit meeting. The two leaders looked forward to further intensification of ASEAN-India cooperation under Myanmar's chairmanship of ASEAN in 2014. The Prime Minister of India emphasized that Myanmar holds a significant place both in India's Look East Policy and in its collaboration with ASEAN countries under the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI). The two leaders agreed to cooperate closely on activities related to the forthcoming ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit.
45. The Prime Minister of India thanked the President of Myanmar for the warm and gracious hospitality extended to him and the members of his delegation during their stay in Myanmar.
46. The Prime Minister invited the President of Myanmar to visit India on mutually convenient dates which will be decided through diplomatic channels. The President of Myanmar accepted the invitation.

**Nay Pyi Taw
May 28, 2012**