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## POLITICAL MONITOR NO. 26

### OFFICIAL MEDIA

#### **MYANMAR, EU COOPERATION FOCUSED ON IN MEETING WITH EU COMMISSIONER**

Union Minister for Border Affairs and Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay received Mrs Kristalina Georgieva, European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, at the Minister's Office on 9 September and discussed cooperation between Myanmar the EU. Also during her visit, the EU Commissioner met separately the Union Minister for Labour and Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, U Aung Kyi. They discussed matters on the European Union's aid assistance provided for Cyclone Giri victims as well as cooperation in disaster preparedness in Myanmar.<sup>1</sup>

#### **US SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND POLICY COORDINATOR FOR MYANMAR DEREK MITCHELL HOLDS TALKS WITH SEVERAL SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS**

US Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Myanmar Mr. Derek Mitchell and party met Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan, and Union Minister for Labour and for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi separately on his visit to Myanmar from 9 to 14 September. The US Special Representative stated that the purpose of his visit was to improve US-Myanmar relations, while also promoting mutual cooperation. He added that the recent initial steps taken by the Myanmar government were encouraging, and that the world wants to help realize genuine reforms and would continue to monitor these through the US embassy in Myanmar. The Ministers responded by saying that the Myanmar government was implementing the necessary measures to promote political, economic and social changes within the country and were also keen to improve bilateral relations with the US government. They added that dialogue was the key to finding a common goal in eliminating major differences between the two countries and to providing a better understanding of the developments taking place inside the country.<sup>2</sup>

#### **PYITHU HLUTTAW SPEAKER HOLDS DISCUSSIONS WITH US SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND POLICY COORDINATOR FOR MYANMAR**

During his visit to Myanmar from 9 to 14 September, US Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Myanmar Mr. Derek Mitchell and party called on Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building on 9 September. The Speaker of the House said he welcomed the visit of the Special Representative and was also keen in promoting existing relations between the two countries. Mr. Mitchell said that in his capacity as US Representative and Policy Coordinator for Myanmar his main duty was to focus on restoring Myanmar-US relations, and in doing so, he would hold comprehensive discussions with the Myanmar government and other stakeholders. Furthermore, the US is keen to begin the process of constructive engagement with Myanmar, and, at the same time, would like to urge Myanmar to pay regard to international obligations, including the promotion of democracy, human rights, national reconciliation and UN resolutions. The Speaker of the House also briefed the US envoy on the work

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<sup>1</sup> Myanmar, EU cooperation focused in meeting with EU commissioner - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs11/NLM2011-09-10.pdf> (NLM) 10 September 2011 (p. 6)/  
Union Labour & SWRR Minister receives EU Commissioner for Int'l cooperation, Humanitarian Aid & Crisis Response - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs11/NLM2011-09-11.pdf> (NLM) 11 September 2011 (p. 2)

<sup>2</sup> For further details of the discussions, please see Appendix B.

taking place at the current parliamentary session and explained that 19 new committees had been formed with the aim of addressing a wide range of issues including citizens rights, human rights, national races affairs and internal peace-making.<sup>3</sup>

### **PYIDAUNGSU HLUTTAW HOLDS DISCUSSIONS WITH US SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND POLICY COORDINATOR FOR MYANMAR**

US Special Representative and Policy Coordinator Mr. Derek Mitchell met Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Hluttaw) U Khin Aung Myint on 9 September. The Speaker advised Mr. Mitchell to meet all Hluttaw representatives as the Hluttaw was in session. Mr Mitchell said that he was keen to pursue dialogues with the aim of improving bilateral relations between the two countries. He also expressed his satisfaction in seeing progress made in Myanmar and that the US wanted to assist Myanmar as much as possible in its future progress. Therefore, he said that he would totally focus on the promotion of Myanmar-US relations. Afterwards, Mr. Mitchell expressed his thanks for clarifications of the Speaker on the functions of Myanmar's Hluttaw.<sup>4</sup>

### **PYIDAUNGSU HLUTTAW SPEAKER RECEIVES INDONESIAN INT'L COOPERATION COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received Vice-Chairman of the International Cooperation Committee of the House of Regional Representatives (HRR-RI) of the Republic of Indonesia Mr. Adhariani and party at the Amyotha Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw on 14 September. Also present were Deputy Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Mya Nyein and chairmen of the committees of the Amyotha Hluttaw and Indonesian Ambassador Mr. Sebastianus Sumarsono.<sup>5</sup>

### **SHAN STATE GOVERNMENT, MONGLA SPECIAL REGION (4) SIGNS INITIAL AGREEMENTS**

At the invitation of the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for peace talks, Mongla Special Region (4), which is willing to make peace with the government, held discussions with State level Peace-Making Committee formed by the Shan State government at Kengtung on 7 September 2011. The meeting was attended by Leader of Shan State Peace-Making Committee Minister of Shan State Security and Border Affairs Col Aung Thu and members Shan State Advocate-General U Maung Maung, Col Zaw Tun Myint of Triangle Region Command, Coordinator U Aung Kyaw Myint of Department for Border Region Coordinator of Shan State, Leader of Peace-Making Committee of Mongla Special Region (4) Vice-Chairman of the Special Region (4) U San Pae and members General Secretary U Aik Shan La, Deputy Chief of Staff U Lam Aung and Liaison Officer U Zin Kham Naw. After the meeting, initial agreements for cooperation of ensuring peace and stability and development of Mongla Special Region (4) was signed and both sides agreed to continue to hold peace talks with the Peace-Making Committee that will be formed by the Union Government.<sup>6</sup>

### **SHAN STATE GOVERNMENT, "WA" SPECIAL REGION (2) SIGNS INITIAL PEACE AGREEMENTS**

At the invitation of the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for peace talks, "Wa" Special Region (2), which is willing to make peace with the government, held discussions with State level Peace-Making Committee formed by Shan State government at Kengtung on 6 September

<sup>3</sup> Pyithu Hluttaw speaker holds discussions with US Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Myanmar - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs11/NLM2011-09-15.pdf> (NLM 15 September 2011 (p. 2))

<sup>4</sup> Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker holds discussions with US Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Myanmar - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs11/NLM2011-09-15.pdf> (NLM) 15 September 2011 (p. 4)

<sup>5</sup> Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker receives Indonesian Int'l Cooperation Committee Vice-Chairman - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs11/NLM2011-09-15.pdf> (NLM) 15 September 2011 (p. 4)

<sup>6</sup> Shan State government, Mongla Special Region (4) signs initial agreements - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs11/NLM2011-09-09.pdf> (NLM) 9 September 2011 (p. 16 & 5)

2011. The meeting was attended by the leader of Shan State Peace-Making Committee Minister of Shan State Security and Border Affairs Col Aung Thu and members Shan State Advocate-General U Maung Maung, Col Zaw Tun Myint of Triangle Region Command, Coordinator U Aung Kyaw Myint of Department for Border Region Development of Shan State, Leader of Peace-Making Committee of “Wa” Special Region (2) CEC member U Kyauk Kwan Am and members CEC members U Pauk Yu Lyan and U Aung Myint. After the meeting, initial agreements for cooperation of ensuring peace and stability and development of Wa Region and related areas was signed and both sides agreed to continue to hold peace talks with the Peace-Making Committee that will be formed by the Union Government.<sup>7</sup>

## **ANALYSIS**

The visits of the EU Commissioner Kristalina Georgieva and US Special Representative Derek Mitchell are seen as positive signs for the government in Nay Pyi Taw. The on-going parliamentary sessions surprisingly discussed proposals on a wide range of issues including sensitive issues of amending labour laws and ethnic peace building efforts. While skeptics may deem these as being insufficient, it is seen as an improvement by those within the country. However, the government is facing internal pressure for moving too fast and external pressure for moving too slow. At stake is the Chairmanship of ASEAN, and perhaps even the survival of President Thein Sein. Indeed, President U Thein Sein’s new government is being put to the test on all fronts, and if he is to take the country into a new era of change he will need not only the support of the people of Burma but also the international community. The questions that need to be asked by all stakeholders are: Will the cause of democracy and the welfare of the people be better served by the success of President U Thein Sein’s ‘limited’ reforms, or will they be better served by his failure? What will happen if he fails? Will the country become more democratic and open or will it revert to a government under tighter control of the Tatmadaw or will the Tatmadaw take matters into their own hands and seized power again as in 1988?

## **APPENDICES**

### ***Other important announcements and news***

- Appendix A: MYANMAR NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION FORMED<sup>8</sup>
- Appendix B: TALKS BETWEEN US SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND POLICY COORDINATOR FOR MYANMAR MR DEREK MITCHELL AND UNION MINISTER FOR BORDER AFFAIRS LT-GEN THEIN HTAY, UNION MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS U WUNNA MAUNG LWIN, UNION MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND CULTURE U KYAW SAN, AND UNION MINISTER FOR LABOUR AND FOR SOCIAL WELFARE AND RESETTLEMENT U AUNG KYI<sup>9</sup>
- Appendix C: KAYIN STATE DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT PARTY (KSDPP) ANNOUNCES ITS ATTITUDE<sup>10</sup>
- Appendix D: MINISTRY OF FORESTRY RENAMED MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY<sup>11</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Shan State government, “Wa” Special Region (2) signs initial peace agreements –

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs11/NLM2011-09-09.pdf> (NLM) 9 September 2011 (p. 16 & 5)

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs11/NLM2011-09-06.pdf> (NLM) 6 September 2011 (p. 1 & 5)

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs11/NLM2011-09-15.pdf> (NLM) 15 September 2011 (p. 6 & 7)

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs11/NLM2011-09-03.pdf> (NLM) 3 September 2011 (p. 16)

Appendix E: RESHUFFLE OF PYITHU HLUTTAW REPRESENTATIVE ANNOUNCED<sup>12</sup>

***HLUTTAW SESSIONS (11<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> day) – Highlights***

**Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) session:**

***Formation of new parliamentary committees***

On the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the Pyithu Hluttaw session, the following 19 parliamentary committees were formed with the aim handling a wide range of issues:

1. the Citizens' Fundamental Rights, Democracy and Human Rights Committee,
2. the National Race Affairs and Internal Peace Making Committee,
3. the Banks and Monetary Development Committee,
4. the Plans and Financial Development Committee,
5. the Farmers, Workers and Youth Affairs Committee,
6. the International Relations Committee,
7. the Economic and Trade Development Committee,
8. the Transport and Construction Committee,
9. the Sports, Culture and Public Relations Development Committee,
10. the Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Development Committee,
11. the Investment and Industrial Development Committee,
12. the Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee,
13. the Health Promotion Committee,
14. the Education Promotion Committee,
15. the Judicial and Legal Affairs Committee,
16. the Public Affairs Management Committee,
17. the Women and Children Protection Committee,
18. the Reform and Modernization Assessment Committee, and
19. the Water Transportation Development Committee.<sup>13</sup>

***Question on National Reconciliation***

**Daw Nan Wah Nu of Kunhing Constituency** raised a question on how the government will carry out national reconciliation and internal peace plans, whether the government will announce procedures for national reconciliation and peace policies laid down by previous governments, and whether a peace commission comprising trusty national races members will be formed to hold peace talks. She also asked if the remnant armed groups are aware of the government's efforts for peace talks, why the discussions have not yet been initiated and when the government will adopt a policy for implementing the national reconciliation peace process. In response, **Union Minister for Information U Kyaw Hsan** replied that as the meanings and purposes of the two questions are similar in general, answers to the two questions will be given in combination as a leader of the Spokespersons and Information Team on behalf of the Union Government; that the State is enjoying greater degree of peace than before 1988; but there are remnants of armed national races pursuing arm struggle line in border areas; and still, there are armed national groups that disagree with transformation in accord with the Constitution. He continued that the government does not want armed strife and bloodshed; that what the entire people desire is peace; that overwhelming number

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<sup>11</sup> Ministry of Forestry renamed Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs11/NLM2011-09-07.pdf> (NLM) 7 September 2011 (p. 1)

<sup>12</sup> Reshuffle of Pyithu Hluttaw representative announced – <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs11/NLM2011-09-10.pdf> (NLM) 10 September 2011 (p. 7)

<sup>13</sup> Second regular session of first Pyithu Hluttaw goes on for 11th day / 19 more committees of Pyithu Hluttaw formed - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs11/NLM2011-09-06.pdf> (NLM) 6 September 2011 (p. 8 & 9)

of the population aspired for peace; and therefore the Pyithu Hluttaw representatives were working to achieve peace while there still remain those who have doubts on the Seven-Step Road Map and have no belief in Constitution. The government has committed itself to applying economic reform for “emergence of Hluttaws, governments, judicial bodies and peaceful, modern and disciplined new democratic nation in accord with the Constitution”. In order to make peace with KIO/KIA in Kachin State, the government held peace negotiations, making concessions to the most possible extent with ‘genuine goodwill, farsightedness and understanding’. All the measures taken were explained at the press conference held on 12 August. Apart from KIO/KIA, other remaining armed national races and all armed groups that do not make peace in accord with the Constitution have been offered a peace proposal under Notification No. 1/2011 on 18 August.<sup>14</sup>

### ***Question on amending Labour Rights***

On the 12<sup>th</sup> day of the Lower House session (6 September), **U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency, Yangon Region**, proposed a bill to amend the existing Labour Rights Law to be drafted in accordance with international norms.<sup>15</sup> On the 13<sup>th</sup> day, **U Win Swe of Nyaungshwe Constituency** seconded the proposal as the Constitution has prescribed “the Union shall enact necessary laws to protect the rights of workers”. **U Nyan Swe Win of Kyaukkyi Constituency** approved the proposal as Fundamental Rights and Duties of Public Workers Law (1964) is no longer agreeable to present situation. Also adding her support, **Daw Su Su Hlaing of Dagon Myothit (South) Constituency** said that the Hluttaw approved the proposal regarding workers’ rights submitted by Hluttaw representatives at the First Pyithu Hluttaw session and that arrangements were being made to pass new laws if need be. In responding to issue, three Hluttaw representatives discussed U Thein Nyunt’s proposal and suggested that the matter be submitted to third regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw for further discussions. In responding to the questions, **Union Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi** said that the ministry with workers laws is fully protecting workers rights in working rights, ensuring workplaces rights, relax time rights, education rights, parental rights, welfare rights when workers get ill, and compensational rights. As part of realizing the speech by the President on 30 May said that ‘measures will be taken to ensure workers rights in full’, the Workers Organization Bill was submitted to the Amyotha Hluttaw and will also be submitted to Pyithu Hluttaw to be discussed. According to Article 24 of the Constitution, the bill aims to protect workers’ rights, to create amicable relations between workers and between employers and employees, to freely and systematically form workers organizations. Furthermore, the bill is international standard one to protect rights of workers. Bills on social welfare law, job and efficiency will be submitted to the next session.<sup>16</sup>

### ***Question on Farmland Confiscation***

On day 14 of the Hluttaw session, **U Thein Yi of Htantabin Constituency** asked that in confiscating lands in project areas that help develop economic status of the State, only the required lands are being confiscated after being thoroughly scrutinized in order not to be overburdening landowners. He asked whether there is a plan to take measures to complete projects on schedule, repay the lands that are not required for the projects to primary farmers, and for strict measures against the confiscation of farmlands for private interests. In response, **Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-**

<sup>14</sup> Second regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw continues for 12th day / 10 questions raised and answered, amendment bill approved, two proposals discussed, three new proposals submitted - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs11/NLM2011-09-07.pdf> (NLM) 7 September 2011 (p. 16 & 8)

<sup>15</sup> Second regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw continues for 12th day / 10 questions raised and answered, amendment bill approved, two proposals discussed, three new proposals submitted - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs11/NLM2011-09-07.pdf> (NLM) 7 September 2011 (p. 11)

<sup>16</sup> Second regular session of first Pyithu Hluttaw continues for 13th day / Nine questions raised and answered, one bill approved, one bill submitted, two proposals discussed, one new proposal submitted for record - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs11/NLM2011-09-08.pdf> (NLM) 8 September 2011 (p. 9)



**Gen Kyaw Zan Myint** said that in confiscating lands, the Ministry of Home Affairs has vested power in related district administrators for the confiscation of lands in accordance with the Land Confiscation Act (1894) for governmental organizations, corporations and ministries in view of public interest. If confiscated land is farmland, the General Administration Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs assembles the dossier only after permit for the use of farmland is acquired in accordance with the Farmland Centralization Act 39 (1953). The district administrator, who has the authority to confiscate land, has been carrying out measures to thoroughly investigate whether proposed land is suitable for bona fide use in view of public interest, and making field trip in accordance with the Land Confiscation Act (1894). Only the required minimum area of land is confiscated. Applicants take charge of work procedures in a scheduled period. Confiscation of land for private interest is not allowed at all. With the recommendation of region/state governments, the Ministry of Home Affairs submits the proposals of regional administrative bodies for the confiscation of land to the Union Government. The applicant may return to the State if the land is not used in designated ways or not needed; the State is strictly carried out allowing farmlands to use in prescribed ways and centralizing lands for public interests in accord with existing Farmland Law, rules and regulations.<sup>17</sup>

#### ***Question on Myitsone Dam Project***

**U Aung Thein Lin of South Okkalapa Constituency** said on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of the session that the Ministry of Myanmar Industrial Development was constituted in the Union Government, and wanted to know the role of the Ministry in contributing to the economic development of Myanmar, which industries will be put into service, what kind of benefits will come to Myanmar citizens, and what effect on State-run and private-run industries will be seen. In response, **the Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay** said that the Ministry of Myanmar Industrial Development was formed in order to deal with technology development, capital of industry, energy demand and need for industrial raw material, to bring about national economic development in private and public sectors in accord with market-oriented system practiced by the State. The ministry is taking measures for development of technology based industry and knowledge based industry to form three industrial development sectors, namely National Mechanical Industry Complex, National Electronic Industry Complex and National Aviation and Aerospace Industry Complex as particular zones. The main purpose of the ministry is not for Consumer goods Industry but for Capital goods Industry and emergence of national economic development force by building source industry (or) mother industry that can create industries, machines essential for economic development of Myanmar. Regarding to the Ayeyawady Myitsone hydropower Project, the project is the important energy project for the economic development of the State as it can be able to generate about 18,000 MW. To generate the equal capacity of electricity, it is necessary to build about 20 nuclear reactors. One nuclear reactor costs about US\$ 1 billion and it is required to spend about US\$20 billion to generate the equal capacity of electricity. Even if we can afford the cost, it would have time and political limitations to build the nuclear reactors. Today, in the world, to shut down nuclear reactors for safety concerns is under consideration. Hydel power is the renewable energy and the world has welcomed it as it is also a green energy. The hydropower plant would use only about seven per cent of the water of the Ayeyawady River and there is no point to worry over the damage of the river. Systematic assessment was carried out on the project. It is required to draw separate plans to conserve the Ayeyawady River and the plans have already been made. Myanmar has a population of over 60 million, and though they rely on natural resources and agriculture, it is necessary to encourage the development of the industrial sector for the development of the country and for its economic

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<sup>17</sup>Second regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw continues for 14th day / Seven questions raised, two new proposals submitted, one proposal discussed - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs11/NLM2011-09-09.pdf> (NLM) 9 September 2011 (p. 7)

development. As the electricity is a must for building an industrial nation, hydropower projects are being implemented.<sup>18</sup>

### **Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) Session:**

#### ***Question on Improving Banking Services***

**U Zaw Myint Pe of Mandalay Region Constituency No. 5** asked on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the session of the Upper House how the private sector can operate measurement of banking services in line with the provisions on obligation and authority of the monetary organizations law. If it is an unsatisfactory measurement, whether there is a plan to create the best development way for private banks as quickly as possible under the law. **Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Than** replied that in line with the policies of market-oriented economic system, the boards of directors of the respective banks are providing banking services independently and in accord with existing Myanmar Banking Laws. The Central Bank of Myanmar also supervises and inspects private banks for strengthening their monetary affairs and scrutinizes whether these banks abide by existing laws and regulations. As such, the banking sector of Myanmar secures stability and development. The Myanmar Banks Association was set up on 1 April 1999 with the aim of contributing to policies and directives adopted by the State, making coordination among banks within the framework to stabilize the value of Myanmar kyats at home and abroad, uplifting cooperation between banks, playing a leading role in assisting banks, broadening horizons of the people to use banking system, fulfilling requirements of changing banking system and turning out skillful banking experts. At present, the Myanmar Banks Association holds monthly coordination meetings to ensure stability and development of the banking sector. The Ministry of Finance and Revenue formed the Banks Supervisory Committee on 13 June 2005 with the aim of supervising State-owned banks and private banks whether they follow rules and regulations of banking services and monetary policies, and issues directives and instructions in controlling the banks. The Central Bank of Myanmar has allowed establishment of private banks since 1992-1993 and the government has allowed four private banks to be established on 2 July 2011. Thus, there are a total of 19 private banks with 305 branches. Arrangements are being made for applying internal currency for all banks, Myanmar Payment Union Card (MPU Debit Card) and other e-payment cards. Myanmar Insurance will implement insurance against deposits like the international system in order to protect the loss of deposits that flows into the banks. The banking service extension plan was drawn in the 2011-2012 fiscal year for the systematic development of banking service in conformity with the market economy system. Depending on the status of banking services and regional development, bank branches were allowed in regions and states. Moreover, new banking products will be allowed more. As a plan is underway to systematically implement development of banking services that plays a key role in growth of State economy. Therefore, facts in the question have been implemented and are being implemented. Moreover, future tasks will be undertaken with the aim of promoting the banking sector.<sup>19</sup>

#### ***Proposal on the Formation of a National Dam Committee and membership to the International Commission on Large Dams***

**U Myo Myint of Mandalay Region Constituency (6)** submitted a proposal “urging the Union government to form Republic of the Union of Myanmar Large Dams National Committee and to join

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<sup>18</sup> Second regular session of first Pyithu Hluttaw continues for 18th day / Seven questions raised and answered, one proposal discussed, one bill approved -

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs11/NLM2011-09-15.pdf> (NLM) 15 September 2011 (p. 8)

<sup>19</sup> Second regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw goes on for the 14th day / Eight questions answered, four new proposals approved -

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs11/NLM2011-09-09.pdf> (NLM) 9 September 2011 (p. 8)

(the) International Commission on Large Dams” (ICOLD).<sup>20</sup> **Hluttaw Representatives U Shu Maung, U Soe Myint, U Sai Kyaw Zaw Than and U Steven Thabeik** discussed the proposal and seconded it, citing that, dams were built for electricity and irrigation in developing the State as from 1990, there are 235 dams now; the dams will continue to be built depending on public demands; it is needed to consider the prevention against natural disasters and durability of the dams. Techniques, designs and suggestions for sustainability of the dams should be requested from ICOLD. **Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw** explained that the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, No (1) Electric Power Department and Hydropower Planning Department are implementing below-and-above-200-feet small-medium-and-large-scale dams from irrigation and electricity generation. It will continue to cooperate with local and foreign organizations for mutual benefits. Membership in ICOLD (based in Paris, France) may allow keeping abreast in the respective subject through international relations by taking advice on technical issues. If Myanmar joins ICOLD, necessary technical advice can be obtained, academic seminars could be organized between member nations, and local engineers could get the chance to be recognized in international community. Now, the Myanmar Engineering Society is making connections with ASEAN member nations. ICOLD membership will allow joining the international community. The Myanmar National Committee on Large Dams (MNCOLD) should be formed and ICOLD should be jointed. The Hluttaw then approved the proposal.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Second regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw continues for 16th day / Ten questions answered, one proposal approved, two new proposals submitted -

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs11/NLM2011-09-13.pdf> (NLM) 13 September 2011 (p. 10)

<sup>21</sup> Second regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw continues for 17th day / Nine questions raised and answered, two proposals approved, three new proposals submitted -

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs11/NLM2011-09-14.pdf> (NLM) 14 September 2011 (p. 10)