

Please introduce your role and responsibilities as well as your team in Block A-6.



## Block A-6's 2017 Appraisal Drilling Campaign Will Confirm A Large Prospect. Insights Shared By Our Veteran Geologist Dr. Eloi Dolivo

I am the Exploration Manager of the company, which involves mentoring, advising and arguing with geoscientists and dealing with other teams in the company on the exploration for petroleum in all MPRL E&P's assets, including Block A-6.

U Zaw Win Aung is seconding me with all geological matters, and is developing to take over this position. Exploration does not only involve geology as one of the tools to find petroleum; exploration bridges geology with other sectors of the company's activity, reservoir engineering, production, finance, legal and environmental matters. Exploration answers questions: how challenging and expensive would it be to drill that prospect? Would it be a better choice for the growth of the company to drill that smaller shallower mouse or is this bigger elephant potentially fraud with drilling problems? Assuming success, what would be the challenges in bringing this prospect to a commercial stage? Would it affect a community? Exploration is the integration - a keyword in this function - of all aspects of finding new resources.

I am also the Non-Operated Joint Venture Manager, which involves following all the activities of various operators in various blocks as follows:



Ramform Titan, Myanmar

**Block A-6:** Woodside is the operator, Total is a major partner, and MPRL E&P is the operator for Government Affairs, whose duties include mostly obtaining all approvals from with

the government, primarily MOGE, to authorize and smooth the operations, and generally check that the joint venture complies with the laws and regulations of the country.

**Onshore blocks PSC-K and RSF-5:** operated by ENI, the largest Italian oil company, ranking 11th in the world, 81,000 employees and activities on all five continents. MPEP is their local partner to guide their initial steps into the geological chal-

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## Your Opinion: What is your opinion about furthering education?

**Daw Kay Khine Myo Thwin**  
**Manager**  
**Office of the Chief Executive**



I am currently attending the Master of Public Administration program offered by Yangon Institute of Economics. I chose to study the MPA rather than MBA because of my sole interest in its theories and its practical applicability in my career. I have been in business for about 12 years and so I think I can understand the business world. However, I feel a lack of ability to comprehend the current situation of my country and insight into the public sector, which is very different from ours.

Another point is according to the nature of my job, I, from time to time, have to work together with government offices. So I thought if I attended this particular course, it would help me network with people from public as well as non-governmental sectors such as Members-of-Parliament-to-be and director generals. At the same time, I will be able to grasp their concept and thinking which helps me better understand how government offices work.

What's more, I visited the Parliament building in Nay Pyi Taw during our study tour and I also met with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. I would not be able to get such great experience and erudition if I had not attended this course. Although I have to study six days a week, I feel happy as I am kept in touch with the study. I feel thankful towards the professors and administrators who make this prestigious program a reality and I am proud and gratified to be one of their students now.

**Daw Yu Mon Soe Lwin**  
**Senior Staff Officer**  
**Office of the Country Manager**



In my opinion, a master's degree will not only deepen my education but also allow me to achieve more in my life out of the classroom. As a result, recently I have decided to attend a Master of Public Administration, a fast-growing career, because its curriculum provides well-balanced subjects for developing a variety of skills and knowledge: business acumen, communications, and leadership. I am hoping it will help me find out many opportunities for my career development, and increase my personal development, ability to work with or manage people as well as my leadership potential.

Today, anybody can pursue a master's degree through distance learning over the Internet or going to a school. For me, I am sure obtaining a master's degree physically requires a significant time and energy commitment. However, I am more comfortable in the atmosphere of a classroom with an active and engaging professor, although it can be draining, rather than studying online alone. Also there are many other benefits to reap from my time spent in a classroom: I will be able to learn both theoretical and applied policies making process; I will be able to share knowledge and experiences with many other students from different backgrounds in either public or private organizations.

Of course, there are difficulties I have to be faced with such as the time management to achieve a balance between my job, life and school. To solve this problem, I follow a simple practice – I find out what are the most important assignments to complete in my to-do list. Then I write them down according to their deadlines and start working on them.

## Insight!

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### CSR & Communications Department

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“ Did you know *that* Sustainability Reporting is a reporting practice that helps business organizations to measure, understand and communicate their economic, environmental and social performance? Most often a description of their values and governance models are provided including a manifestation of the link between their approach and pledges to a sustainable economy. A Sustainability Report can also be described as a triple bottom line report, CSR reporting etc. It is also considered as an essential part of integrated reporting which is a trend lately seen bringing together the analysis of non-financial and financial aspects of business performance. ”

## Introduction to New Employees



**U Myo Ko Ko**  
 Junior HR Officer  
 Human Resources Department

It is a great pleasure to introduce myself to you through this opportunity. Previously I worked at PETRONAS Carigali Myanmar (Hong Kong) Limited, as an Assistant in People Planning & Talent Sourcing Section.

I wanted to join MPRL E&P Pte Ltd. because I was looking for opportunities to learn new things, to develop new knowledge, and to take new challenges as well as more responsibility. Basically, I wanted to advance my career. The

Company's reputation was certainly another influencing factor; I would be proud to work for an eminent oil and gas company led by Myanmar nationals. As a result, I joined the company in June 2016 as a Junior Officer in the Welfare and Benefits Section of the Human Resources Department.

Passing my probation period successfully last month, I am sure that I have become more directed towards contributing to MPRL E&P along with my team-mates using my previous experience and skills plus new understanding and dedication. At the same time, I am hoping to gain more specialized experience in a different area of Human Resources Management during my service time at MPRL E&P.



## THINKING ALoud with

U Thu Nyo  
Planning And Production Engineering Manager



**Please explain about the steps taken to ensure production is maintained in Mann field.**

Simply put, in order to meet the revenue targets of the work programs, the main controlling parameters are the production rates and oil prices. Both of them have their own limitations and fluctuations; the former depends on field natural decline rate that is the decline in oil production of a well or oil field, and the

latter depends on the global oil market of which conditions are uncertain and changing rapidly.

Mann field reached peak production in 1979 and produced a peak value of 24,711 barrels per day. According to the recent historical decline rate, it has been indicated that the decline rate in Mann field is to be around 6% per annum. The production target has set the rate with P50 which is equivalent to the exponential decline rate of 4% annually.

As a result, on our part as Planning and Production Engineering team, we have pooled resources in the process of deepening the operations together with the Technical team to continue our operations successfully. The other method we have leveraged is production optimization which includes zonal isolation test, pilot test on modified insert pump (two stage pump) installation, Greenzyme treatment, and reopen and workover operations, etc.

**How do you ensure the teamwork necessary and what are other important factors to meet the production targets in addition to the above you have indicated?**

Material planning is a crucial factor for production operations so we moni-

tor FR/PO status in cooperation with the Field team as well as Material and Logistics team. In addition, we work together with the Geoscience, Reservoir Engineering, and Drilling Engineering teams in selecting candidates and proposals submitting to the MOGE. For the operations planning and scheduling, we coordinate with the Field team.

Other important factors to accomplish our collective goals are reducing down time in repair works of machinery, equipment and pulling unit operations, as well as avoiding delay in our schedules.

**How would like to give your comments regarding the work you are doing now in this area?**

Minimizing environmental impacts is the most crucial and challenging aspect relating to our operations activities. Given its long years of production, Mann field continues to mature. As we are operating a mature oil field, the water cut is generally high and the task of disposal of produced waters poses a daunting challenge in order to meet the zero discharge target we set. Simply dumping these waters in the old shut-in wells is not easily applicable. As a result, pulling unit operations are needed to clean out the bottom of well-bore; pre-processing like filtering the waters have to be implemented and injection with appropriate pressure has to be executed to open up the perforation tunnel in order to achieve an efficient disposal rate. Even so, it would be difficult to find disposal wells. So we have to figure out alternative methods and other cost-effective ways that are in line with the IFC Guidelines.

I am currently voluntarily contributing as a member of Petroleum Chapter Working Group (PCWG) at the Myanmar Engineering Council and Visiting Associate Professor at the Yangon Technological University on a part-time basis. According to my observations made throughout these years in this petroleum engineering field, there is a wide generational and education gap and experienced people need to guide and share knowledge to their juniors in order to address the gaps and resultant challenges. ■



## Surf The Web

Do you have trouble with English grammar, usage and style encountered in your writing of reports, assignments, conversations, etc.?

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After the Deadline is available as a plugin for supported web applications. You may use After the Deadline through a simple web interface at <http://www.polishmywriting.com>.

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## Employees Pose Questions In TOWN HALL MEETING



Town hall meetings are a form of communication where company management can engage with their workforce to discuss relevant issues of importance to the company and audience. On the 9th September 2016, for the first time, MPRL E&P's Corporate Monitoring and Evaluation Department initiated a town hall meeting between Senior Management and staff members from the Yangon Office and Mann field. The purpose was to have direct communication and provide leadership and inspiration about MPRL E&P and its vision for the future to ensure organizational strategic goals are understood, met and aligned with individual performance goals.

An opening remark was given by the CEO, U Moe Myint, acknowledging that hosting such a meeting was a milestone for MPRL E&P since its establishment in 1996 and it would be the first of many communications to come from Senior Management, giving the employees an opportunity to directly engage with Senior Management, who hoped that the employees' understanding of the bigger picture of the company's affairs and plans in the path forward would inspire them to achieve goals toward a common vision.

On behalf of staff members, three representatives from different departments raised questions: U Pe Thet Khin, Human Resources Officer from the Human Resources Department, enquired about the Company's vision. The CEO responded that while Myint & Associates Limited was founded in 1989 as a Service provider in the oil and gas sector of Myanmar, MPRL E&P was founded in 1996 with the idea of venturing out of being a Service provider only. The Company had a bigger and bolder idea of establishing an upstream E&P company in Myanmar similar to Petronas in Malaysia, Pertamina in Indonesia, and PTTEP in Thailand, with the primary purpose of fulfilling energy demands of the country.

The Human Resources Officer continued to ask about the Company's strategy to weather the low oil price environment as everyone would have the same question in their mind. In reply, the CEO said in light of the plunge in oil prices, the Company shifted its strategy from one of growth to capital stewardship which entailed cutting capital expenditures or upfront costs as well as downsizing the manpower (regretfully). It was also mentioned that the oil prices are expected to gradually get back to their previous level within the next two years.

U Zaw Win Aung, Exploration Geologist from the Exploration and Non-operated Joint Ventures team, quizzed how the Company aimed to realize its long term vision and what



year through which three priorities have been established, namely Economic Performance, Capability Development of Our People and Sustainable Operations in Our Assets, which will help the Company achieve its long-term vision, explained the Country Manager, U Sithu Moe Myint. The Exploration Geologist working on the Block A-6 urged to elaborate on the significance of the Asset to the Company for the knowledge of other non-technical employees.

The Country Manager answered that Block A-6 was an important asset that can help meet the country's energy needs and it is several years ahead of any other offshore Myanmar blocks in terms of technical progress. Block A-6 warrants further appraisal to understand key risks and uncertainties prior to deciding whether the asset can be commercially developed. However, the Company was confident that it would be able to address any and all collectively, continued the Country Manager. It was noted that progress made in the other assets will be communicated in future communications initiatives by respective personnel.

Then Daw May Zun from the Finance Department requested an account on staff involvement in the policy-making process of the Company. The General Manager, U Myo Tin, explained that Senior Management understood the need to ensure staff involvement in policy development, for example, the new Whistle Blowing Policy, although the ultimate responsibility to effectively implement them lies with them. As a result, in the near future, staff inputs will be sought not only for developing new policies but also in revising and upgrading old ones.

Other queries included clarifications on Promotion Policy and Medical Benefit Policy.

**The second town hall meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held in January 2017. If you want to know more, please contact Daw Kyisin Htin Aung, Monitoring & Evaluation Team Leader.**



# Myanmar Businesses In The Country's New Era Of Transparency

A look at where we started and where we are now

**Businesses operating in Myanmar should be able to explain how they conduct their business in a socially responsible and environmentally sustainable manner.**

This is what we have understood with recent changes in the country which has provoked a widespread conversation for a general lack of transparency in Myanmar enterprises which results in a lack of accountability and failure to articulate if investments bring benefits for general public or not. For Myanmar businesses, it is a wise step to take to reflect changes in the country as it regards to transparency of their business conduct and genuine interest to maintain their competitiveness and efficiency at the forefront in an era of change.

Pwint Thit Sa Report is the first tailor-made business transparency project for Myanmar, conducted yearly since 2014 by a Yangon-based donor-funded initiative known as Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business, which aims to serve as a platform, between government, businesses and civil society, for the establishment of knowledge, competence and dialog regarding promotion of responsible business in the country based on national context and international standards. As a result, Pwint Thit Sa Report basically identifies 100 largest Myanmar companies and scores them on 35 questions based on the information they disclose on their websites, mainly anti-corruption, organizational transparency, human rights and HSE, drawing on the methodology adopted by Transparency International.

The Report, released for the first time in July 2014, confirmed that only 35 Myanmar companies out of 100 surveyed had a website while only 11 out of those websites disclosed about anti-corruption policies and 32 released information on organizational transparency. All the companies did least well in the area of reporting on human rights and HSE, which hypocritically is a critical area for the country, rife with land issues and human rights issues. Although the report had publicly acknowledged level of transparency Myanmar businesses were having at the start, it highlighted the challenges and issues, in terms of policy, legal and social, to be addressed by Myanmar businesses in order to be more responsible in the coming years.

There is a clear business case for transparency that Myanmar businesses should recognize: brand reputation and competitive advantage, employee engagement, staff recruitment and retention as well as accurate media coverage through easily available information about the company activities. For example, a Myanmar company which is well-operated and regularly have its financial



**MCRB's 2016 Pwint Thit Sa Report was released on 16 September 2016, highlighting a huge variation in transparency approach and a select few Myanmar enterprises as transparency leaders scoring top places. MPRL E&P finished at fifth place, climbing three spots in the Report.**

statements audited, is very likely to attract foreign investment in terms of capital and technology to grow and expand its business activities. On the other hand, lack of transparency implicates weak rule of law and lack of good governance, which is a major threat to social and economic development. As a result, what companies communicate and how they communicate will certainly dictate where Myanmar businesses stand in the indices and the role they play in driving national development as well as private sector led economy.

The pressure on Myanmar businesses to increase the amount of information they make available to the public is ever bigger, like their counterparts in emerging markets, as the transparency era has begun to gather momentum with greater reforms taken by the NLD government and international organizations on one side, and the active involvement of civil society groups on the other side. Globally, the pressure on businesses to increase their transparency has also intensified, especially since the 2002 global recession, which uncovered hidden agendas and operations of business peoples, and the rise of the digital age, which makes it impossible to conceal what you do from others. However, Transparency is a word that should not be treated as little more than a buzzword to be politically correct or to seize a marketing opportunity. It goes beyond the simple definition of openness in that it calls for timeliness and accuracy of that openness to assist in decision-making for businesses; it implies accuracy, communication and accountability.

For Myanmar businesses, it is modernizing every facet of the economy and forcing its industries to rethink their fundamental values they bring to society as a whole. They have to convince themselves or be convinced that their focus should be optimizing the benefits for all stakeholders and sustainability. They should also be aware or warned that transparency and its effects can crush them into pieces; they are open systems – they affect and get affected. As a result, Myanmar businesses need a new leadership that knows how to leverage transparency for navigation in the integrated economic order at home. A leadership that can strategically coordinate with all levels of stakeholders, makes transparency an explicit factor in decision-making to fight against corruption and poverty, nurture the kind of trust and collaboration essential in extended business units and partnerships. ■

If you would like to know more about MPRL E&P Pte Ltd., please visit



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## Training Sessions On Communication & Media Initiated For MOGE Personnel

Thal Sandy Tun

In the fiscal year 2016 - 2017, MPRL E&P CSR and Communications Department had planned to provide three knowledge-sharing sessions on Communication and Media Engagement to MOGE personnel in Mann field. In July 2016, a training needs assessment was conducted through questionnaire forms and face-to-face interviews with selected MOGE personnel in order to identify the training needs and targets. The training needs assessment was performed to ensure that appropriate and relevant training was delivered. Gathering information from MOGE was a vital part of this process.

Based on the answers, the top three topics identified were: 1) The Importance of Communicating CSR, 2) Communications during a Crisis, and 3) Building Positive Relationships with Media and Civil Society.



As a result, in August, the Senior Communications Officer provided the first session on "Importance of Communicating CSR." The training session was delivered at the MOGE's Office in Mann field on 25th August after the monthly co-ordination meeting between MOGE and MPRL E&P. Around 17 participants, including MOGE Mann GM and department heads, joined the session of which the objective was to help MOGE personnel understand how to apply various tools

and mechanisms to implement CSR communications and how internal CSR communications and employee engagement is important for the whole organization.

While CSR strategies are mostly conceptualized by Senior Management, the actual implementation requires regular dialogue with all business units and employees. Consequently, employee engagement should be carried out via multiple and diverse programs, taking into account the

different levels of CSR awareness and requirements for effective implementation of CSR strategies. Therefore, the participants were expected to have learned about the importance of communicating on CSR initiatives, performance and benefits with internal and external stakeholders and developing a communications plan and their messages effectively.

After the training session, Mann GM gave a positive comment toward MPRL E&P's very first communications session. As always, he appreciated the efforts MPRL E&P's CSR & Communications team made to provide the monthly knowledge transfer sessions for MOGE personnel in Mann field.

Upcoming training sessions will be "Communications during a Crisis" and "Building Positive Relationships with Media and CSOs". ■



## Effectiveness Of MPRL E&P Communication Tools Revealed

Thal Sandy Tun

A survey is a method of gathering information from individuals. In August 2016, the Communications team conducted a survey on its communications tools, namely, the Company's Facebook Page and Website, for the first time, in order to establish a baseline on current level of user satisfaction and effectiveness of the tools as well as to seek suggestions for improvement.

Department Heads were informed about the survey in order to encourage as much participation as possible by employees. MPRL E&P employees in Yangon were surveyed via email within the third week of August using a three-section questionnaire, which covered respondents' job level, gender, age, education and queries on their usage, experience and satisfaction related to the Website and Facebook page. More than 60 employees returned their responses which were collected and coded on condition of anonymity.

Respondents in Mann field are yet to be surveyed and will be administered next month.

According to the analysis, regarding the Website, a majority of respondents were moderately satisfied with both the aesthetic value and content quality. Regarding the Facebook Page, a majority of respondents were moderately satisfied with the information posted. In conclusion, both tools were performing at a satisfactory level.

Concerning the usage of the Website, 61% of respondents stated the website was useful and 52% agreed it was easy to navigate. Concerning recommending the site, only 51% agreed they were moderately likely to recommend it to others. Accessibility of the Website seemed satisfactory; however, people felt unsure about the information and its usefulness of it. As a result, they would only recommend the site to oth-

ers if information posted was thought of as practical.

As the survey continued to explore the best aspects of the Website: 21.6% reported the Newsletter was the best section; whereas 15.7% thought Sustainability, Innovation & Technology, as well as the company profile were great. Our People, CSR Activities, Department Highlights and Career Section followed the list. Others were more interested in Policies, the design of the Website and the Stakeholder Engagement Section.

In response to the questions about the Company's Facebook Page, it was found that 90% of respondents followed the MPRL E&P Page and they did so in order to remain connected with the latest events and news occurring in the Company. This means the majority of respondents are aware of the company's social media presence.

In addition to this, the level of engagement with the social media platform indicated that employees were most likely to like a post then to share with others.

The findings can be useful in developing future communication work plans and actions. Suggested actions will be taken for Facebook in order to boost the presence and activity on social media, with regular paid promotion of posts.

A new website design and layout is currently being drafted. Hopefully the website will be easier to navigate and provide information that elicits interests from employees and encourages recommendations. Grasping the current performance as well as identifying future trends is critical to the success of communication plans. ■

## ‘Incentivising Shared Values’, Position Paper Sponsored By MPRL E&P

Thal Sandy Tun

The Asian Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility (AFCSR) was convened in Myanmar for the first time. Now in its 15th year, the AFCSR is Asia’s most established regional dialogue on CSR thinking and practice, and took place at the Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on September 19-21. This year’s edition of the forum took place at a key juncture in Myanmar’s history, following “high levels of optimism on future prospects and increasing foreign direct investment and global interest as the country broadens engagement with the world.



awards were honours bestowed upon notable CSR programmes which bear significant impact on environmental preservation, education, poverty alleviation, health enhancement as well as to companies who have fully embedded CSR into their core business strategy.

Daw Wit Hmone Tin Latt, Senior Communications Officer from the CSR and Communications Department attended the Forum as representative to MPRL E&P. She said, “This year, the AFCSR agenda focused on Corporate Social Innovation (CSI) to address major social challenges, uplift communities and create a

better future. Businesses are interested in ways that they can leverage more value through CSR and sustainability strategies. This requires improved accountability and transparency and the development of new and innovative partnerships with NGOs and the investment community. Discussions were led by renowned figures from Asia and around the world, including global thought leaders, corporate citizenship experts, visionary business leaders, inspiring social entrepreneurs and development agencies who shared vital insights and unique perspectives to more than 200 delegates. The AFCSR concluded with six CSR awards recognizing outstanding CSR initiatives.” ■

The 15th AFCSR in Nay Pyi Taw was preceded by a Myanmar Business Roundtable carrying the theme, ‘Doing Good and Doing Well in Myanmar’ and the launch of a Position Paper ‘Incentivising Shared Value’ by the Australia - Myanmar Chamber of Commerce, which was held on the afternoon of September 19. MPRL E&P was a proud sponsor of the official launch of the Responsible Investment Working Group’s Position Paper.

The AFCSR then proceeded with sessions on “Corporate Social Innovation: Why It Matters for a Better Future” on September 20, and concluded with the prestigious annual Asian CSR Awards on the evening of September 21. The

## Disaster Relief Response Conducted For A Second Time In Mann Field

Thal Sandy Tun

The recent floods in August 2016 have impacted an estimated number of 1,205 households from eight villages across Mann field. MPRL E&P has provided 400 bags of rice and 400 Viss of oil as part its disaster relief and management efforts in response to the floods in the area. Essential food items (rice and cooking oil) were distributed on 8 August to the affected households in Mann Kyo, Htone Ma Gyi, Kwe Cha, Ywar Thit Kone, Chin Taung, Lat Pan Taw, Mae Bayt Kone and Yae Lel Kyun villages. A total of 6,100,000 MMK (Myanmar Kyat 61 lakh) was spent for the items. Moreover, over 50 of the employees volunteered a total of 269 man-hours organizing and distributing relief items.



One of the employees from the Geoscience Department who volunteered man-hours during the disaster relief response said they participated in distributing the food items to the affected families in Mann field and hoped the Company has been doing good work in disaster relief response efforts together with MOGE personnel and communities, which are prone to natural disasters especially floods.

**239**  
Number of man hours contributed to the flood relief efforts

Last year, MPRL E&P provided a series of disaster relief responses, both cash and in-kind, during August and September, amounting to a total of MMK 738,708,045 and USD 20,000 for those affected by floods. ■



## From Front Page &gt;

allenges, and occasionally advising on the local business environment.

**Offshore blocks A-4 and A-7:** respectively operated by British Gas (now owned by Shell) and Woodside, MPEP is their local partner and shares our 20-year experience of operating in Myanmar.

Daw Thandar will ultimately take over this job with all the legal, financial, administration, HSE (Health, Safety and Environment)/ CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) aspects of MPRL E&P non-operated projects. She is already dealing internally with all teams concerned in MPRL E&P Group of Companies, with partners and with governmental institutions. She is making sure the cabbage (the project), the goat and the wolf are happily cooper-

ating and complying with all the rulings, whereby the Myanmar legislation is evolving fast in an ever more complex world as the country aligns on international standards and practices.

**Please explain briefly about the discovery made at block A-6 announced in January 2016.**

Before we talk about Shwe Yee Htun-1, let me brief you on its genesis, a story that MPRL E&P should be really proud about. In a nutshell, MPRL E&P has been exploring this block since 2007 very professionally in a harsh business environment, whereby we could not use all techniques and equipment available abroad at that time because of sanctions imposed on the country.

Another obstacle was that the drilling results of wells drilled in the 1970's were rather grim, with little

“MPRL E&P is now taking the turn to side with our two large partners with new learning opportunities, and as production is becoming an increasingly likely possibility, the company is also to grow financially, opening up the possibility for development of more nationals in this industry.”



sniffs of gas, and apart in one well where we had very little data, no thick sands that we need for reservoirs to store commercial volumes of gas. We heard advice from international experts, including one well-known pundit in the international oil community proffering “I’ll eat all the sands you might discover in your well, good luck”. Table is served, Sir.

MPRL E&P’s corporate management was bold enough to prefer listening to its Geoscience team rather than international experts, and risked a substantial chunk of MPRL E&P’s money considering the relatively small chance of success of finding gas and/or sands while drilling Pyi Thar-1 in early 2012, including a planned sidetrack that bored through excellent sands, the



top of them with good gas that was sampled. This was the juicy carrot that we could dangle in front of interested investors to continue the Block A-6 story.

After Australian Woodside and French Total came to the table, Shwe Yee Htun-1 was determined as the most interesting prospect to drill, with good indications of gas in sands deposited in a submarine channel of the ancient Ayeyarwaddy River some 2.5 million years ago. While Pyi Thar-1 was the first and pioneering well to find gas in a whole sedimentary basin, Shwe Yee Htun-1 was the first well to find gas in the deep waters of this basin in potentially commercial quantity.

**What progress has been made since the discovery?**

The joint venture, led by MPRL E&P in its government affairs and by Woodside for all technical aspects, is aggressively pursuing the exploration and the appraisal of this new gas play. Since January 2016, the joint venture has acquired a large 3D seismic cube in the SW of the Block A-6, doubling the size of the game field to find more gas-filled channels, and

is well advanced in its preparation for drilling at least one and probably two appraisal wells. These wells will confirm whether what we see on seismic are other gassy sand-filled channels and whether these sands can produce sustainable commercial flow of gas. This drilling campaign is due to start in mid-April 2017.

**Why is this operation important for the country and the company?**

For the country, the Pyi Thar-1 success was definitely an element that attracted a score of major companies to explore the offshore and deep waters of the Myanmar side of the Bay of Bengal as the First Offshore Bidding Round occurred in 2013. Meanwhile, Shwe Yee Htun-1 substantially increased the chance of success of finding commercial gas in a dozen of similar sand bodies, and therefore is the key to open the door to a new world-class gas province. New gas from the offshore Rakhine may well and timely take over the existing gas fields of Myanmar to contribute widening the path to the prosperity of his country.

MPRL E&P has been the pioneer

of exploration of the Block A-6 and of the Rakhine offshore, as we are now involved in this acreage for nearly ten years. The discovery of Pyi Thar-1 and of Shwe Yee Htun-1 now puts the joint venture as the first in the race to replace depleting gas fields of the Mottama Basin. Block A-6 has been and remains a unique growth opportunity for MPRL E&P, especially growth in knowledge for now. Quite a few prospective investors have banked on MPRL E&P not having shoulders robust enough to lift the challenge of exploring, appraising and producing from such an asset in deep waters, usually reserved for elephants. MPRL E&P is now taking the turn to side with our two large partners with new learning opportunities, and

as production is becoming an increasingly likely possibility, the company is also to grow financially, opening up the possibility for development of more nationals in this industry.

**What benefits/results can we expect to see within the next two or three years?**

The appraisal plan now in approval phase is to confirm the large potential of this play; within two to three years, we will definitely know whether the discovered gas play will engage the joint venture in the commercialization of this gas, which may well occur in less than ten years. This will provide MPRL E&P with increasingly valuable assets in hand to finance its growth.

**What major activities will take place over the coming months at the block?**

As already mentioned, the joint venture is to start a drilling campaign for one probably two wells in mid-April 2017. Drilling will involve coring, i.e. cutting a full cylinder of rock in the gas-bearing sandstones reservoir, to examine the nature of these sands: are these sands clean or full of clays that may hamper gas production? Are these sands coarse and the grains well sorted so that gas would flow easily in great amount for a long time, meaning that we would need to drill less wells to produce the gas?

The well will also be tested, i.e. we will open a tap (somewhat more complex than the ones in the laboratories), flow the gas for a couple of days while burning it, and check how much gas the well will be able to flow and for how long. Will the pressure remain nearly constant? Will the flow rate be large enough to warrant commer-

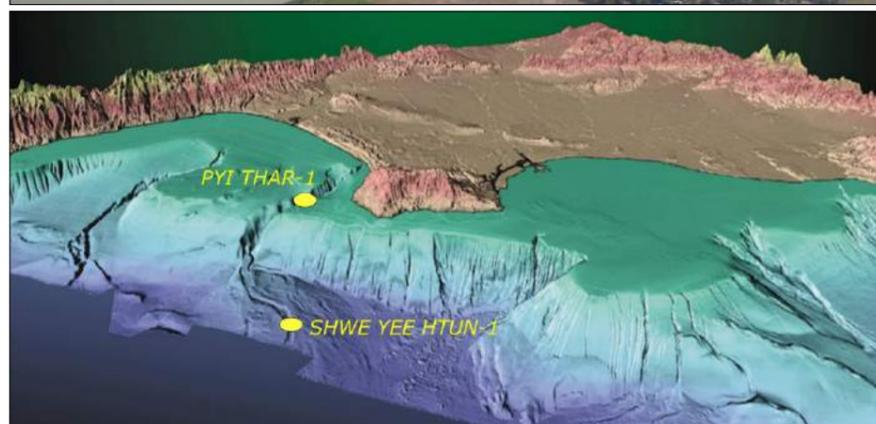
ciality? Typically we would like to flow in one day at least what the Yangon gas powered stations consumed in a couple of hours. This will determine how much gas a well will flow during its entire life and in turn will define how many wells we need to drill to flow gas at commercially sustainable rates during the entire life of the contract over Block A-6.

The well will target two channels with the potential of more than doubling the reserves found in Shwe Yee Htun-1.

Whether we drill the second well of this 2017 campaign will depend on answers to above questions: do we have good sands? Do they flow gas at sufficient rates to hope for commerciality? In case of success, this second well could well bring the joint venture quite close to the threshold above which the joint venture will engage in developing the area for producing gas commercially.

**How does Block A-6 stand as compared to other offshore assets?**

Because of the pioneering exploration efforts of MPRL E&P in discovering gas in Pyi Thar-1, and the aggressive approach taken by the joint venture to appraise the Shwe Yee Htun-1 discovery, Block A-6 is definitely ahead of all other blocks in Myanmar in the race to bring new gas to the country and for export. Being the first in this race means ensuring the best logistical and commercial conditions to sell this gas, the widest choice in production and commercial solutions: shall we land the gas at Ngwe Saung, Pyapon or Kyauk Phyu? Shall we sell it to Mandalay, Patheingyi or Yangon? Any party coming with new gas after the JV of Block A-6 will have to follow in our path, with potential benefits for us: first arrived, best dressed. May the fun go on! ■



The top image is what you see when flying over the Ayeyarwady channels. These channels continue beyond the shores, as sands of the river pour into the sea. MPRL E&P discovered gas in sands of the shallow water part of one of these channels while Shwe Yee Htun-1 hit gas in sands of the deep-water part of one channel.

PARTNERSHIP	EVENTS	TIMELINE
MPRL E&P sole operator at sole risks	MPRL E&P signs PSC on Block A-6	18 Jan. 2007
	G&G team conducts field trips and lab studies, re-interprets 900 km of seismic of the early 70's	2007-2008
	MPRL E&P acquires 2,000 km of new 2D seismic	April 2009
	MPRL E&P acquires first exploration 3D seismic in Myanmar offshore	Jan.-Feb. 2010
	MPRL E&P makes first gas discovery with Pyi Thar-1 incl. planned geological sidetrack in offshore South Rakhine	Feb.-March 2012
MPRL E&P 50%, Woodside Energy (Myanmar) Pte Ltd 50%	MPRL E&P farms out 50% to Woodside from Australia	4 Jan. 2013
	Woodside acquires 3D seismic over deepwater lead mapped by MPRL E&P	Feb. 2013
	MPRL E&P and Woodside enters into First Exploration Extension period	9 June 2013
MPRL E&P 20%, Woodside 40%, Total E&P Myanmar 40%	Total, from France and operator of Yadana gas field, farms in into the block. MPRL E&P operates government relation affairs, Woodside continues as exploration & appraisal operator, Total would develop and produce the Block A-6 discoveries.	21 Oct. 2015
	The JV of Block A-6 makes first gas discovery in ultra-deep waters of Southern Rakhine Basin with Shwe Yee Htun-1, deepest well offshore Myanmar in deepest water depth	Nov. 2015-Jan. 2016
	First appraisal campaign with one firm well and one optional well in case of success	April-Sept. 2017
	The JV of Block A-6 enters Second Exploration Extension period in case of successful appraisal campaign	9 Dec. 2017

# Who's Who At MPRL E&P?

## Introduction To The Geoscience Team

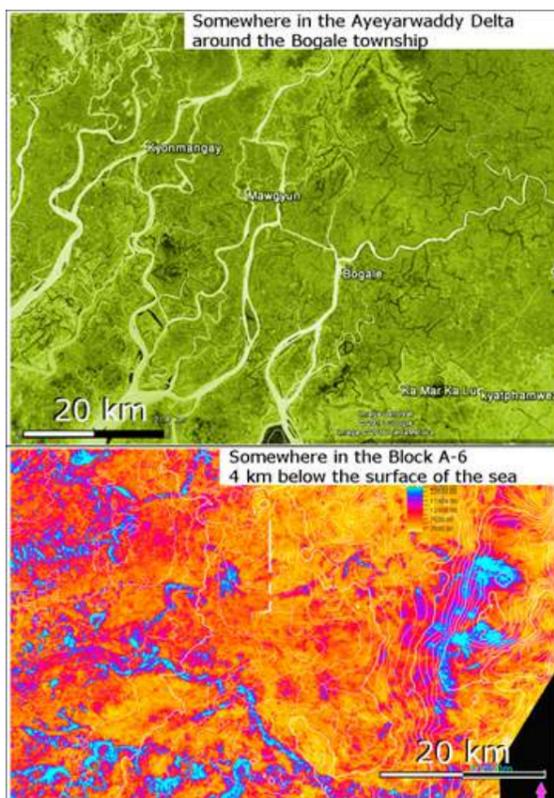
### What is geology?

Every geologist – sometimes called geo-nuts by jealous colleagues - has his/her own definition of geology. One of us defines geology as the art of reconstructing old landscapes. We based our reconstructions on the description of rocky outcrops and recordings from devices that scrutinized the underground. Petroleum geology applies this art to zoom in the most favorable old landscapes to find petroleum.

These landscapes are the result of continental plates moving on the surface of the Earth under the influence of underlying currents of magma. In some places, the continental plates part from each other and create oceans, in the middle of which are ridges of volcanoes which spew magma, such as the Hawaii islands or Iceland in the middle of the North Atlantic Ocean. In other places, the continents collide, forming mountain ridges, and more volcanoes where the break-up on their margin under the strain and stress of moving continental plates one below the other creates fissures through which the magma forces its way up.

### What are we looking at?

The landscapes where the stinky stuff is found in what we call “sedimentary basins”, depressions in the continental plates or at their boundaries, where the products of erosion of the mountains by rain, wind and rivers accumulate in river plains, lakes and seas, and where corals build reefs in shallow warm seas. Examples of these landscapes in modern day Myanmar are the Ayeyarwaddy Valley, the Andaman Sea under which this river flows – yes, rivers continue to flow under the sea! - or the reefs of the Myeik Archipelago; smaller basins are like Inle in the middle of the Shan Plateau. One of the oldest principles of the geological art says that “the past is the key to the present”: see for yourself the satellite image of the river channels of the low valley of the Ayeyarwaddy River and compare it with the image obtained of submarine channels of the Ayeyarwaddy River 2 million years ago by our geo-nuts of the seismic interpretation team in our Block A-6: aren't they strikingly similar?



**U Kyaw Soe Win**  
Acting Geoscience Manager  
G&G Department

U Kyaw Soe Win graduated with M.Sc. (Geology) from Yangon University and has over 10 years of experience working for MPRL E&P as geoscientist. He joined as a Junior Geoscientist in the G&G team to take well-site geologist duties and responsibility in the Mann field, and went on studying more of the sub-surface development by assisting and being mentored by seniors in the team. He is currently Acting Geoscience Manager, looking after petroleum geological aspects of all MPRL E&P's operating assets from exploration to development as well as all assets from our sister company MPEP.

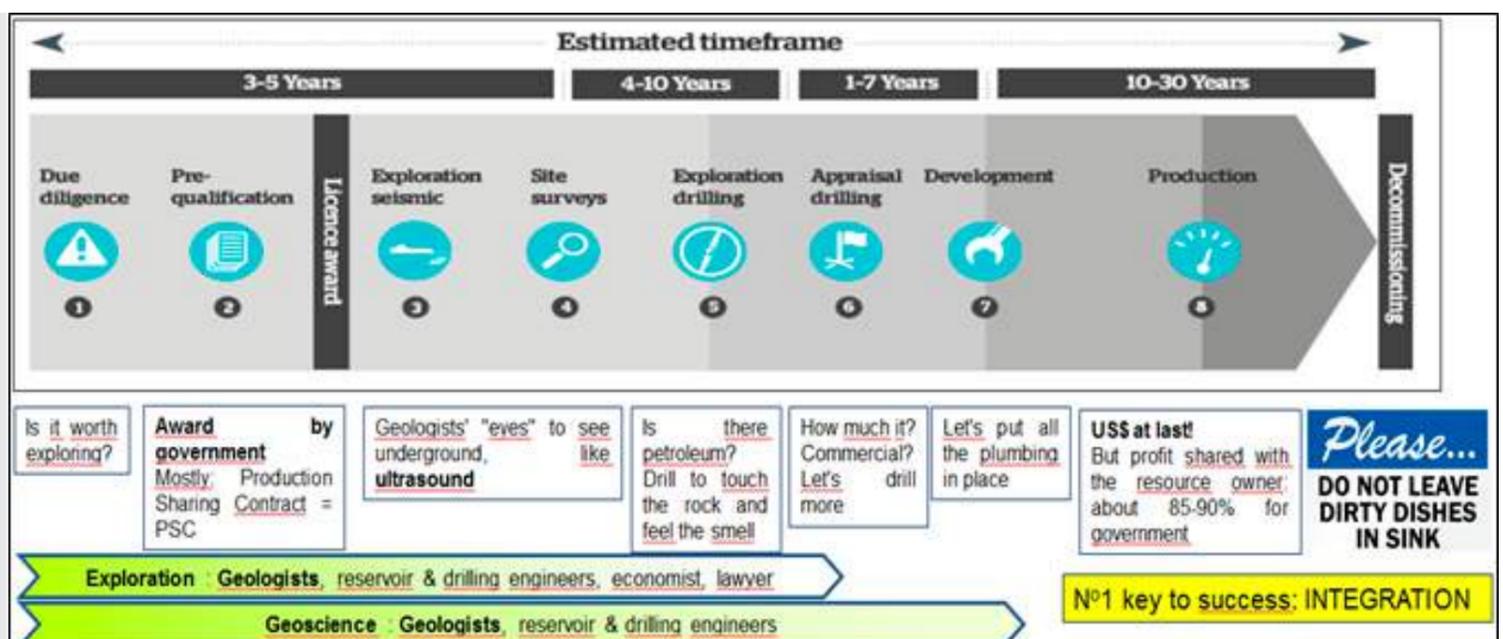
### How do we look for petroleum? The tools of our trade

Almost gone are the days of color pencils and erasers, except outside when we do fieldwork. Because old landscapes are buried under the modern ones, geo-nuts use a variety of tools to look into the underground, and overall to integrate, to superpose to each other, the results of the recordings from these tools. One of these commonly used tools is seismic (such as in the image from Block A-6 above), produced by a kind of ultrasound device a thousand times larger than the one in your nearby hospital to match the size of the animal we investigate. We also arrange for observations of the drilled rocks and for measurements in the wells we drill (“electric logging”), and try to compare them, integrate them, match them with the seismic to better define the presence and the size of the petroleum accumulations in the underground.

### Where do we fit in MPRL E&P's exploration, development and production of petroleum?

Geoscientists are active mostly from exploration to development and their impact to the project decreases as the project becomes mature: where you would have say 70-80% geoscientists in a typical exploration team, where we also need the technical support of a reservoir engineer and the access to some drilling expertise, you will only find 5 or 10% geologists in a multidis-

The diagram describes the process of exploring, discovering, appraising the size of the accumulation, developing, producing and finally decommissioning a typical petroleum accumulation.





ciplinary team of petroleum field developers.

Here at MPRL E&P, we are present in all projects of the company, whether in the almost virgin exploration of our Italian partner ENI's acreage in the Bago Yoma to the over-mature Mann oil field, where we still discover small less depleted pools, and let's not forget Block A-6 where the team played a pivotal role in discovering the first ever potentially commercial gas in the Southern Basin, and attracted the attention of Woodside and Total becoming partners in the block after farming in. The discovery of gas in our Pyi Thar well in March 2012 followed substantial comprehensive field studies, the acquisition and integration of nearly 2,000 km of 2D seismic and 550 km<sup>2</sup> of 3D seismic at the company's own risk and funds.

Meanwhile, the Mann field production enhancement project has traditionally occupied most of the efforts of the Geoscience team since 2003, such as for planning, implementing and monitoring a campaign of 19 new wells, some in-fill, but many exploring successfully deeper potential. That resulted in 304,274 bbls of additional production to date. The team also arranged for deepening about a hundred wells to check for untapped potential, and guided another hundred or so perforations in portions of reservoir hitherto undrained in existing wells.

In 2011-2012, MPRL E&P drilled MDE-1 (Mann Deep East-1) at the east flank of the field with an aim to test the petroleum potential of the deep Shwezeta sandstone, deposited 30 million years ago. This well broke several records including probably the well drilled with the highest mud weight in the country and probably beyond: 2.2, which is a glass of this mud would be more than twice as heavy in your hand than a glass of water, yet it was still liquid and performing well. After several mechanical problems due to very severe over-pressures, MPRL E&P successfully reached the sandstone and proved the presence of petroleum in previously untested sands in Mann Field, but was unfortunately unable to test due to the excessive pressures.

Surely you'll have plenty of questions after this far too brief dive into old landscapes; just drop by and quiz any geo-nut around, she or he will be too happy to answer or guide you to the answer in our library, which

also includes non-technical guides to the industry to quench your welcome inquisitiveness.

- |                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. U Kyaw Soe Win          | (Acting Geoscience Manager) |
| 2. U Aung Zayar Myint      | (Senior Geoscientist)       |
| 3. Daw Nay Che Thwe        | (Assistant Geoscientist)    |
| 4. Daw Su Mon Aye          | (Assistant Geoscientist)    |
| 5. Daw Hay Man Ye Lwin     | (Assistant Geoscientist)    |
| 6. U Chan Myae Aung        | (Assistant Geoscientist)    |
| 7. U Kyaw Naing Oo         | (Junior Geoscientist)       |
| 8. U Thant Zin Aung        | (Junior Geoscientist)       |
| 9. U Kyaw Zin Oo           | (Junior Geoscientist)       |
| 10. U Min Zaw Oo           | (Junior Geoscientist)       |
| 11. Daw Hinn Aye Aye Phyoo | (Junior Geoscientist)       |
| 12. U Sein Hlaing          | (Consultant Geoscientist)   |
| 13. U Kyin Sein            | (Consultant Geoscientist)   |
| 14. U Thein Win            | (Consultant Geoscientist)   |



Photo: Supplied

# Fostering A Safety Culture

**HSE Team**

**Importance of HSE Training**

The importance of safety training extends beyond an employee’s introduction to the job. It also encompasses situations when his job changes or when working conditions change. Without an understanding of safety practices related to their job, an employee will be at higher risk of workplace injury, illness or death.

**MPRL E&P’s HSE Culture**

MPRL E&P is committed to continuously improving health, safety, and environmental (HSE) performance. In addition, we strive to embed a safety-first culture consistent with our fundamental goals, which include:

- No accidents,
- No harm to people,
- Minimal environmental impact

When employees join our workplace, they shall be given an immediate sense that our company places a high priority on safety. This shall be ingrained into the culture as a whole. One way to do this is to have everyone, from daily-wage workers to senior executives, show public support for and knowledge of safety programs. Our colleagues also learn about safety training through detailed policies and procedures laid out by our company. Our HSE’s commitment clearly states that we have to conduct appropriate training needs to ensure all our staffs are competent with their job and understand the safety implications.

We provide HSE orientation training to all new personnel arriving at Mann field and the content of orientation training will cover the following topics:

- Fire and emergency;
- Medical procedures;
- Safety in the Camp;
- Safety in the Field;
- MPRL E&P conduct policy;



Training Man-Hours (2016-2017)

- Health and hygiene;
- HSE documentation;
- Camp rules.

**Effective Communication Methods**

In order to effectively develop a safety culture, the HSE Department has designed a system that ensures all employees can access safety information and data. As a result, promoting a learning approach that enables all employees to identify risks. Following this, a team based approach is encouraged to identify and address risks.

Reflections from near misses, accidents and illnesses is a major source of information that influ-

ences improvements implemented at the workplace. Policies and procedures are updated to reflect organizational changes.

An important aspect to develop a safe working environment at MPRL E&P is the inclusion of Departments Managers. This key stakeholder supports HSE by sharing and instilling safety information to their teams. Their buy-in and reminder of safety practices influences the mind-set and behaviour of employees.

The key purpose of communicating safety effectively is to protect the well-being of all employees and instil a culture of safety that influences their life beyond the working environment. ■

**When employees join our workplace, they shall be given an immediate sense that our company places a high priority on safety.**



# Communities Lead Village Development In Mann Field

Thal Sandy Tun

MPRL E&P started implementing philanthropic Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives in Mann field since its assumption of responsibility in 1999, concentrating on the four areas: strengthening access to education, improving access to basic healthcare, water and sanitation, socio-cultural initiatives, and disaster response and management. It was in 2012 when the Company began to further develop its CSR thinking from a philanthropic one to a more strategic focus, which centers on engaging and supporting the development of local communities.

As a result, the Company's CSR team has initiated engagement with 14 communities living in the project area in order to directly address their needs and concerns regarding community development and impacts of the business operations, with a goal of contributing to the sustainable development and livelihoods of the communities through active engagement and regular dialogue.

One of the successful engagement methods is the establishment of Village Development Committees in each community. U Kan Chun, a 48-year-old farmer, Village Administrator and Village Development Committee member from Kyar Kan Village, one of the surrounding villages in Mann field, explained how the Committee was 'formally' formed in November 2015. "The CSR team from the



Village Development Committee Members and Volunteers *Photo: Win Htun Aung*

Company came to meet with the village administrators of the 14 villages in Mann field and discussed how they could support us based on our needs and focus. Although there used to be some such committee for electricity supply in my community, for example, the Village Development Committee was firmly established through the partnership between village elders, youth groups, village administrators, MOGE's and MPRL E&P's CSR teams to implement the community investment initiatives."

It has been aimed to be more than engagement: the community members are empowered to effectively acquire ownership of the community investment projects reflecting and meeting their specific needs, from planning, designing, to implementing and managing the projects through the

support of MPRL E&P's CSR team. Another 63-year-old Village Committee Member from Ywar Thar Village of which its own Committee was formed in September 2014 contemplated over the knowledge transfer sessions and capacity building trainings by the CSR team and how they have contributed to the formation of knowledge, skills, attitudes and shared values among community members.

"The trainings were provided for collecting and maintaining data and funds for the development projects as well as managing the processes and procedures. Basically, they included project management training, facilitation training and team building training. This is to help us do our work better, in collaboration with MOGE and the Company."

Regarding implementation

and management of the development projects across the communities in Mann field, it has become clear that the involvement of community members plays a key role in consolidating the knowledge and skills they have received.

Furthermore, it has demonstrated that as community members are increasingly more informed about the processes and procedures affecting various aspects of their lives, they are no longer hesitant to take a proactive role in participation, decision-making and management. As a result, it helps the Company prepare a sustainable plan involving its main stakeholders – communities and local authorities – even after it exits from the project.

U Tin Soe, a 47-year-old Village Development Committee member from Kyar Kan

Village, reflected on how the involvement has helped accomplish the development project for his village and put all the stakeholders into partnership.

"Previously, the Company built a water container and machine which cost over 35,000,000 MMK through its own fund for the village as we were faced with water shortage severely since 2010. Then we needed to make a fire protection water tank, which would cost about 70,000,000 MMK, in our village last year. As a result, with the Village Development Committee in the leading role, the whole village contributed up to 10% of the total amount in addition to participation in the construction work. Now we are very happy as we have seen the result of our own capacity, efforts and teamwork." ■

The community members are empowered to effectively acquire ownership of the community investment projects reflecting and meeting their specific needs.



*Photo: Win Htun Aung*

# Come On A Break With Me: Shan State, Extremely Scenic And Incredibly Close

*Better to see something once,  
than to hear about it a  
thousand times.*

*Asian Proverb*



This time I took a trip to the Shan plateau, specifically Kalaw and Inle (Nyaung Shwe) as I thought now would be the best time to visit these touristy places in the low season with some friends.

The express buses, running from Yangon to Taunggyi and vice versa, leave usually around 5, 6 or 7 in the evening and arrive at the sleepy town of Kalaw at around 4:30 the next morning. When we got off on the main road that, as I later found out, connected Kalaw, Aung Ban, Heho, and Taunggyi as Pyi Htaung Su Road, there was rain sparkling as if it was greeting us, making us hopeful about finding a cozy, friendly place for a lie-down for a day.

As a matter of fact, there were many hotels and inns of different names and sizes which could be found beside the main road as well as when one ventured to follow one of the streets intersected with the main road. We knocked on the door of a hotel built on a slope at the end of the street and we were allowed to immediately check-in as there were rooms available.

Next morning we put on our jackets as it was mildly cold and decided to see what we could make of our first day in town. The owner, a woman, greeted us at the reception desk and gave us a map with which she told us where to visit, how to visit and where to eat. As result, we chose to walk, although we could hire motorbikes, to the south till we reached historic Shwe U Min Natural Cave Pagodas, located among pine forests past a military check point, after having our breakfast, Shan noodle and tofu, at the central market just down the street. There were many historic stupas and statues containing Buddha's relics, built by King Athawka Dhammaraja, King Anawrahta, and King Alaungsithu.

We continued our journey on the third day from Kalaw to Shwe Nyaung, a roadside town from which we turned towards Nyaung Shwe. After passing some villages and fields located on both sides of the road, we reached



Nyaung Shwe, with the first sight of tourists on bikes or on foot and stalls of service providers, like in Kalaw, for boat trips, air and bus tickets, as well as bike and car rental.

Again our hotel was close to the market, just two or three corners away and on a quiet back street, and later we found out the whole town was full of hotels of all prices and locations. Unlike Kalaw, the town was flat and the traffic was light. Thankfully, an old friend came to meet us the same day and helped us arrange our boat trip around the Inle Lake as well as a day trip to Pindaya Cave for coming days.

We started out our boat ride at half past eight in the morning from the boarding area at the western end of Yong Gyi Street, after breakfast at the hotel. The lake, 22 km long by 10 km wide, sandwiched between mountain ranges in western part of Shan State, with its many vibrant communities functioning entirely on its water, was a rare sight we would never forget, like we were in a different world – serene and intimate in that we found ourselves in total inner peace with the world and people around.

During the ride passing by many stilt houses, floating gardens and leg-rowing fishermen, we called in on a silversmith workshop and showroom, a traditional weaving business, Hpaung Daw Oo Pagoda, Alodaw Pauk Pagoda, and a monastery called Jumping Cats Monastery. We also spent time in a shaky cabin which offered catches of the day, definitely fresher, more delicious and cheaper than Yangon, with a bottle of beer and coconut juice at the Maing Thauk Bridge, a charming wooden bridge like U Bein Bridge in Mandalay.





In the evening after the boat trip, we hired bicycles to visit the Red Mountain Estate Vineyard and Winery, outside the town, where we tried four types of wine, namely Syrah 2013, Late Harvest 2010, Sauvignon Blanc 2013, and Shiraz-Tempranillo 2013. In my opinion, they tasted exactly what they promised to be. Started in 2002 with the goal to create high quality wines 100 percent made in Myanmar under supervision of French and Australian experts, the Red Mountain Estate was located 1,000 meters above sea level and retained red and white varieties of vines imported from France, Spain and Israel.

On the fifth day, we headed to Pindaya Caves via Aung Ban at 9 in the morning, located on a limestone ridge next to Pindaya Town about 57 km away from Nyaung Shwe, taking around 90 minutes' drive through a landscape of glowing red earth, green plantations and dwellings.

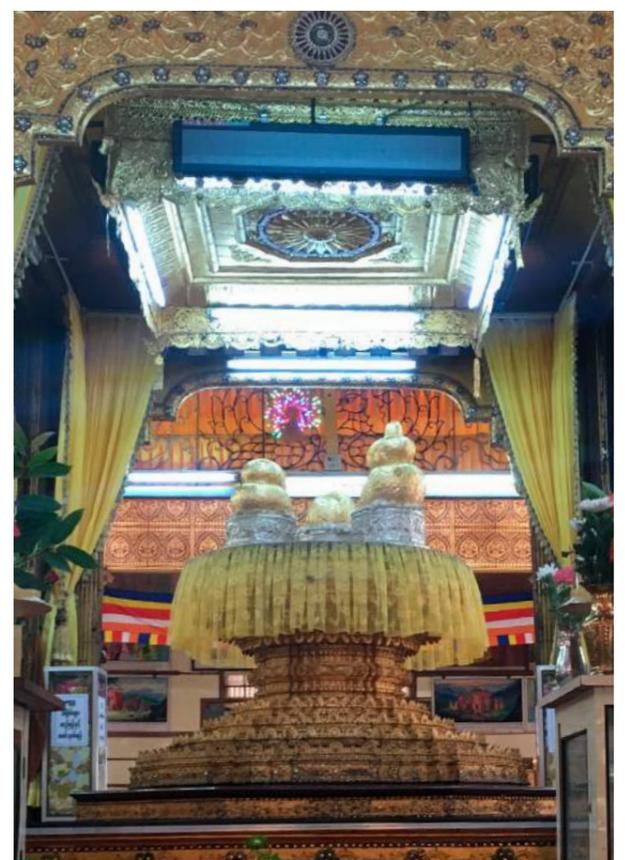
It was learnt that we could enter only the southernmost cavern which housed over 8,000 ancient Buddha images in all sizes and postures. At the entrance, there were sculptures of a giant spider and a prince aiming his arrow at the creature. The legend said four princesses who were bathing in the nearby Pone Ta Loke Lake were cap-

tured by a giant spider in the cave. A bold prince appeared and took the life of the monster with a bow and arrows, freeing the princesses and taking the most beautiful one as his wife.

To reach the cavern one can either climb the long stairway or take a lift. Once we reached the top by lift, there was a breathtaking view of the town, Pone Ta Loke Lake, and the mountains in the backdrop. Many a Buddha images inside, made of plaster, bronze, wood and sandstone, were stunning and the cavern was really spacious in its interior, lightened with electric bulbs and lamps.

We even made it to drop in on Meinmaye Thakhinma Mountain and Myathabeit Blue Water Pond. On the way back, we bought Pindaya tea, well-known for its superior taste. We arrived back to our hotel at around 4 in the evening.

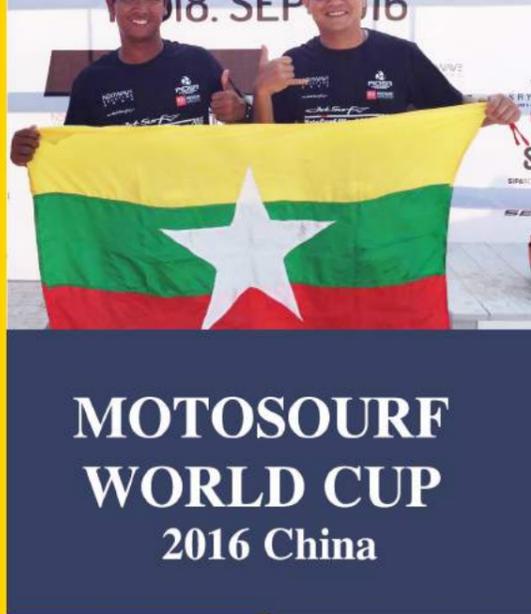
Next day we returned to Yangon by an evening bus. ■





### ASEAN Energy Business Forum 2016

### TRASH HERO MYANMAR ( NGWE SAUNG )



### MOTOSOURF WORLD CUP 2016 China

