



## From Drilling to Data: The Impact of AI on Oil & Gas

Brian L. Logan

“Artificial Intelligence” (AI) literally means the unnatural (created by humans) ability to learn. This cutting-edge technology is revolutionizing numerous industries, including oil and gas. At its core, AI facilitates rapid analysis of vast datasets using iterative algorithms, enabling systems to learn from millions of iterations in a very short period of time. It essentially crams lifetimes of human learning into hours or minutes and allows the systems to identify influencing factors that might otherwise be overlooked or lost in extensive datasets.

It’s a bit ironic that humans are capable of creating systems which are able to learn at rates much faster than the system’s creators. It is humans who envisioned the technology, built the computers and developed the AI software. Yet, the outcome from the human’s ingenuity are systems which far outperform the capabilities of human bodies and minds. For instance, in the U.S., AI-controlled fighter jets have consistently outperformed the most accomplished fighter pilots in the Air Force. As AI technology continues to evolve, its potential applications are only beginning to be understood, particularly in the oil and gas industry.

### Transforming the Oil & Gas Sector with AI

The integration of AI into the oil and gas industry is still in its nascent stages. However, there is a growing focus on leveraging this technology for infrastructure design and operational efficiency. Notably, the top 20 global oil and gas producers have established clear AI strategies across all business sectors—upstream, midstream, and downstream. Furthermore, 92 percent of oil and gas companies are either investing in or planning to invest in AI within the next two years, with an expected industry-wide investment of over US \$4 billion by the end of 2028.



## Heritage Preservation, Cultural Diplomacy, and Soft Power Strategies: Local Insights with Global Perspectives

Thal Sandy Tun

*In this article, we discuss a community’s role in intangible cultural heritage preservation and the importance of leveraging a nation’s soft power assets to promote understanding, trust, respect and cooperation with the international community for tourism, trade, and investments.*



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From the Desk of the Editor

Dear Readers,

As we approach the end of the year, it's incredible to reflect on what a journey it's been for all of us. Like many companies in the oil and gas sector, we have faced significant challenges, especially concerning economic shifts and ensuring the security of energy supply. Rising energy consumption costs have impacted everyone, but we have stayed true to our mission: to provide a stable and affordable energy supply for the people of Myanmar. As a Myanmar-led company with over 28 years of experience, we remain focused and undeterred by obstacles. We will continue to find innovative solutions, drawing on our collaborative spirit and experience. The road ahead might not always be smooth—there will be bumps, twists, and turns—but with resilience, determination, and motivation, we'll reach our goals.

September holds a special place in our hearts as we celebrate the birthdays of our Senior Executive Management Team. On behalf of the entire Editorial Team, I would like to extend heartfelt birthday wishes to our CEO, U Moe Myint. Your unwavering mentorship and inspiring leadership have been pillars of strength for us, especially during challenging times, propelling us to grow stronger each day. Warmest wishes also go out to U Myo Tin (DCE), U Sithu Moe Myint (COO), and U Phone Kyaw Moe Myint (DXM). Your guidance and dedication inspire us to reach our full potential, and we are proud to share this professional journey alongside you. May this year bring you all abundant happiness, health, and continued success.

This issue of Insight! Newsletter is packed with engaging and inspiring stories that showcase our collective efforts and achievements:

**Empowering Communities through Healthcare:** Our CSR Team has been at the forefront of enhancing Community Healthcare, and we're thrilled to share the success of

MPRL E&P's Eye Health Program now in its second round.

**Investing in Education and Leadership:** We continue to prioritize the professional growth of our staff through initiatives like the AIT one-year Professional Master's Degree Program, enriching their educational and networking experiences. Additionally, we also have ongoing internship programs and U Moe Myint & Family's Educational Foundation that are still making differences for the local youths.

**Preserving Cultural Heritage:** Embracing and promoting Myanmar's rich culture remains a proud commitment for us. This issue features a captivating story about a 100-year-old traditional hairstyle still cherished by some communities in Central Myanmar. Exploring this enduring tradition offers a profound insight into cultural resilience amid modernization and highlights opportunities for international collaboration.

**Conserving Our Natural Environment:** Our CSR Team has also launched a coral reef conservation pilot project named "Coral Revive" in the Gaw Yan Gyi area, near the proposed offshore Pyitharyar Integrated Project (PIP). Collaborating with local communities and stakeholders, we are dedicated to protecting and sustaining vital marine ecosystems that support countless marine organisms.

I hope you find this issue as enlightening and enjoyable as I have. Each story reflects our collective dedication and the positive impact we strive to make in our industry and communities. Thank you for being part of this journey, and I look forward to bringing you more inspiring and informative content in our upcoming newsletters.■

Cheers,  
Hnin Wynt Zaw

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Events

MPRL E&P GoC Hosts Annual Waso Robe Offering Ceremony, and Staff Families Contribute Rice and Cooking Oil Worth MMK 2,467,000 to Mettananda Philanthropic and Monastic Education School





# Your Opinion: Importance of Self-awareness for Personal Growth



**Htet Paing Oo**  
Junior Geoscientist  
Pyitharyar Integrated Project Department

For me, self-awareness is the reflective awareness of one's identity, emotions, thoughts, and values. I believe that self-awareness is vital for personal growth; it enhances relationships, empowers emotional management, and fuels motivation. Without self-awareness, pursuing dreams can become confusing; recognizing its importance is essential when facing challenges and staying on track to achieve one's dreams.

I recently attended the self-awareness training session focused on emotional intelligence knowledge provided by the company. During the session, I reflected on my recent personal struggles, which had left me feeling lost and depressed. By applying practical methods for cultivating self-awareness, I gradually came to understand the importance of staying calm and recognizing what truly matters: my own value of life, as well as my needs and wants. Now, I feel more positive and resilient, and I am better prepared to face obstacles. Every day, I remind myself why I started this journey.

There are many practical ways to cultivate self-awareness in our daily lives. Firstly, it is important to understand three things about yourself: your identity, your value of life, and your needs and wants.

To cultivate self-awareness practically, consider journaling, where regularly writing about your thoughts and emotions helps track personal growth and identify patterns. Journaling is one of the most powerful and accessible self-improvement activities. Secondly, set personal goals using the S.M.A.R.T. criteria (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-bound). Lastly, practice meditation and I believe it helps with concentration, provides a sense of serenity and peace, and enables us to deal with life's challenges more effectively.

The benefits of self-awareness are numerous; it bestows positive vibes and emotional resilience in personal life. For professional development, it enhances communication, supports career growth, and contributes to a positive work environment. My advice is to maintain consistency, develop a better understanding of yourself, and stay open to change, no matter how tough things get. Remember your reasons for starting your journey and stay true to yourself.■



**Nwe Ni Win**  
Junior Receptionist  
Administration & Contracts Department

There are many ways and methods to foster personal growth and development, with self-awareness being a key component. Self-awareness is the ability to reflect on one's thoughts, emotions, and behaviors. It involves recognizing how these internal processes influence our actions and impact others. In my view, self-awareness serves as the cornerstone of emotional intelligence and personal growth, acting as a mirror that helps us truly understand ourselves.

I believe self-awareness is crucial for personal growth because it enables us to genuinely know our strengths, weaknesses, and potential blind spots. Without this understanding, navigating life's challenges or pursuing meaningful goals can become difficult. Self-awareness also enhances both personal and professional development. It helps us manage our emotions, improve communication, and make informed decisions. Greater self-confidence and a clearer sense of purpose are also fostered through self-awareness.

Personally, there was a time when I struggled with decision-making, often second-guessing myself. Through self-reflection, I realized that my indecisiveness stemmed from a fear of failure and a need for external validation. This realization allowed me to build self-confidence and trust my judgment, leading to more decisive actions and better outcomes in both my personal and professional life.

To cultivate self-awareness, I found mindfulness practices and regular self-reflection particularly impactful. I began journaling my thoughts and emotions daily, which helped me identify recurring patterns in my behavior and thinking. Seeking feedback from trusted colleagues and friends also provided valuable perspectives I had not considered.

In conclusion, I have to agree with this statement: "Self-awareness is not a static type of information to acquire but rather dynamic and constantly changing as the individual." It is not just a tool for personal growth but a continuous journey of self-discovery that leads to a more fulfilling and authentic life. My advice for ongoing development is to make self-awareness a daily habit. Regularly check in with yourself, and remain open to learning and growing from your experiences.■

Events

## Flu Vaccination Drive at MPRL E&P Group of Companies in July 2024





# MPRL E&P Practices Effective Battery Waste Management to Uphold Commitment to Safety and Sustainability

Nay Myo Aung

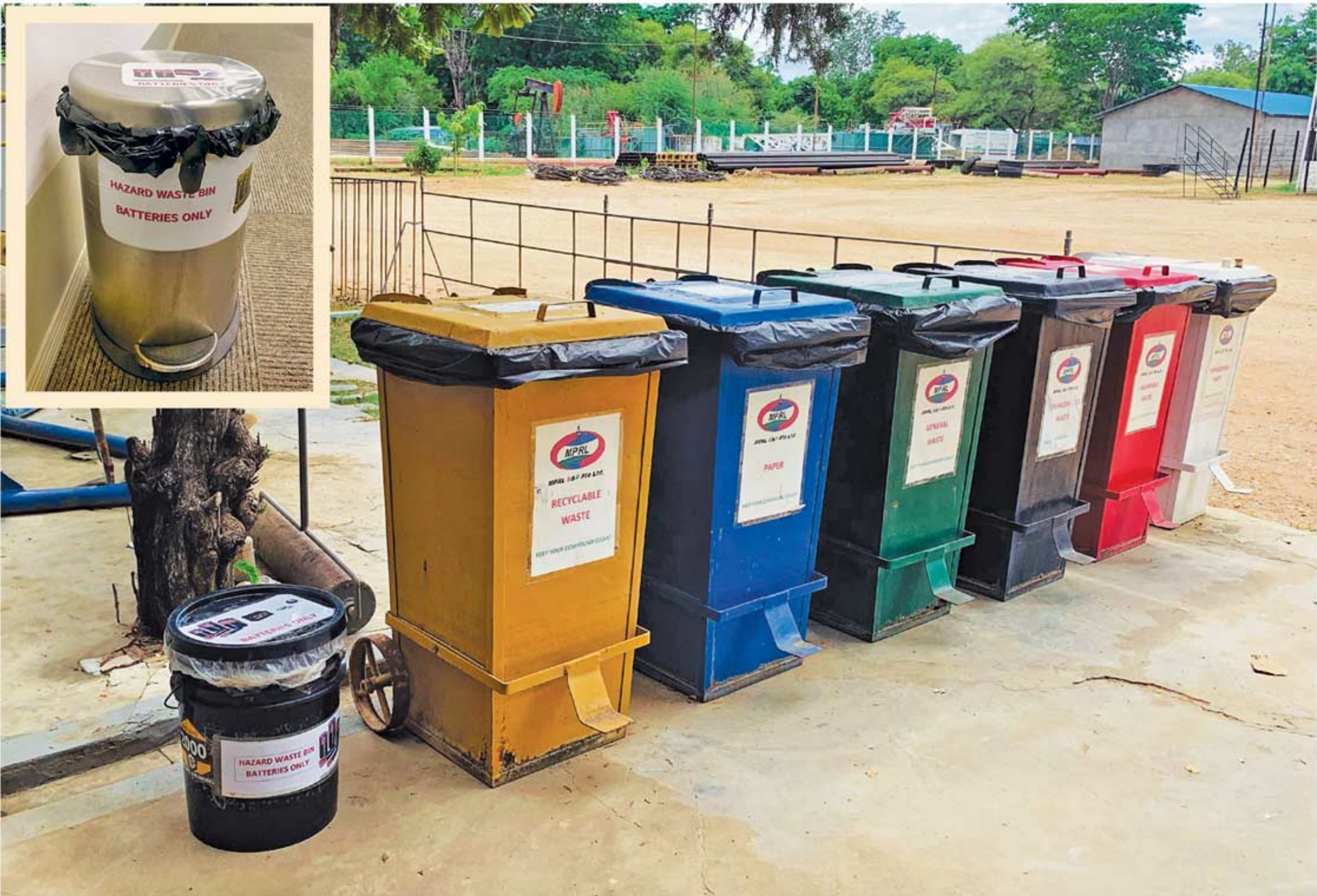
The recent fire at the Aricell lithium battery factory in Hwaseong, South Korea, occurred on 24 June 2024. The factory manufactures non-rechargeable lithium-thionyl chloride batteries, known for their high energy density and reactivity. The fire started after several batteries exploded on the second floor, quickly spreading due to the flammable components of the batteries. The blaze resulted in the deaths of 23 workers, most of whom were Chinese nationals, and injured eight others.

The incident was particularly severe due to the toxic smoke produced by the burning batteries, which likely caused the deaths of the workers through inhalation rather than burns. The factory, which housed over 35,000 batteries at the time, sustained significant structural damage, including collapsed sections of the roof and scattered concrete debris.

Based on lessons learned from this accident, MPRL E&P is addressing the challenges associated with battery usage and disposal in field operations by implementing proper waste management practices at Mann Field and the Yangon Head Office. Furthermore, this includes ensuring safe handling, proper recycling, and compliance with environmental regulations.

## Environmental Challenges for Mann Field Operations

Batteries contain toxic substances such as lead, cadmium, mercury, and lithium; improper disposal of these chemicals can leach into the soil and groundwater, causing long-term environmental damage and health risks to local communities. Additionally, wildlife may ingest battery parts, leading to poisoning or physical harm, which is a significant concern in the ecologically sensitive Mann Field area, threatening biodiversity.



In Mann Field production enhancement operations, MPRL E&P uses lead-acid batteries for pulling units, trucks, cranes, and other equipment, recycling these batteries with suppliers for new replacements. Rechargeable lithium-ion (Li-ion) and nickel-metal hydride (NiMH) batteries are utilized for portable gas detectors and radios, while rechargeable alkaline and non-rechargeable batteries are employed for office accessories such as clocks, computer mice, cameras, and torches. UPS batteries support computers and printers. Due to the manageable quantity and consumption of these batteries, storage and disposal processes do not pose a significant issue, as the company has proactively implemented proper battery waste management practices in its operations at Mann Field and the Yangon Head Office to address these matters responsibly.

Collected batteries are stored in designated areas to prevent leakage and environmental contamination. Proper labeling and containment measures are taken to avoid accidental exposure.

The environmental and operational challenges of battery disposal in Mann Field and Yangon require immediate and concerted efforts. By establishing proper disposal facilities, implementing effective waste management procedures, enhancing regulatory frameworks, and fostering community awareness, these challenges can be addressed. Ensuring the safe and sustainable disposal of batteries is crucial for protecting the environment and maintaining operational efficiency and compliance in the region. Through collective action and innovative solutions, we can pave the way for a greener and more sustainable future. ■

Events

Congratulations to Best Quality CARE Card Awardees!





# MPRL E&P Contributes MMK 30 Million to MOGE Employees as Part of Employee-centered CSR Program

Moe Thu Zar Soe



MPRL E&P contributed MMK 30 million to support employees of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) at Mann Field as part of its employee-

centered Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives.

The donation, aimed at providing essential supplies such as rice and cooking oil, was officially handed over on 15 September 2024.

U Myo Win, Field Operations Manager at MPRL E&P, presented the contribution to U Khun Myo Thant, General Manager (Mann Field) of MOGE, during a ceremony at MPRL E&P's Field Operations Department.

In collaboration with MOGE's General Manager (Mann Field), MPRL E&P's CSR Program will target support for areas where MOGE employees have specific needs, reflecting its ongoing dedication to employee-centered CSR initiatives. ■



## MPRL E&P Donates Endotracheal Tubes to YCH's Pediatric ICU

Moe Thu Zar Soe

In June 2024, as part of its ongoing corporate donation initiatives, MPRL E&P's CSR Program made a significant contribution to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Yangon Children's Hospital (YCH), a major referral center with a 1,000-bed capacity that is crucial for pediatric care in Myanmar. The donation of endotracheal tubes is intended to support the hospital in providing high-quality intensive care to children in need.

Endotracheal tubes are vital for emergency airway management, allowing direct access to the lungs for oxygen and medications during emergency breathing and anesthesia. These tubes are selected based on the patient's age and specific medical condition.

The donated endotracheal tubes, imported from Thailand, include 1,970 cuffed tubes and 530 uncuffed tubes with inner diameters ranging from 3 mm to 5.5 mm, valued at THB 73,710, with a total donation cost of THB 95,858.00 (USD 2,611.65), including logistical fees from Thailand to Myanmar.



Commenting on the donation, U Ko Ko Naing, Material & Logistics Manager of MPRL E&P, shared, "Recognizing the urgent need for endotracheal tubes in the ICU at YCH, our CEO, U Moe Myint, kindly guided us to work with medical equipment suppliers from Bangkok to help provide the necessary supplies during this critical time."

On behalf of the CEO of MPRL E&P, Dr. Su Myat Soe, Head of Corporate Sustainability Daw Wit Hmone Tin Latt, and Material & Logistics Manager U Ko Ko Naing officially handed over the donation to Dr. Soe Soe Maw, Senior Consultant Pediatrician at the ICU, on 26 June 2024. Dr. Aung Tun Oo, the Senior Medical Superintendent of YCH, expressed his gratitude and provided a donation certificate to the representatives of MPRL E&P. ■





# Finance Professionals at MPRL E&P Completes Specialized Training in PSC Accounting and IFRS Implementation

Ei Ei Htun

In a significant step toward enhancing industry proficiency, a specialized training course titled “Accounting for Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) and Implementation of IFRS in the Oil and Gas Industry” was conducted at MPRL E&P in June and July 2024 in collaboration with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) as part of the AIT Extension Program. Under the guidance of our CEO, this initiative, led by the Finance Team leader and supported by the HR Department, aimed to equip the Finance and Internal Audit Teams with the latest accounting standards and practices crucial to the industry.

Oil and gas operations, which focus on exploring, extracting, refining, and selling hydrocarbons, require substantial capital investment and involve long lead times due to challenging environmental conditions and uncertain outcomes. These operations often take place under Production Sharing



Contracts (PSCs), agreements between the involved parties and the host country. PSCs specify the percentage of production each party receives after cost recovery, ensuring shared capital costs—a common industry practice.

The training course was structured into four intensive sessions, each lasting 2.5 hours and conducted via Zoom. The opening ceremony, held on 19 June 2024, featured speeches from distinguished guests, including Mr. Voravate Chonlasin, Executive Director of AIT Extension; Mr. Fazle Karim, Senior Advisor to the Executive Director of AIT Extension; Mr. Nigel Stanley Tay Wei Jie, Finance Team Leader of MPRL E&P; and Daw Khin Soe, Senior HR Manager of MPRL E&P, who delivered inspiring opening remarks.

The course was led by Dr. Ahalik, a renowned CPA, CA, ASEAN CPA, and DipIFR holder, and a part-time trainer at AIT with extensive knowledge in PSC accounting and IFRS concepts. Dr. Ahalik’s

expertise ensured that participants gained a profound understanding of the intricate accounting practices specific to the oil and gas industry.

The training concluded on 05 July 2024, with 19 participants expressing their appreciation for the comprehensive knowledge gained. Each participant received a certificate of completion, signifying their achievement. A post-test assessment was also conducted to evaluate the training’s effectiveness and provide valuable insights into the participants’ learning outcomes.

This specialized training initiative reflects our commitment to continuous learning and development, ensuring our Finance and Internal Audit Teams are well-equipped with the latest industry standards. The successful completion of the course marks a significant milestone in our journey toward excellence in the oil and gas sector. ■



# Staff Members Take on Latin Dance Class

Yu Nandar Myat

As part of MPRL E&P’s Learning Club Activities, program organizers have initiated a series of Latin dance classes to foster team spirit, and overall physical and mental health, as well as to encourage social bonding within the company. The first class was held on 14 July 2024, and will run for ten sessions every Sunday from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in front of the 8<sup>th</sup> floor reception area.

To briefly touch on the history of Latin dance, which encompasses a variety of styles originating from Latin America, including the Caribbean, South America, and Central America, these dances trace their roots to a blend of indigenous, African, and European influences, creating a dynamic and diverse cultural tapestry.

Dances such as salsa, merengue, bachata, and cha-cha have their origins in vibrant Latin American communities. Salsa, for instance, evolved from

the Cuban Son and Afro-Cuban dance traditions and became popular in the United States in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Merengue, known for its infectious rhythm and simple steps, hails from the Dominican Republic, as does bachata, characterized by its romantic and soulful movements. The cha-cha, an offshoot of the mambo, adds a playful and lively flair to any dance floor.

## Here are several benefits worth mentioning:

**Physical Exercise:** Latin dance provides a full-body workout that improves cardiovascular health, builds muscle strength, enhances flexibility, and boosts endurance. The energetic and rhythmic movements engage various muscle groups, making for a fun and effective exercise routine. Regular participation can lead to improved coordination, balance, and overall physical fitness.

**Social Bonding:** Beyond the physical benefits, Latin dance serves as a powerful tool for social connection. Dancing with colleagues fosters teamwork, mutual trust, and camaraderie. The shared experience of learning and dancing together breaks down barriers and creates a more inclusive and friendly workplace environment. This social interaction can enhance communication and collaboration within the company.

**Cultural Appreciation:** Engaging in Latin dance allows participants to appreciate and celebrate the rich cultural heritage of Latin American countries. Understanding the origins and significance of these



dances deepens cultural awareness and promotes diversity within our community.

Participants reported significant improvements in physical fitness and expressed enjoyment in learning new dance styles. Many highlighted the positive impact on team dynamics and appreciated the opportunity to engage in a culturally enriching activity. The overall response was overwhelmingly positive, with participants eager for future sessions.

The Latin Dance Class series successfully achieved its goals of promoting physical exercise and fostering social bonds within the company. The program not only improved fitness levels but also enhanced teamwork and cultural appreciation among employees. The Learning Club looks forward to continuing such initiatives to enrich the workplace environment. ■





# Emotional Intelligence Training: A Catalyst for Personal Change

Naw May Pale Htoo



More and more, people are recognizing the importance of emotional intelligence (EQ) in both personal and professional lives. Recently, 21 staff members from 14 departments, including me, attended a four-session Emotional Intelligence training workshop from 02 to 11 July 2024, organized by the HR Department. This workshop, led by Daw Sanda Thein, a certified Dale Carnegie trainer, aimed to improve our self-awareness, empathy, and interpersonal skills.

In the first session, we learned the basics of emotional intelligence (EQ). EQ is the ability to recognize, understand, and manage our own emotions and those of others. We explored key elements of EQ, such as self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy, and social skills. Developing these skills can lead to better relationships and improved emotional well-being.

One impactful part of the training was the self-awareness discovery process, which included journaling, setting personal goals, establishing boundaries, and practicing yoga. One participant

shared, "By reflecting on my thoughts and feelings, I gained a deeper understanding of my identity and how my background affects my interactions with others."

In the second session, we explored empathy, mindfulness management, values of life, emotional agility, and happiness. We learned how to practice mindfulness through breathing exercises and body scans to stay focused. We also discussed topics like the 432 Hz frequency and chakras, which can support our well-being.



The training emphasized the importance of aligning our values with our actions and being flexible with our thoughts and feelings. Learning to label and accept our emotions has been empowering. One colleague said, "I now have a new perspective on handling my emotions. I can pause, reflect, and respond better in the future."

The third session covered resilience, influence, and persuasion, all closely related to emotional intelligence. We learned about finding healthy outlets for stress, seeking support, and using effective coping strategies during tough times. We also discovered how to positively influence others without relying on formal authority.

One participant remarked, "The session on resilience and influence was eye-opening. I now understand how to bounce back from challenges and use my emotional intelligence to inspire those around me."

In the fourth session, we learned that effective leadership involves skills in charisma, authentic leadership, and understanding the authenticity paradox. Charisma is about inspiring others through communication, based on logic, credibility, and emotion. Leaders express charisma through their voice, facial expressions, and gestures. Authentic leadership focuses on being genuine to build trust and loyalty. We also discussed the balance between being true to ourselves and facing difficult choices.

Overall, the training was a transformative experience for everyone involved. For me, it was more than just a training; it was a journey of self-discovery that will impact how I handle my emotions and relationships in the future. I believe this training has profoundly affected my 21 colleagues, helping us all understand ourselves better and use emotional intelligence to improve our lives and the lives of those around us. ■

## Events

## 232 Seintalone Mango Trees Planted at Mann Field during Joint MOGE and MPRL E&P Tree Planting Campaign on 24 July 2024







# Promoting Fair Access to Eye Care:

## MPRL E&P's Second Round of the Eye Health Program

Moe Thu Zar Soe

Ensuring good vision is more than just clear sight; it's a cornerstone of overall health and well-being. Recognizing this, MPRL E&P has committed to advancing eye health program as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. This feature explores the global and local context of eye health, highlights MPRL E&P's efforts in Mann Field, and illustrates how these initiatives align with broader health objectives. From tackling eye health challenges to implementing eye health program, MPRL E&P is dedicated to making a meaningful impact on the Mann Field Communities it serves.

### Global Eye Health at a Glance

According to estimates by the World Health Organization (WHO), about 2.2 billion people worldwide suffer from eyesight problems due to presbyopia (farsightedness) and myopia (nearsightedness) in 2023. Notably, 90 percent of these individuals are from developing countries, and 80 percent of visual impairments can be prevented or treated. Additionally, 85 to 95 percent of diabetic patients have Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus, and people with diabetes are 25 times more likely to lose their sight than those without the disease. Therefore, even in developed countries, diabetes remains a leading cause of blindness.

### Eye Health Challenges in Myanmar

Among preventable eye diseases in Myanmar, trachoma, which was a major issue in the past, will no longer be a public health concern as of 2022, according to the Trachoma Elimination in Myanmar announcement made in September. Additionally, during a meeting held at the Ministry of Health on 29 May 2024, the increasing need for eye healthcare was highlighted, noting that cataracts, glaucoma, the need for glasses, injuries, diabetes, and hypertension are now the leading causes of blindness. Therefore, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, as well as international and regional organizations, it is essential to cautiously prevent cataracts and other related diseases such as diabetes and hypertension.

### Aligning with Myanmar Health Vision 2030

Recognizing the critical role of quality healthcare and accessibility in Myanmar Health Vision 2030, which aims to achieve "Quality Healthcare and Access for Everyone," MPRL E&P has actively contributed through its Community Healthcare Program, operating Mobile Clinics in Mann Field since 2018. Additionally, adhering to the Ministry of Health's guidelines to prevent avoidable blindness

and visual impairment across Myanmar and acknowledging the specific eye care needs of Mann Field Communities, MPRL E&P's CSR Program has been committed to expanding primary eye healthcare through effective treatments and health education initiatives led by eye health professionals starting from early 2023.

### Clear Eyesight for Happy Life!

As part of its shared value initiatives, MPRL E&P's CSR Program launched the "Clear Eyesight for a Happy Life!" eye health program to provide eye healthcare to senior residents aged 60 and above during its first phase, and to teachers and students from 11 local schools in Mann Field during its second phase in the Fiscal Year 2022-2023. This initiative, in partnership with the Trachoma Control and Prevention of Blindness Program and the Department of Public Health (Minbu), conducted general eye screenings for 1,921 individuals, including 74 teachers and 1,847 students, and provided additional screenings for 210 elderly local patients. Furthermore, through its facilitation assistance, MPRL E&P's CSR Program successfully funded cataract surgeries for 100 patients at Minbu Hospital, as well as glasses for 20 individuals and eye drops and supplements for 10 people, all supported by a total CSR budget of MMK 20,879,200.



### Second Round of the Eye Health Program for Mann Field Communities

MPRL E&P's CSR Program is set to broaden eye healthcare coverage in Mann Field for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Starting in June 2024, the initiative, developed through consultations with the Ophthalmologist Dr. Ei Ei Aung from the Trachoma Control and Prevention of Blindness Program, Department of Public Health (Minbu), aims to reach targeted groups within the Mann Field Communities. The Field CSR Team has followed up with patients who received eye treatment in the previous phases to assess their progress and identify new target groups for general eye screenings in July and August 2024.



On 14 August, as part of the program, Ophthalmologist Dr. Ei Ei Aung delivered a health talk on "Diabetic Eye Disease and Prevention" to 314 community members. MPRL E&P's CSR Team also arranged transportation and provided breakfast for all attendees. Following the health talk, healthcare providers, with support from CSR Team members, Village Administrators, and Community Volunteers, conducted general eye screenings for 266 people aged 50 and above at Auk Kyaung Pagoda in Mann Field.





Daw Myint Myint Maw, a health assistant at the Trachoma Control and Prevention of Blindness Program, Department of Public Health (Minbu), said, “Under the leadership of our ophthalmologist, Dr. Ei Ei Aung, a team of 10 health officials—including four health assistants, two field staff, and two dressers—participated in the recent MPRL E&P eye health program held in Auk Kyaung Village. Cataracts are common, especially among elderly people, but they can also affect children, either from birth or due to eye injuries. For those whose vision is gradually declining but can still perceive light, surgery is often an option. However, if they lose the ability to see light entirely, surgery may no longer be viable, leading to permanent vision loss. In rural areas, many residents hesitate to undergo surgery



due to financial constraints and a lack of health awareness. Our approach begins with educating people about the benefits and safety of surgery, while also providing them with access to free health-care. This support ensures they have the chance to receive the necessary surgery. The MPRL E&P’s eye health program for Mann Field Communities has seen effective collaboration between the CSR Team, Village Administrators, and Community Volunteers. In this phase, we prioritized providing general eye screenings for individuals aged 50 and above from

14 communities in Mann Field, ensuring effective identification of cataracts and other eye conditions. I’m pleased to participate in the company’s CSR Program, as it addresses a critical health need for Mann Field Communities.”

Additionally, 72-year-old U Win Shein, a resident of Mei Bayt Kone Village and a retired member of the Fire Department after serving 36 years at Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (Mann Field), said, “I underwent surgical treatment on one of my eyes in 2020, and now, the vision in my remaining eye is significantly impaired. After a general eye screening and health talk session conducted by MPRL E&P’s eye health program at Auk Kyaung Village, the health assistant advised that the remaining eye would also need surgery due to a mature cataract.

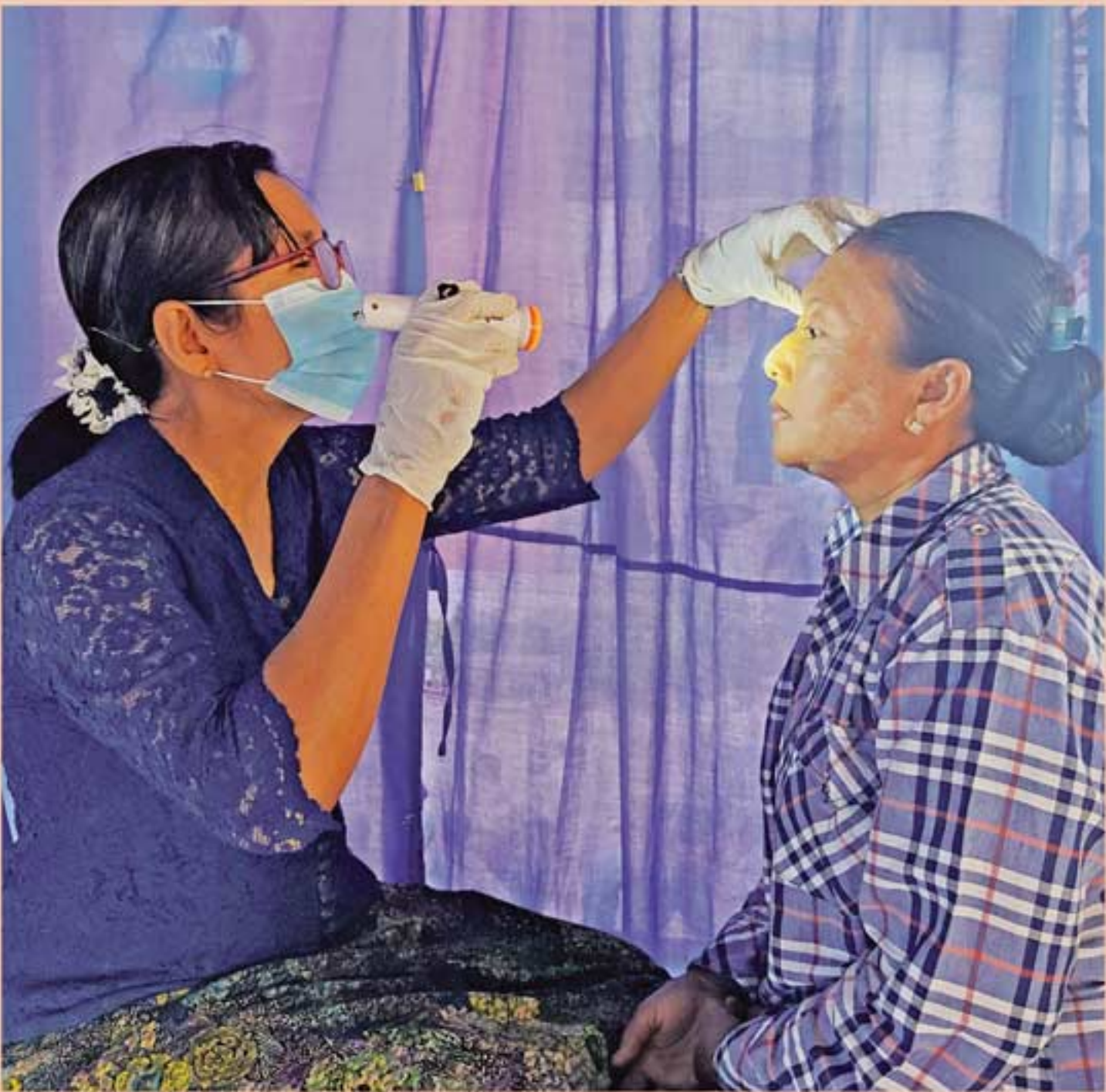


As we all know, eyes are incredibly important, so I am deeply grateful for the essential care and proper treatment provided by the CSR Program. I especially want to express my sincere thanks for the care given to us pensioners through the company’s ongoing CSR efforts.”

In addition, U Win Shein remarked, “After my retirement, I’m pleased to contribute to social activities in my village. As a member of the Mei Bayt Kone Village Development Committee, I have been involved in the company’s CSR Program and various development initiatives for our village for several years. Currently, around 25 residents of our village are receiving eye treatment alongside me, and they are very thankful for the relief from the eye issues they have been enduring. During these challenging times, having access to free healthcare is invaluable. On behalf of the communities of Mei Bayt Kone and Mann Field, I want to express our gratitude for alleviating some of the social anxiety faced by our families.”

Strengthening Eye Health for a Brighter Future

Eye health extends beyond maintaining good vision; it is essential for overall well-being and quality of life. The WHO’s “Towards Universal Eye



Health” strategy aims to reduce vision impairment and enhance access to rehabilitation, while the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) highlight eye health as a vital aspect of basic healthcare. In Myanmar, the Ministry of Health is developing the National Eye Health Plan (2025-2030) to align with both the WHO’s strategy and the UN’s SDGs. Achieving these goals requires comprehensive support from ministries and partner organizations to deliver high-quality eye health-care to communities. MPRL E&P’s eye health program aligns with the National Eye Health Plan and demonstrates the company’s commitment to addressing health challenges in Mann Field Communities. The “Clear Eyesight for Happy Life!” eye health program reflects MPRL E&P’s dedication to sustainable development and enhancing eye care through effective collaboration with the Department of Public Health and Mann Field Communities. ■







# From Assistant Engineer to Senior Leader: A Journey of Growth and Responsibility at MPRL E&P

Hnin Wynt Zaw

## Please tell us a little bit about yourself.

My name is Aye Min Htun. I grew up in Minhla Township, Bago Region, in an ordinary family, alongside one brother and three sisters. Growing up in such a setting provided me with invaluable life lessons and countless meaningful memories. From a young age, I dreamed of becoming an engineer. With determination and hard work, I earned a Bachelor of Engineering (BE) in Petroleum from Pyay Technological University in 2010.

## How long have you been working for MPRL E&P? What made you join the company?

I joined MPRL E&P on 29 July 2013, and have been with the company for 11 years. At the time, opportunities in the oil and gas sector were scarce, which made joining a reputable company like MPRL E&P challenging. I initially worked as a Safety Officer at a service company that provided general services to oil and gas companies in Myanmar. This experience helped me gain essential safety knowledge in the oil and gas field. However, with my technical background in petroleum, I aspired to become a Petroleum Engineer. Joining MPRL E&P allowed me to apply my specialized skills and turn my dream into reality.

## How has your role evolved at MPRL E&P since you first joined the company, and what are your current responsibilities as an All Pulling Units Supervisor?

I started at MPRL E&P as an Assistant Engineer. In 2017, I was promoted to Engineer, and in 2023, I advanced to Senior Engineer. I currently hold the position of All Pulling Units Supervisor, where I manage well servicing operations in addition to my Senior Engineer responsibilities.

As an All Pulling Units Supervisor, I monitor the hourly rates and daily production of each well and check Echo and Dynamometer surveys for abnormal wells to determine service needs. I prepare monthly, quarterly, and daily well servicing plans, providing necessary management and technical support to lead pulling unit supervisors in well servicing operations. Safety is our top priority, and as a supervisor, I ensure that all activities align with Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and Job Safety Analysis (JSA) to maintain a safe work environment.

When I first joined MPRL E&P, I supervised just one unit. Now, I manage all pulling units and participate in various field activities related to organizational safety and Corporate Social Responsibility

(CSR). My role requires strong communication skills to interact effectively with the personnel from Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) and leadership abilities to guide my team and manage daily operations efficiently.

## Since your first day at MPRL E&P, what has been your biggest motivator?

I appreciate MPRL E&P's training approach. During my early days, I received rotational training in areas such as Gas and Oil Collecting Station (GOCS) measurement, pulling unit operations, pumping unit maintenance, Echo and Dynamometer surveys, and data processing. I enjoy learning in different work locations, which keeps my daily work interesting. This culture of continuous learning and skill improvement is what motivates me to work at MPRL E&P.

## Do you have a team? What strategies do you use to motivate them?

Yes, I lead a team. Since we work away from home on a schedule of 28 days on and 14 days off, some team members may experience difficulties or stress. As an immediate supervisor to our junior members, I make an effort to understand their conditions to help improve their individual performance. I foster open communication so they feel comfortable sharing their difficulties. To motivate my team, I actively listen to their concerns, provide constructive feedback, and offer clear plans for improvement. I also make it a point to acknowledge and appreciate their achievements.

## What are the key factors for ensuring high performance and productivity in daily operations?

Our technical skills, concentration on daily operations, behavior, and teamwork are the key factors in ensuring high performance and productivity. To meet production targets, we focus on monitoring well behavior and hourly rates to identify any abnormalities and perform remedial operations promptly. All team members support each other to ensure we meet our production goals.

## What can impact daily production, and how do you minimize those impacts?

We are producing from a pressure-depleted reservoir, so we need to provide pressure support to maintain production levels. We conduct large-scale water flooding projects to support reservoir pressure and regularly perform well servicing operations to enhance daily production. However, oil pil-

fering (theft) is currently the main factor impacting our daily production. Managing and controlling these cases is challenging, as security concerns are beyond our control. We check the flow lines daily for leakages and work with the security team to confirm pilfering cases and take corrective action to minimize production loss and environmental impact.

## What are some key projects you have worked on, and why are you proud of them?

I am particularly proud of conducting technical presentations on operational safety during knowledge-sharing sessions and providing on-the-job technical training, such as Bottom Hole Pressure & Temperature (BHP & BHT) surveys and well servicing operations, to juniors. I also served as a mentor for intern students, providing technical support for their thesis projects.

## What do you find most rewarding about your job?

At MPRL E&P, I have the opportunity to apply the knowledge I gained at university and to develop my technical skills in the oil and gas industry. I also benefit from exposure to best practices in operational safety and environmental management. Additionally, I've had the chance to participate in soft skill training programs, such as those offered by Team Thinking Asia and Dale Carnegie, which have helped me develop my teamwork, leadership, and communication skills. These are the most valuable and rewarding aspects of my job.

## What advice would you give to future petroleum engineers?

The energy sector is rapidly evolving with new technological advancements. Working as a petroleum engineer is both exciting and rewarding, offering great opportunities in various areas with competitive salaries. I encourage future petroleum engineers to stay updated on the latest technology trends and learn about industry standards related to safety and the environment. I also want to emphasize that the field of petroleum engineering plays a crucial role in powering the world. The journey ahead will be challenging, but it will also present immense opportunities for growth, innovation, and making a difference. Every setback is a stepping stone to success, and every problem is a chance to learn. Staying passionate, continuously learning, and valuing teamwork and perseverance will help pave the way for a brighter future. ■





# Balancing the Books and Breaking New Ground: Ma Ei Ei Myo's Journey at MPRL E&P

Hnin Wynt Zaw

*Ma Ei Ei Myo's journey from her roots in a family dedicated to public service to her current role as a Senior Accountant at MPRL E&P exemplifies a deep commitment to integrity and continuous learning. Graduating from the Meiktila Institute of Economics, she started her career with Shwe Thazin Co. and has since navigated diverse industries, including manufacturing and broadcasting, before diving into the oil and gas sector. Her perseverance and dedication have led to significant achievements, including streamlining accounting processes and excelling under pressure. Ma Ei Ei Myo's commitment to precision, continuous learning, and ethical practices underscores her remarkable professional journey and future aspirations.*

From a young age, Ma Ei Ei Myo was surrounded by the values of public service, having grown up in a family of government employees. This upbringing instilled in her a deep respect for integrity, continuous learning, and the importance of making a positive impact in both her work and personal relationships. These principles have guided her throughout her academic and professional journey.

After graduating from the Meiktila Institute of Economics with a Bachelor's Degree in commerce, Ma Ei Ei Myo laid the foundation for a career in accounting. Her commitment to excellence and desire to contribute meaningfully to her team and organization have been evident from the start.

Ma Ei Ei Myo began her career as a Junior Accountant at Shwe Thazin Co., a manufacturing firm. Here, she gained valuable experience in cost accounting, setting the stage for her future endeavors. However, her career trajectory was far from linear. She expanded her expertise by working across various sectors, including manufacturing, trading, and broadcasting. These diverse experiences provided her with a well-rounded perspective on financial accounting practices, further enriching her professional acumen.

In 2014, Ma Ei Ei Myo joined MPRL E&P as a Junior Accountant. The transition to the oil and gas industry came with its challenges. Adapting to the specific accounting practices and systems of the industry required a steep learning curve. Yet, Ma Ei Ei Myo rose to the occasion, seeking guidance from senior colleagues and mentors and dedicating herself to mastering the nuances of oil and gas accounting.

"I remember the first few months as a Junior Accountant. Of course, I was anxious and nervous. Although I had worked in many different industries, I felt that working for an oil and gas company seemed a little more intimidating for some reason. What pushed me to overcome my fears was my colleagues and mentors—they showed me the ins and outs of the department workflow in detail, providing thorough explanations. I owe it to them."

Her hard work and perseverance paid off, leading to her current role as a Senior Accountant at MPRL E&P. Throughout her time at the company, Ma Ei Ei Myo has been fortunate to learn from many experienced seniors, whose insights have been instrumental in her professional development.

Dynamic, collaborative, and detail-oriented, Ma Ei Ei Myo embodies the top qualities of a focused and well-rounded accountant. In her role, she manages accounts payable and receivable, prepares government reports, and liaises with government audits. Her daily tasks include checking invoices, managing cash handling, ensuring timely payments, and maintaining accurate financial records. She also assists other departments with accounts payable invoices in WMS and SAP accounting software.

To ensure accuracy in her work, Ma Ei Ei Myo follows a rigorous process of aligning transactions with instructed accounting procedures and double-checking data before finalizing reports. Her commitment to precision helps minimize discrepancies and maintain the integrity of financial records.

In a field often marked by strict deadlines and multiple projects, Ma Ei Ei Myo handles high-pressure situations with remarkable poise. "I have also created my own accounting processes to streamline and simplify overall accounting tasks. For example, I developed a standardized workflow for expense tracking and reporting, integrating SAP accounting software to automate repetitive tasks such as data entry and invoice processing.

Additionally, I established a consistent filing system for easy document retrieval and implemented regular reconciliation schedules to ensure accuracy. By setting up automated reminders for key deadlines and employing strong internal controls, I was able to enhance efficiency, reduce errors, and ensure compliance with accounting standards and regulations."

"There are always strict deadlines in my department, so most of the time, I work under high-pressure situations. But this keeps me motivated and makes the days go by so fast. I prioritize my tasks based on deadlines and collaborate with my team efficiently and effectively. I stay organized and maintain my focus, always ensuring accuracy because when it comes to numbers, accuracy is key."

For those aspiring to a career in accounting, especially in major companies, Ma Ei Ei Myo offers valuable advice: focus on developing strong analytical skills, stay up-to-date with accounting standards, and pursue relevant certifications like CPA or CMA. Gaining practical experience through internships or entry-level positions is also crucial in building a solid foundation.

She believes that upholding ethical behavior, maintaining confidentiality, and avoiding conflicts of interest are paramount. Keeping personal and business finances separate and implementing strong internal controls to prevent fraud and errors are also crucial.

Looking ahead, Ma Ei Ei Myo envisions herself continuing to grow within MPRL E&P, contributing significantly to the Finance Team's success. To enhance her skills, she is currently pursuing ACCA certification while looking forward to embracing new challenges and making a lasting impact on the organization.

"Gaining experience through internships or entry-level positions will help you build practical knowledge and understand industry-specific practices. Additionally, being detail-oriented, ethical, and proficient with accounting software will set you apart and enhance your career prospects." ■

**"Keeping personal and business finances separate and implementing strong internal controls to prevent fraud and errors are also crucial."**

Ma Ei Ei Myo



From Cover Page



Source: [www.offshore-technology.com](http://www.offshore-technology.com), 'Leading Oil and Gas Companies in the Artificial Intelligence Theme'.

### Key Applications of AI in Oil & Gas

Just like other industries, AI is making huge waves in the oil and gas sector. Here are a few key areas across all sectors of the business where AI is used to maximize and optimize operational efficiency. Every day, new applications for AI are identified as areas for future development, so the following examples represent only a small sample of what the future holds.

**1. Equipment Monitoring and Predictive Maintenance:** AI's application in maintenance spans all industries involving machinery. The system uses historical data and real-time sensor data to detect early signs of equipment failure. Predictive models can also be used to test the impact of various factors on equipment lifespan, such as servicing schedule and operating conditions. The benefits are better reliability, increased equipment life, optimized maintenance schedules and improved safety.

**2. Drone Surveillance and Inspection:** Drones, combined with AI, are increasingly used for equipment surveillance and inspection, especially in offshore environments and in some cases without any human intervention. The combination of drone data collection with AI technology offers tremendous future opportunity to improve operational efficiency, safety, and cost-effectiveness.

**3. Flow Assurance:** AI systems monitor downhole and surface equipment data in real-time, comparing it against predictive models to identify potential flow stoppages. This proactive approach minimizes production losses from unplanned events.

### 4. Supply and Demand Planning & Forecasting:

This application benefits both oil and gas producers and contractors. By analyzing market activity across numerous variables over extended periods, AI can identify patterns and correlations not easily discernible in large datasets. This insight enables the prediction of market changes, allowing companies to forecast demand for products and services, optimize logistics and operations, and adjust resource allocation proactively. Additionally, these capabilities can inform oil and gas price forecasts, aiding in trading decisions, hedging strategies, and the planning of both short-term and long-term exploration and development initiatives.

**5. Subsurface Analysis:** AI can analyze and integrate trends and anomalies from data sources such as seismic surveys, well logs, drilling data, geological data, production histories, and satellite images. This analysis helps identify high-probability areas for exploration and redevelopment opportunities. Additionally, AI can assist in formulating bidding strategies for lease sales, support development planning for optimal well spacing, production profiles, and reserve recovery, and generate more accurate lifetime production models. All these insights can be combined with surface information to assess accessibility and regional infrastructure development, aiding in the selection of the most favorable exploration areas.

**6. Supply Chain Management:** Road, traffic, and weather conditions can be monitored to optimize routes for specific days, times, and current conditions. For instance, certain routes may be more favorable on weekends, while others are better suited for rainy conditions. More accurate forecasting can lead to reduced fuel consumption, time

savings, and cost savings. Additionally, this technology can be used to track supplier performance in terms of service quality, efficiency, schedule adherence, and on-time delivery.

**7. Regulatory Compliance:** Automatic data collection and analysis enable operations to be monitored against pre-established standards and tested for compliance with new regulations, such as those



Source: ZeanDrone Inc., 'Drone Being Used for an Offshore Platform Inspection'.



related to carbon emissions. Any gaps in compliance can be easily identified, addressed, and monitored.

#### 8. Safety and Environmental Improvements:

AI applications offer numerous safety and environmental improvements. Environmental benefits include the early detection of equipment failures to prevent oil spills, remote sensing of pipelines for early leak detection, remote satellite image monitoring for leaks and trajectory tracking, and predictive models for spill response. Safety is enhanced by monitoring environmental conditions, equipment performance, and personnel activities. For example, tracking weather data and road conditions can lead to safer route planning. Monitoring equipment, such as through corrosion detection, can identify defects before failures occur. Additionally, cameras with image recognition capabilities can be used to monitor personnel activities and ensure employees are wearing the appropriate safety equipment for their tasks.

#### Challenges and Future Considerations

Implementing AI technology requires accurate and up-to-date data in a format that is easily transferable to computer software. Some older fields and facilities may lack readily available data or have it in unsuitable formats. Additionally, AI systems may require real-time data monitoring, necessitating the installation of sensors throughout the facility. If the facility was not originally designed with this capability in mind, retrofitting can be difficult and expensive. Consequently, AI applications are often better suited for newly designed facilities, where data types and formats can be specifically tailored to meet AI needs.

Another challenge is ensuring regulatory compliance. AI software, developed by humans, is only as reliable as the assumptions made and the quality of the data provided. During the early stages of development and testing, there is a risk of errors leading to temporary non-compliance. Given the strict requirements in regulatory matters, the initial implementation of AI can be particularly challenging.

#### Looking Ahead for MPRL E&P's Block A-6 Development

MPRL E&P will consider the use of AI technology for the ultra-deepwater Pytharyar Integrated Project (PIP). Considering the exponential development of AI applications, this topic will only be considered during FEED, where the latest and most advanced solutions can be evaluated and incorporated into the project design. An area of particular interest has already been identified in the realm of flow assurance. Our flow assurance contractor,

*“As a person who remembers computer programming with card punch readers, hand writing documents, getting my first computer from my second employer at nearly 30 years old, carrying a beeper for rig calls, and living a majority of my life without a cell phone, the capabilities and advancements of AI technology are difficult to comprehend. Although profound, the technological progress witnessed by my generation will likely pale in comparison to the exponential impact of AI technology and quantum computing that will be witnessed by the next generation.”*

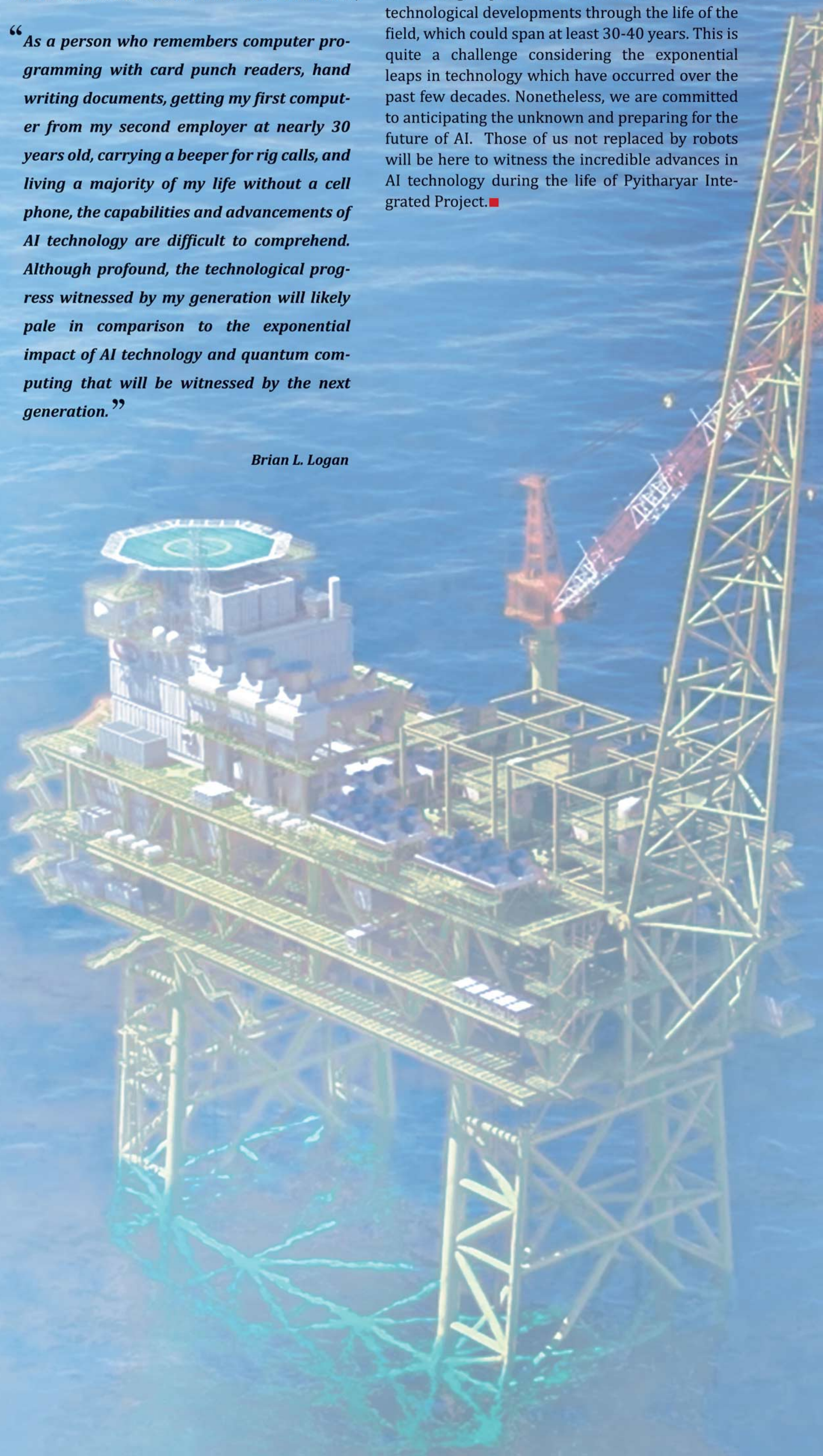
Brian L. Logan

EvoLeap, specializes in the fit-for-purpose development of AI software for monitoring, modeling, and predicting subsea flow conditions. This technology allows the early prediction, detection, and proactive mitigation of situations that may impact the ability to sustain flow, maximizing production and revenue. Plans are in place to further explore and define this technology during FEED.

The AI decision for PIP will have to be forward thinking to ensure that we have sufficient data monitoring capabilities to accommodate future technological developments through the life of the field, which could span at least 30-40 years. This is quite a challenge considering the exponential leaps in technology which have occurred over the past few decades. Nonetheless, we are committed to anticipating the unknown and preparing for the future of AI. Those of us not replaced by robots will be here to witness the incredible advances in AI technology during the life of Pytharyar Integrated Project. ■



ction, Methane Emission Detection.







## Happy Birthday, DCE!

Wishing you a wonderful birthday filled with joy and celebration! Your leadership and commitment are deeply valued, and your ability to navigate challenges with grace and efficiency is inspiring.

May your special day be as remarkable as you are, and may the year ahead bring you continued growth, success, and happiness.

## Happy Birthday, COO!

Your leadership and mentorship have been a beacon of inspiration for us all. As a dynamic leader, you've guided us with vision, integrity, and unwavering dedication.

Your ability to lead with both confidence and compassion sets a remarkable example for everyone around you.

May this year bring you continued success, personal fulfillment, and countless opportunities to shine. Here's to celebrating you and all the incredible achievements yet to come.



## Happy Birthday, DXM!

Balancing your aspirations as a young athlete with your role on our Management Team is nothing short of impressive. Your drive and dedication in both arenas are truly inspiring.

Here's to celebrating you today and looking forward to your continued success in both your athletic and professional pursuits.



# Happy Birthday, CEO!



Your visionary leadership and unwavering dedication are a true inspiration to us all. You have not only steered our company to new heights but also set a remarkable example of excellence and integrity. May this year bring you even more achievements and fulfillment.

Thank you for your exceptional leadership and for being such a motivating force in our company. Here's to celebrating you today and looking forward to many more milestones ahead.

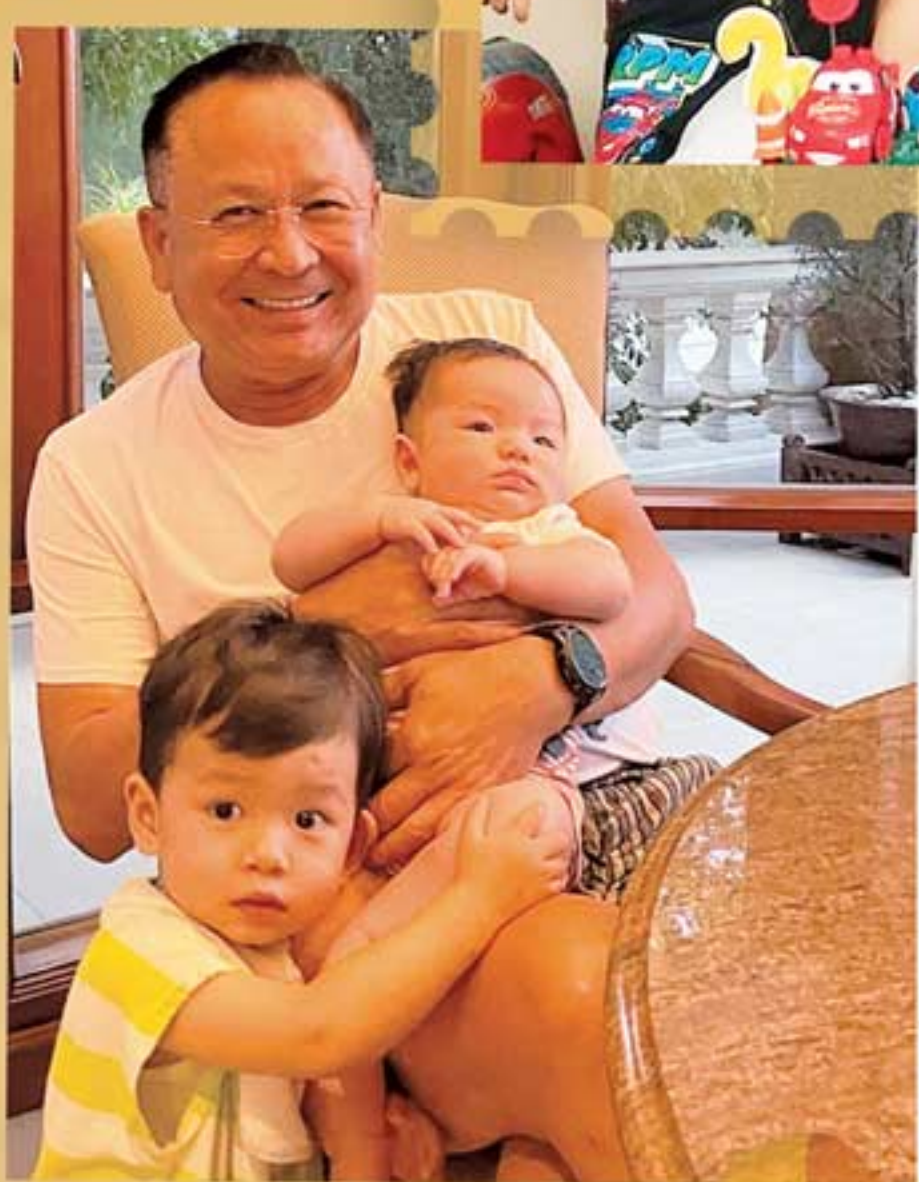
Happy Birthday!



**MPRL E&P**  
Group of Companies



## Memorial Donations Made in Loving Memory of CEO U Moe Myint's Dear Parents



Happy  
Birthday,  
*Pho Pho!*  
September 2024

Love,  
Everest & Elijah





# Birthday Donations Made on Behalf of CEO U Moe Myint



On 07 and 11 September 2024, staff members from the MPRL E&P Group of Companies made donations in honor of CEO U Moe Myint's birthday. The contributions included essential items such as rice, cooking oil, and groceries, which were donated to Pyinnya Yanthi Monastery, Tikkha Rama Nunnery Education Center, San Mya Thidar Nunnery Education Center, Pyuntaza Nunnery Education Center, See-Zar-Yeik (Twilight Villa) Association for Caring of Aged and Ailing Persons, Mitta Parahita Villa (Mayanchaung, Hlegu), and Karuna Children's Home (Christian Orphanage). Additionally, breakfast and lunch were provided for 150 monks and nuns at Jivitadana Sangha Hospital, and lunch was served to 600 hospital attendants at Yangon General Hospital. ■





From Cover Page

Community Key in Heritage Preservation

In Myanmar’s culture, people have a long-standing tradition of lovingly caring for their hair, a practice dating back to the Bagan era. Our customs of hair-styling across different ages are well-documented in literature like poems and traditional songs. Yepotegyi Village, a remote community of over 3,000 residents in Pwintbyu Township in Magway Region, strives to preserve a traditional hairstyle within its serene rural environment. This effort highlights the importance of cultural diversity and the rights of different cultures to continue thriving in our era of modernization and globalization.

Culture encompasses our way of life, including the customs and beliefs of specific groups of people at particular times. According to UNESCO, cultural heritage refers to ancient monuments or sites that must be protected and preserved due to their historical, cultural, artistic, or anthropological value. These heritages are classified into two forms: tangible and intangible properties passed down to future generations.

Cultural heritages face ever-increasing threats of destruction, including decay, looting, illicit trafficking, changing social and economic conditions, unchecked commercial and infrastructure development, armed conflicts, climate change, and pollution. Lack of public awareness and lax enforcement of conservation rules also pose significant threats. It is crucial to protect and preserve these invaluable aspects of our cultural identity for posterity through effective measures.

*"Preserving the ancient ways with grace,  
A country girl, as pure as jasmine's embrace,  
Her topknot admired by her village kin,  
At every pavilion, with a serene grin,  
Without a fuss, she warmly welcomes all,  
Running with joy, answering every call."*

The Myanmar song "San-yit-wine" (style of hairdo with a topknot and a circular fringe), performed by one of Myanmar’s celebrated singers Ni Ni Win Shwe and penned by the legendary songwriter

Alinkar Kyaw Swar Shwe Pyi Aye (1909-1977), beautifully captures the essence of a living cultural heritage observed by Myanmar’s young girls. The song lyrics evoke a vivid image of a traditional, polite country girl, likened to a jasmine flower, who cherishes and upholds ancient traditions.

These lines describe her as a beloved figure in her village, known for her grace and hospitality. She is seen at various pavilions, warmly welcoming others with enthusiasm and a gentle spirit, embodying the essence of her cultural heritage. All that comes into the mind is the images of young ladies from Yepotegyi Village.

Living Heritage: The Unique Tradition of Yepotegyi Village

The participation of a local community is central to the process of protecting and preserving intangible cultural heritages, conservation experts indicate. There are several important ways in which a community can be involved in heritage preservation, from discussing, appraising, and organizing activities in preserving and promoting the intangible cultural heritage. We must also ensure that the community benefits from those activities for a sustainable impact.

In June 2024, a team of CSR staff and photographers from MPRL E&P made a visit to a village in Pwintbyu Township in Central Myanmar, where we have an opportunity to affirm the role of the local community as the holder and practitioner of intangible cultural heritage. Our journey to Yepotegyi Village aimed to explore how the village girls continue to preserve a traditional hair custom.

Yepotegyi Village in Pwintbyu Township in the Magway Region is renowned for its over 100-year-old custom of maintaining “San-yit-wine”, a topknot hairstyle with a circular fringe among both young women and children, supported by their families and community leaders. This tradition begins when they turn five. Boys would keep this coiffure until they marry, at which point they switch to Western-style short hair. Girls change their hairstyle from a topknot to a bun upon marriage.

The village was initially called Yezalotegyi, named after a lake shaped like a bird’s neck located to the east. Over time, the name evolved to Yepotegyi Village. Beyond the beautiful lake in the east, the village is known for its tranquility, auspicious and peaceful pagodas, temples, and monasteries. The village, home to around 600 households and more than 3,000 inhabitants, sustains itself through agriculture and livestock breeding during the monsoon season. During the summer months, the village’s young women preserve a cottage industry of weaving textiles with support from regional and national governments.

Yepotegyi’s commitment to preserving its unique cultural heritage exemplifies the crucial role local communities play in safeguarding intangible cultural traditions. This preservation is supported by government initiatives, community-based tourism, and public education, demonstrating a collaborative effort to maintain cultural identity.

Life in the Countryside

Yepotegyi Village embraces a tranquil and unhurried way of life, largely untouched by the internet,



news media, and modern entertainment. The village's atmosphere is serene, with the sound of bells atop the pagoda swaying in the breeze and bullock carts leisurely moving along the roads, enhancing the timeless and peaceful setting.

This unhurried lifestyle is significantly attributable to the spiritual culture of the country, influenced by the teachings of Theravāda Buddhism. Such a way of life allows villagers to deeply connect with their cultural heritage and maintain their traditional ways of living, ensuring that their unique customs are passed down to future generations.

Contemporary social scientists frequently associate modernization and industrialization with secularization, proposing that these transformations erode religious beliefs and spiritual awareness. This shift may lead to a diminished sense of identity and responsibility, as individuals may no longer feel connected to larger cultural and historical contexts.

On a positive note, the lifestyle observed in Yepotegyi emphasizes the significance of safeguarding cultural heritage and values amid the rapid changes of modernity. Here, cultural and spiritual practices remain deeply rooted, underscoring the resilience of traditions against the pressures of modernization. This community serves as a poignant example of how maintaining cultural heritage fosters a sense of continuity and belonging, preserving identity and responsibility in the face of global transformations.

MPRL E&P recognizes the profound cultural richness found in Myanmar, exemplified by vibrant traditions in villages such as Yepotegyi. We actively incorporate these local traditions into our communications and public relations efforts, highlighting their significance. By doing so, we aim to harness Myanmar's cultural diversity as a form of soft power, fostering deeper connections with communities and stakeholders alike. This approach not







only showcases our commitment to corporate social responsibility but also contributes to Myanmar's nation branding efforts. We believe that by promoting these unique cultural practices, we can positively influence perceptions both locally and internationally, attracting tourism, trade, and investments that support sustainable national development goals.

The Global Shift to Soft Power

Since the end of World War II, many states worldwide have increasingly recognized the importance of cultural influence and soft power in international relations. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, investing in cultural



institutions, creative industries, and international broadcasting has become a strategic priority. These initiatives allow states to shape global conversations, develop educational and cultural connections, and enhance their security, prosperity, and influence.

In today's interconnected world, where information and narratives play pivotal roles, the ability to "win the story" is seen as crucial alongside traditional forms of power. By promoting their values and perspectives through cultural diplomacy and educational exchange, states not only strengthen their global standing but also foster relationships and build trust within and beyond their borders. The shift towards emphasizing soft power underscores a broader understanding that success in contemporary geopolitics involves more than military might or economic prowess—it requires effective cultural engagement and the ability to navigate complex global narratives.

Among the leading G20 countries, Germany and the UK are notable for their significant investments in soft power initiatives. The United Kingdom, in particular, is recognized for its strong soft power resources. The BBC World Service, with its extensive global audience and high journalistic standards, promotes British values and viewpoints on a global scale. Additionally, the British Council plays a crucial role in cultural exchange, education, and English language instruction, enhancing the UK's cultural impact and building international relationships.



Several countries, including China, have adopted ambitious soft power strategies to enhance their global influence. China, for instance, has made substantial investments in soft power, with an estimated annual spending of around US\$10 billion on cultural and language studies, educational exchanges, and media outreach. These initiatives aim to enhance international engagement and influence global discourse on development models.

While various countries pursue soft power strategies, reflecting a sophisticated understanding of contemporary global dynamics, the diversity of approaches highlights the evolving nature of international relations in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Importance of Soft Power for Myanmar

Soft power is crucial for Myanmar as it navigates a world marked by instability and misinformation. Unlike hard power, which relies on coercion and incentives (carrot and stick), soft power involves influencing others through shared values and interests, thereby building trust and fostering international cooperation. Myanmar's effective use of soft power can enhance its international standing, promote its cultural richness, and attract partnerships that support its development goals.

Developing a clear long-term vision and strategy for soft power initiatives is essential. We can draw lessons from successful soft power practitioners to formulate effective policies and investments that will bolster our influence locally, regionally and globally. This approach not only improves the country's attractiveness as a business and trade partner but also strengthens its capacity to contribute positively to international peace and security.

In conclusion, Myanmar's strategic focus on soft power is essential for navigating international relations in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. By leveraging its cultural assets and engaging in effective public diplomacy, Myanmar's global influence will be enhanced while ensuring a positive image on the world stage. These efforts will remain crucial for ensuring Myanmar's immediate-, medium- and long-term prosperity, security, and integration into the international community.■

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# Transforming Expertise: MPRL E&P Scholars Reflect on their AIT Journey

Moe Thu Zar Soe

As of the 2024-2025 academic year, MPRL E&P remains dedicated to enhancing the technical expertise of its employees, ensuring they are equipped with the cutting-edge technology and industry-relevant skills. In collaboration with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), three batches of scholars have pursued advanced studies, particularly in Facility Engineering. The first batch has already returned to their respective departments, bringing with them valuable skills and insights that are driving both the company and their careers forward.

The second batch of MPRL E&P scholars recently completed their exams in the intensive one-year Professional Master's Degree Program at AIT. They have enthusiastically shared their experiences from the first and second semesters, emphasizing the rich learning environment, hands-on field activities, and collaboration with peers from various institutions.

In this feature, we explore their personal reflections on their transformative experience at AIT during the 2023-2024 academic year, emphasizing the profound impact of this program on their professional growth.

U Zaw Min Latt

Senior Engineer

My name is Zaw Min Latt, and I am one of the scholars in the Professional Master's Degree Program at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) as part of MPRL E&P's Scholarship Program. This experience has been the most valuable and exciting of my academic life. I studied in the Geotechnical and Earth Resources Department at AIT in Bangkok, Thailand. As a student in this program, I sought specialized career development opportunities. The foundation courses enriched my technical skills and analytical thinking abilities. I completed ten subjects focused on offshore oil and gas operations, which will greatly assist my future career development. The professors, who are experts and practitioners in their respective fields, provided exceptional guidance and support, helping me grasp the concepts of Geotechnical and Earth Resource Management through lectures, discussions, and personalized guidance.

In this program, I met students from various countries, including Thailand, Bangladesh, India, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Pakistan. I formed deep connections with my classmates, who brought diverse backgrounds and experiences. We collaborated warmly on challenging group assignments and projects, sharing ideas and building a strong



team. This collaboration provided valuable knowledge that will continue to enhance my professional skills. Additionally, field trips each semester offered practical experience, where I learned about working practices, techniques, maintenance categories, safety, and environmental awareness. I also gained insight into the traditional cultures of local people during these trips.

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to be part of this program at AIT. The knowledge, skills, experiences, and relationships I have gained will serve as a strong foundation for my future career. This has been a precious experience, and I am excited about the significant impact it will have on my future and our nation.

Thin Thandar Win

Assistant Engineer

MPRL E&P Pte Ltd. has consistently promoted and enhanced the growth and competencies of its staff to establish a talented workforce and maintain leadership succession in the Pyitharyar Integrated Project (PIP) and ongoing company assets. To this end, the company has launched an intensive one-year Professional Master's Degree Program in cooperation with the Geotechnical and Earth Resources Department of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), a renowned university in Thailand.

I was given the opportunity to join this program as one of the second-batch scholars to improve my competencies as a professional in August 2023. The primary reason I decided to join this program was to become a more competent engineer in the Pyitharyar Integrated Project, which has always been one of my career milestones since my bachelor's studies. Due to this core reason, I was very excited and enthusiastic to acquire and deepen technical skills and knowledge through the Facility

Engineering curriculum. I had to take ten coursework subjects relevant to Offshore Technology Management, Subsea Technology, and Petroleum Engineering to complete the degree within one year, which was quite challenging and extensive. Some subjects in the syllabus were difficult for someone like me, who only had a background in petroleum engineering. Nevertheless, I was able to overcome these challenges through three methods: (1) interactive discussions and proactive engagement with our talented professors (2) the privilege of seeking guidance from experts and seniors within the company, and (3) applying active learning techniques. Additionally, the lecturers not only excelled in teaching their respective subjects but also had extensive practical experience in today's industry, providing us with a better understanding of the content. This made me realize that our project, which is being effectively progressed and planned, is under excellent management and a strong project team. My academic growth, including proficiency in technical skills and improved cognitive intelligence such as problem-solving, critical thinking, and decision-making, is the result of the excellent coursework, interactive discussions with lecturers, weekly assignments, and both individual and group projects.

For personal development, this comprehensive program also enhanced my leadership abilities, as I was the main coordinator of the team, along with skills like time management, cooperation with fellow students, and performing under pressure to finish all weekly assignments before deadlines. These skills are crucial for a working professional, and the abilities gained have shaped me into a confident professional.

AIT is also well-known for its diverse academic environment, with many international students bringing rich cultures and collaboration with global institutes. Learning together, sharing experiences, and working on group projects with other international students in the coursework and participating in the Global Project Learning Program in Japan enriched my communication skills and collaboration with professors and global students. Furthermore, lecturers from the working industry, field trips to Thailand's onshore projects, and a site visit to Thai Nippon Steel (TNS) Fabrication Yard as part of the program not only broadened my technical knowledge and competency in the subjects but also provided networking opportunities. Even though the schedule was tight due to this intensive program, I was given the chance to be the treasurer of the Myanmar family at the university. This extracurricular activity gave me an opportunity to form new





# Years in the Field and Beyond: An Insight into our New AIT Scholars

Moe Thu Zar Soe

To cultivate industry-relevant skills and advance local talent in the evolving oil and gas sector, MPRL E&P has continued its commitment to professional development in collaboration with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) since the 2022-2023 academic year. This year, the third batch of scholars has been selected, including two engineers from MPRL E&P's Field Operations Department and two professionals from Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE). In this feature, we explore the backgrounds of these individuals, their roles within their respective departments, and their aspirations for growth through this program. Take a look at our new scholars and the journey ahead.



U Thiha Ko Ko  
Junior Engineer  
Field Operations  
Department

Over the past year at MPRL E&P, I have gained invaluable experience as a Junior Engineer, specializing in crude oil production measurement and pumping unit maintenance. My role involves supervising onsite pumping units and managing operations at the Gas and Oil Collecting Station (GOCS). I monitor well behavior, measure hourly production rates, and oversee the drainage and reinjection of formation water to ensure environmental compliance and maintain reservoir pressure. Additionally, I compile accurate daily production reports and work closely with the Production Team and MOGE to promote safety and operational efficiency.

As I prepare to begin a one-year Professional Master's Degree Program at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity. This degree has been a long-held aspiration of mine, and I am eager to explore advanced techniques in upstream oil and gas extraction that will be vital for future offshore projects at MPRL E&P. I look forward to collaborating with a diverse group of peers, gaining new perspectives, and enhancing my technical skills to make a more significant contribution to my role.

Reflecting on Myanmar's oil and gas industry, I recognize the critical role energy plays in our country's development. With many untapped offshore re-



sources, it is essential for us to harness our capabilities and employ strategic approaches to foster sustainable growth and progress in the sector. Albert Einstein's words, "Once you stop learning, you start dying," deeply resonate with me. I am committed to continuous learning as a cornerstone of success and am dedicated to this ongoing journey of personal and professional development.



U Phyto Pyae Sone  
Junior Engineer  
Field Operations  
Department

I have been part of the Field Operations Department at the Mechanical Workshop since August 2023. My responsibilities include supervising the maintenance of workover rigs, well-servicing trucks, and earthwork vehicles—tasks that are crucial for minimizing downtime. I also collaborate with the Production Team to maintain water transfer pumps and high-pressure water injection pumps, which are essential for the water flooding program. Prioritizing safety, I strictly adhere to SOPs and JSAs, and I contribute to the creation and revision of these procedures.

Reflecting on my experience at Mann Field, I acknowledge the challenges I faced as a new mechanical engineer, particularly in adapting to workflow processes and troubleshooting complex machinery. However, working closely with experienced team members has helped me overcome these challenges and develop my technical and collaborative skills.

As I prepare for the AIT one-year Professional Mas-

ter's Degree Program, I am excited about advancing my knowledge in petroleum engineering, despite anticipating challenges such as language barriers and unfamiliar teaching methods. Nevertheless, I am eager to immerse myself in this new learning environment and bring my newfound expertise back to MPRL E&P and Myanmar's energy sector.

I view the program's syllabus, particularly the subjects related to petroleum engineering, as an opportunity to enhance my skills, especially in offshore engineering. Believing in the value of career development programs, I encourage MPRL E&P to continue investing in such initiatives, recognizing their role in keeping employees skilled, engaged, and adaptable. I also extend my gratitude to MPRL E&P for the opportunity to pursue my academic ambitions.



U Thant Zin  
Executive Engineer  
(Offshore)  
Myanma Oil and Gas  
Enterprise (MOGE)

Since joining the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) Offshore Department in March 2019, I have been Executive Engineer. In this role, my primary responsibility is overseeing drilling operations and collaborating closely with operators during offshore activities. A key part of my job involves preparing and submitting daily operation reports to my senior, which serves as the foundation for discussions about the smooth running of current operations and for planning future activities. When necessary, I also organize meetings with operators to address and resolve any issues that arise.

Adapting to the extensive responsibilities of this role was challenging, especially when I first started. The position demands proficiency in advanced technologies, particularly due to our collaboration with international companies. To meet these demands, I underwent intensive training and relied heavily on the guidance of my seniors and colleagues. Over time, I have gained confidence and become more adept at handling the complexities of the job.

Looking forward, I have set several objectives for my professional development. My primary goal is to deepen my expertise in offshore drilling operations





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friendships, foster unity within the Myanmar community, and improve task planning and budgeting. I was also able to apply concepts gained from project management to this activity.

In conclusion, I feel very grateful for being given this promising opportunity at AIT. The technical skills, personal and professional development I gained have opened my eyes and made me a proficient and confident professional within this one year. I believe this program is a game-changer for my career path. Finally, I look forward to applying the skills developed from this program and making a profound contribution to our company's assets.

**Phone Pyae Kyaw****Junior Engineer**

In August 2023, I began an exciting academic journey by enrolling in the one-year Professional Master's Degree Program in Geotechnical and Earth Resources at AIT. As one of the first students in this newly launched program, I was eager to dive into the specialized curriculum and deepen my knowledge in this critical field. The program's coursework has pushed me to expand my technical skills and critical thinking abilities. I have completed ten subjects closely tied to offshore oil and gas operations, equipping me with invaluable expertise that will benefit my future employer.

One of the most rewarding aspects has been the opportunity to learn from the program's exceptional faculty. The professors are not only authorities in their respective areas but also talented educators who have gone out of their way to support my growth. Through engaging lectures, thought-provoking discussions, and personalized guidance, they have broadened my perspectives and helped me navigate complex geotechnical and resource management concepts.



Beyond the classroom, I've forged deep connections with my classmates, who come from diverse backgrounds and bring a wealth of experiences to our learning community. Together, we've tackled challenging assignments, exchanged ideas, and built a strong network of peers that I know will continue to enrich my professional journey.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of this pioneering program at AIT. The knowledge, skills, and relationships I have gained will undoubtedly serve as a solid foundation as I transition into the next chapter of my career. This has been a transformative experience, and I am excited to continue applying what I have learned to make a meaningful impact in the industry.

**Soe Thiha****Senior Engineer**

I have been studying at AIT for the one-year Professional Master's Degree Program since August 2023. I have successfully completed two semesters, but I still need to study one inter-semester at AIT to finish the entire program. Here, I would like to share some experiences from my educational journey at AIT, particularly during the first and second semesters.

I was very excited about the syllabus before I began my courses because some subjects were new to me while others were more familiar. In the first semester, I studied five subjects: Asset Integrity Management for the Oil and Gas Industry, Petroleum Production Engineering, Drilling Engineering, Project Management for the Oil and Gas Industry, and Introduction to Offshore Structure Engineering. Of these, two were management courses, and the other three were engineering courses.

In the second semester, I studied another five subjects: Design of Fixed Offshore Structures, Economic Risk and Decision Analysis for the Oil and Gas Industry, Subsea Technology, Probability, Statistics and Uncertainty for Oil and Gas Decision-Making, and Workflow of Oil and Gas. All these subjects were very interesting, and I felt fortunate to have such an opportunity.

To summarize, I worked hard to pass all my semester examinations with high scores, despite the difficulty of these subjects. I realize that all these subjects can be applied to specific areas of our operations, depending on different job roles. I won't stop studying even after completing my one-year Professional Master's Degree Program at AIT because I love learning new things. ■

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and advanced technologies, which are essential for our work with international partners. I also aim to enhance my problem-solving and leadership skills, which are crucial for navigating the challenges of this role. Ultimately, I aspire to contribute significantly to the success and efficiency of our projects while building strong professional relationships with my colleagues and industry partners.

As I prepare to embark on a new program, I am eager to bring back a wealth of knowledge and practical skills that will further refine my expertise in offshore drilling and advanced technologies. The program is expected to provide valuable insights into international best practices, which I believe will be instrumental in improving our operations. Additionally, I look forward to developing stronger problem-solving and leadership abilities, which will empower me to contribute even more effectively to our team and projects. This experience will equip me with the tools and perspectives needed to drive success and foster innovation within our organization.

In the long run, the benefits of this program will extend beyond my personal development. By incorporating the advanced technologies and best practices I acquire, our team will enhance the operational efficiency and innovation of offshore drilling activities within our organization. These improvements will lead to increased safety, reduced costs, and higher productivity. Moreover, the program will facilitate the transfer of knowledge and skills to the local workforce, thereby strengthening Myanmar's

technological capabilities and industry expertise. The insights gained will help develop more sustainable and effective practices within the sector, ultimately supporting the organization's strategic objectives and contributing to the country's economic growth and technological progress.



**U Saw Thaw Thi Mu**  
Assistant Engineer  
Myanmar Oil and Gas  
Enterprise (MOGE)

As an Assistant Engineer at MOGE, my role varies depending on my assignment location. In the test-well areas, I focus on overseeing the mechanical aspects of drilling rig operations. This includes testing all mechanical equipment before drilling begins, ensuring the mud pump operates efficiently throughout the process, and managing water distribution for drilling operations. When stationed at headquarters, my responsibilities shift to handling operational paperwork and managing various documentation for the Mechanical Department.

During my study at AIT, I will miss the daily responsibilities and routine tasks I perform at MOGE, as well as my colleagues and the collabora-

tive environment. I look forward to sharing the knowledge and insights I gain at AIT with them, hoping they will benefit from the advancements in our field.

I anticipate that this experience will profoundly deepen my technical knowledge and broaden my understanding of advanced concepts in the oil and gas sector. The academic insights I gain will enhance my practical experience, enabling me to apply innovative solutions and the latest practices in my professional work. Ultimately, this experience will equip me with the tools and perspectives needed to drive significant progress and achieve excellence in my field.

Myanmar's abundant natural resources make the oil and gas industry crucial for meeting the nation's energy demands. It is essential to support young engineers in this sector to develop their skills and expertise, ensuring they excel in their roles and contribute effectively to the industry's advancement.

The AIT one-year Professional Master's Degree Program is highly beneficial for young engineers in the oil and gas industry. It offers valuable knowledge and practical experience that will enhance their professional careers, providing them with the expertise needed to excel in their roles and drive industry innovation. ■





# Break Time

## Chat with the Editor

Hnin Wynt Zaw

*My curiosity was piqued when I learned about the professional journey of U Zaw Lwin, our Assistant Chief Compliance Officer, someone I rarely cross paths with in the office. Perhaps it's because we work on different floors or because our roles demand intense focus and collaboration with various departments. Moreover, the nature of his work—dealing with stringent compliance matters, particularly in the oil and gas sector—adds to the mystery. I seized the opportunity to sit down with him for a quick chat to gain a better understanding of the impactful work he does and the crucial role our internal compliance system plays.*

**Thank you for taking the time to speak with me, U Zaw Lwin. I've heard so much about you but have never had the chance to talk in person. Could you start by sharing your professional journey with us?**

Of course! I am also glad you gave me the opportunity to share my story with you. I got my Bachelor of Commerce from Yangon Institute of Economics in 1981, and by 1984, I was a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). While working towards my CPA, I spent two years as an Apprentice Auditor at the Office of the Auditor General. After getting my certification, I stayed on as an Auditor there.

After eight years in government service, I decided it was time for a change. The government sector felt a bit too comfortable, and I wanted to take on new challenges. Around that time, Myanmar's economy was starting to open up, moving from a closed system to a more open one. Private companies were beginning to expand, not just locally but internationally, and I saw an opportunity to be part of that shift.

As fate would have it, I ended up at Myint & Associates Co., Ltd. (M&AS). The way it happened was almost like a chain reaction—a colleague at the Office of the Auditor General passed along a job opening he heard about through a series of connections, which eventually led me to a personal interview with the Finance Manager and Managing Director of M&AS (who's now the CEO of MPRL E&P Group of Companies). That's how I started my private sector journey as an Accountant at M&AS on 01 November 1990.

My career took another turn in 1997. I was working as a Deputy Finance Manager at M&AS when the CEO assigned me to Baker Hughes Singapore (BHS) as a Senior Accountant. My job was to handle the financial and accounting aspects of the Mann Field

Production Enhancement Project, which was a collaboration between BHS and Myanma Oil & Gas Enterprise (MOGE). In October 1999, the project was handed over to Myanmar Petroleum Resources Limited, which later became MPRL E&P Pte Ltd. in June 2004. I was promoted to Finance Manager in January 2001. Then in April 2012, I moved up to Assistant Chief Financial Officer (ACFO). By April 2016, I made another big shift in my career when I transitioned from the Finance Department to the Compliance Department as an Assistant Chief Compliance Officer (ACCO).

**It's truly inspiring to hear about your professional journey. It highlights the versatility of your role and how your diverse background has made a significant impact across various positions within the company. With that in mind, how do you feel you're contributing to the company? And how do you ensure that MPRL E&P and its staff are consistently adhering to the compliance system?**

As the Assistant Chief Compliance Officer at MPRL E&P, my role is to oversee and manage compliance within the organization. I contribute by developing and implementing a compliance strategy that aligns with our vision, mission, and values. By ensuring everyone understands and respects our policies, I help cultivate a culture of accountability and ethical behavior, which is vital for maintaining our reputation, operational efficiency, and sustainability.

In my current position, I provide direction for the compliance program, ensuring it meets legal, contractual, and organizational standards. This involves implementing key policies like the Code of Conduct, Whistleblowing Policy, and Anti-bribery and Corruption Policy. I also identify and assess compliance risks, design controls to mitigate them, and ensure our business remains protected and compliant.

A big part of my job is raising awareness about compliance among all employees through training and education. I've also established a retaliation-free reporting process, including an anonymous system, so employees can report any issues without fear. I oversee investigations into these reports, develop corrective action plans, and keep Executive Management and Senior Executive Management informed, which directly supports strategic decision-making.

**That's amazing! Given your extensive experience and the collaborative nature of your role,**

**how do you ensure that compliance is effectively integrated into both the daily operations and strategic decisions at MPRL E&P?**

Collaboration is definitely key in my role. I work closely with Business Units and Executive Management to integrate compliance into our daily operations and strategic decisions. Monitoring and reporting on our regulatory risks and controls helps maintain transparency and accountability across the organization.

My journey at MPRL E&P has evolved from my initial roles in finance and accounting to a comprehensive focus on compliance. Starting as an Accountant at Myint & Associates Co., Ltd., and now as ACCO, I've been instrumental in building a strong compliance program and fostering a culture of integrity and transparency. My background in accounting and oil and gas finance has helped me integrate compliance with financial oversight, ensuring we meet both industry and regulatory standards.

**So, to conclude our chat, in your opinion, what's the greatest challenge facing compliance experts today, especially in the oil and gas industry?**

The greatest challenge is navigating the constantly evolving regulatory landscape, particularly in an industry with significant safety and environmental risks. Compliance experts must stay ahead of these changes through continuous monitoring, proactive risk management, and regular staff training. Balancing compliance with operational efficiency is also crucial, requiring streamlined processes and robust data management systems. Collaboration with the HSE Department is essential to ensure a unified approach to safety, environmental protection, and regulatory adherence. Ultimately, maintaining transparency and accountability across the organization is key to mitigating risks and upholding industry standards.

I would also like to add that my favorite aspect of our company is its family-like organizational structure, which supports employee development. MPRL E&P is an international organization predominantly led by Myanmar nationals, and all staff members are treated like family. The CEO and Senior Executive Management are unwavering in their commitment to employee development, offering a variety of training programs and educational support both locally and abroad. These opportunities for advancement clearly reflect the company's dedication to nurturing its employees' growth and well-being. ■





# Shaping Futures: A Look at the U Moe Myint & Family's Educational Foundation

Moe Thu Zar Soe

Education is central to achieving many Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 4, which focuses on improving access to and equity in education, ensuring conducive learning environments, and increasing the number of qualified teachers. To realize these goals, education financing must become a national priority, with efforts directed towards making education free and compulsory, expanding the teaching workforce, improving school infrastructure, and embracing digital transformation.

The Myanmar Education Conference 2024, held in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 June, revealed that as of June 21, 7.3 million students were enrolled in basic education schools nationwide. The conference emphasized the importance of every individual completing at least a middle school education and highlighted the role of higher education in developing well-rounded citizens and improving socio-economic status. In this context, private sector involvement can play a crucial role in enhancing the financial resources dedicated to education, complementing government efforts to meet growing demands while upholding high standards.

At MPRL E&P, under the visionary leadership of our CEO, U Moe Myint, the U Moe Myint & Family's Educational Foundation has prioritized empowering younger generation in both basic and higher education to maximize opportunities for expanding equitable access to education and improving learning outcomes. Since its founding in 2011, the Foundation has carefully selected candidates for educational funding, particularly those attending state-run institutions, including the children of staff families from our Group of Companies and dedicated families from our communities who face financial challenges. Through its scholarship program, the Foundation also supports outstanding and talented students from their first year of university until graduation, with a special focus on fields such as medicine, engineering, information technology, and geology.

During this year, up to July 2024, the Foundation allocated MMK 15,415,000 in financial assistance to 237 students from staff families within the MPRL E&P Group of Companies, including two geology students from Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (Mann Field). This support covered both basic education students and general scholars pursuing higher education at local institutions.

As of July 2024, in its 13 years of dedicated contributions, the Foundation has provided financial



Field Operations Manager handing over financial assistance to two geology students from the staff families of MOGE (Mann Field) on behalf of the Foundation in June 2024.



Total Scholars and Contributions of the Foundation from 2011 to 2024	
Basic Education Students	3,469
High School Graduates	149
General Scholars	40
<b>Total Contributions (MMK)</b>	<b>1,021,512,280</b>

assistance totaling MMK 1,021,512,280. This support has benefited 3,469 students at the basic education level, 149 high school graduates, and 40 general scholars, reaching both staff families within the MPRL E&P Group of Companies and underprivileged scholars across Myanmar. The Foundation remains committed to supporting local students and advancing educational goals that align with both national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals. Below are the brief stories about two scholars who have greatly benefited from the Foundation's contributions, which have significantly impacted their studies and career opportunities.



Ma Chan Myae Lwin  
Final Year Student  
University of Information Technology (Yangon)

Ma Chan Myae Lwin, the 24-year-old daughter of U Than Win, an Administrative Assistant with over 14 years of service in the Motor Transportation Office of the Administration Department at Myint & Associates Co., Ltd., is a remarkable example of how education and opportunity can shape a bright and promising future.

A high-achiever from the start, she graduated from high school in 2016 with five distinctions, which motivated her to pursue a Bachelor's Degree at the University of Information Technology (Yangon). Her dedication and hard work throughout her five years of study led to a remarkable opportunity during her final year: an internship at NS Computer Services Co., Ltd. (NSCS) in Japan.

NS Computer Services, a subsidiary of Nippon Seiki Co., Ltd., has evolved from its origins as a computer division into a leading manufacturing expert with about 500 engineers. From 21 May to 09 August 2024, Ma Chan Myae Lwin completed a three-month internship at NSCS's software testing unit, a team known for producing digital meters for leading automotive brands like Honda and Suzuki. Her talent and dedication didn't go unnoticed, and she was offered a position as a team member in the unit, starting in April 2025 in Japan.



Total Students and Contributions of the Foundation in 2024 (as of July)	
Basic Education Students	225
High School Graduates	4
General Scholars	8
<b>Total Contributions (MMK)</b>	<b>15,415,000</b>





# The Rise of Digital Wallets in Myanmar: Unlocking Financial Potential with Data Center Support

**M&A Telecoms**

Myanmar, also known as Burma, is undergoing significant changes in its financial sector with the growth of digital wallets. As the country transitions towards digital solutions, these digital wallets are becoming integral to everyday financial activities, offering greater ease and convenience. Behind this digital shift, data centers play a crucial role in making sure digital wallets operate smoothly, safely, and can handle more users. This article explores the development of digital wallets in Myanmar, their benefits, and the crucial role data centers play in this progress.

**Digital Wallet Development in Myanmar**

Myanmar has recently made great progress in the adoption of digital wallets, driven by increasing smartphones penetration, improved internet access, and a tech-savvy younger population. Leading players in the digital wallet market, like Wave Money, KBZ Pay from KBZ Bank, AYA Pay from AYA Bank, and OK Dollar, offer services including mobile money transfers, bill payments, and online shopping, providing users with convenience and accessibility.

Additionally, most banks in Myanmar have developed their own Mobile Financial Services (MFS) wallets linked to their own respective bank accounts. Even telecom operators have entered the digital wallet market, offering mobile payment services for money transfers.

The Myanmar government is also actively promoting digital financial services. Recognizing the potential of digital wallets to enhance financial inclusion and stimulate economy growth, the government supports initiatives aimed at improving digital literacy and infrastructure, creating a favorable environment for widespread digital adoption.

**Advantages of Digital Wallets for Myanmar**

**Financial Inclusion:** Digital wallets provide access to financial services for individuals without bank

accounts or those underserved by traditional banks in Myanmar. In a country where many lack access to conventional banking, digital wallets offer a simple and secure way to store, send, and receive money.

**Economic Growth:** Digital wallets contribute to the formalization of the economy and increase transparency in financial transactions. Digital transactions are faster and more efficient than cash transaction, reducing the time and cost associated with financial activities and boosting productivity and economic growth.

**Convenience and Accessibility:** Digital wallets offer a high level of convenience, allowing users to conduct transactions anytime and anywhere via smartphones. This is particularly beneficial in rural areas with limited access to banking facilities.

**Enhanced Security:** Digital wallets use advanced security measures like encryption and biometric authentication to protect users' financial information and transactions, reducing the risk of theft and fraud.

**The Role of Data Centers in Supporting Digital Wallet Growth**

As data transaction volumes surge, payment providers rely on data centers to house their critical IT infrastructure. Whether managed internally or outsourced to colocation providers, robust data center infrastructure is essential to ensure the reliability and security of digital wallet services.

Data centers are pivotal in supporting the expansion of digital wallets in Myanmar by offering scalable solutions to accommodate growing transaction volumes and user data. They ensure uninterrupted service delivery through high availability and uptime, supported by backup power supplies, advanced cooling systems, and stringent security protocols.



Compliance with international standards, including PCI DSS, is paramount for data centers, fostering trust among users and regulatory authorities. The limited availability of PCI DSS-compliant data centers underscores the importance of selecting certified providers to uphold data security standards.

**Myint & Associates Data Center Support for Leading Clients**

Myint & Associates Data Center (M&A DC) is a cornerstone in supporting the operations of leading clients such as Wave Money, CB Bank, Yoma Bank, Myanmar Credit Bureau, Yangon Stock Exchange, and Myanmar Oriental Bank. Additionally, negotiations are underway with other banks and providers to further support the growth of digital wallets. Commitment to reliability and security, M&A DC provides tailored solutions to ensure uninterrupted digital wallet services, significantly contributing to Myanmar's financial inclusion and economic development efforts.

To conclude, the development of digital wallets in Myanmar represents a major step toward financial inclusion, economic growth, and digital transformation. As digital wallets gain popularity, the role of data centers in providing the necessary infrastructure becomes increasingly important. By ensuring that digital wallet services are scalable, reliable, and secure, data centers facilitate the smooth operation of these platforms, unlocking many benefits for the people of Myanmar. Together, digital wallets and data centers are paving the way for a more inclusive, efficient, and prosperous financial future for the country. ■

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Reflecting on her journey, Ma Chan Myae Lwin expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the U Moe Myint & Family's Educational Foundation for supporting her throughout her academic journey and opening the door to such a remarkable career opportunity. With a passion for software engineering and a desire to give back, she is eager to contribute her newly acquired knowledge and skills to future endeavors, both at home and abroad.



**Ma Cho Zay Theint**  
House Officer  
Yangon General Hospital

Ma Cho Zay Theint, the elder daughter of U Soe Than Naing, an Assistant HSE Manager at MPRL E&P Pte Ltd., is currently serving as a House Officer at Yangon General Hospital after completing her final year exams at the University of Medicine-1 (Yangon).

Reflecting on her journey as a scholar of the Foundation, she recalls receiving the scholarship opportunity after excelling in the 2016 matriculation exam with five distinctions. Throughout her seven-year medical studies, the financial support from the Foundation has had a significant impact, and she remains proud to be associated with such an esteemed program.

Currently, Ma Cho Zay Theint is undergoing on-the-job training as a House Officer in the Medical Unit at Yangon General Hospital. She will be assigned to other relevant government hospitals over the course of the year. Upon completing this training, she will be offered a position as an Assistant Surgeon (Medical Officer) at a hospital in Yangon or another designated location. After gaining three years of experience as a Medical Officer, she plans to

apply for further studies for a postgraduate degree, with a particular passion for Medicine or Obstetrics and Gynecology (OG).

As a dedicated scholar, Ma Cho Zay Theint is committed to expanding her medical knowledge and making a meaningful contribution to the communities around her. Grateful for the opportunities she has received, she expresses sincere thanks to the U Moe Myint & Family's Educational Foundation. She credits the Foundation's visionary leadership with helping young talents like herself pursue their dreams and feels honored to have been selected as a scholar, recognizing the importance of her family's connection to MPRL E&P Pte Ltd. ■





12<sup>th</sup>  
PRESIDENT CUP  
(22 June ~ 07 July 2024)





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The BoF session conducted a socioeconomic assessment survey of the coral reefs at Gaw Yan Gyi, which aimed to gain insights into the community’s perceptions, livelihoods, and resource management practices related to the coral reef ecosystem. The findings from this survey are expected to guide future conservation efforts and sustainable development initiatives in the area. The session also facilitated discussions with local stakeholders, leading to the development of a coral reef mapping initiative involving community members.

The day after the BoF session, the CSR Team coordinated a diving survey to further investigate and map the coral sites. This effort was crucial for establishing a foundation for targeted conservation initiatives. The surveys were designed to pinpoint the most at-risk areas and develop strategic approaches for their protection.

In July 2024, MPRL A-6 PIP CSR Program conducted a three-day diving training session for local volunteers as part of the coral reef conservation pilot project. Led by an experienced coach, the training focused on equipping participants with the necessary skills for safe and effective underwater conservation work. The curriculum included both theoretical and practical aspects of diving, with a strong focus on safety and the use of modern diving equipment. Trainees, many of whom had previously used riskier compressor-based diving methods, gained valuable new skills that not only improved their safety but also empowered them to actively contribute to the conservation pilot project. As local fishermen, they recognized the critical role of coral reefs in sustaining their livelihoods and expressed strong commitment to the project’s success. This training not only enhanced their diving abilities but also fostered a sense of ownership and responsibility toward protecting their local marine environment.



The coral reef conservation pilot project in Gaw Yan Gyi is just the beginning of a broader effort to protect Myanmar’s marine ecosystems. In July 2024, the CSR Team held a series of meetings with the officials from the Forest Department, the Department of Fishery, the Environmental Conservation Department, and the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism at the Patheingyi Office. These discussions aimed to align conservation efforts with broader regional plans, including the development of diving sites and other locally managed marine areas.

On 23 July 2024, the CSR Team presented the coral reef conservation pilot project to the Chief Minister of the Ayeyarwady Region, detailing the activities undertaken so far and seeking official consent and guidance for the project. A concept proposal of the locally managed coral reef conservation area was subsequently submitted to the Chief Minister on 07 August 2024, following thorough discussions with the project team members and consultations with relevant government departments and community groups.

The coral reef conservation pilot project at Gaw Yan Gyi Island represents a significant effort to preserve Myanmar’s marine biodiversity. With the success of this project, MPRL A-6 PIP CSR Program



hopes to extend its scope to other areas, such as Ngwe Saung in the Ayeyarwady Region. As the project progresses, it will serve as a model for other conservation efforts in the region.

Through continued collaboration and community involvement, MPRL A-6 PIP CSR Program is laying the groundwork for a future where Myanmar’s coral reefs can thrive, supporting both marine life and the livelihoods of those who depend on these vital ecosystems. Coral reefs, the “rainforests of the sea,” are vital to our oceans and our planet—preserving them is a responsibility we all share. ■







# Saving the Rainforests of the Sea: A New Initiative to Protect Coral Reefs

Pyae Pyae Phy

As the global population climbs to an estimated 8.2 billion, the demand on our planet's natural resources is more intense than ever. This milestone urges a deep reflection on human activities and their effects on the environment, raising the question of how long Earth can sustain such pressures. While much attention has been directed toward conserving terrestrial environments like rainforests, there is a growing need to address the conservation of their aquatic counterparts—coral reefs, often dubbed the “rainforests of the sea.”

Coral reefs, despite covering just 0.1 percent of the ocean floor, are home to approximately 25 percent of all marine species. These ecosystems provide habitat, food, and breeding grounds for millions of marine organisms, supporting around a quarter of the world's fish populations. Their significance is often compared to that of rainforests on land, which are equally rich in biodiversity and vital to the planet's health.

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) highlight the unparalleled diversity of life that coral reefs sustain. Hosting nearly a quarter of all ocean species, coral reefs are the most diverse habitats on Earth, providing sanctuary for countless species including fish, crabs, clams, starfish, squid, sponges, lobsters, seahorses, and sea turtles. According to

the WWF, the economic and ecological benefits of these ecosystems are immense, contributing an estimated £300 billion annually to the global economy by protecting coastlines, supporting tourism, and providing food and livelihoods for millions of people.

In Myanmar, coral reefs are a keystone of the country's fishing industry and an essential component of its marine biodiversity. The health of Myanmar's coral reefs is directly linked to the sustainability of its marine fisheries, which are vital for the livelihoods of coastal communities. Moreover, these ecosystems support maritime tourism activities like snorkeling and scuba diving.

Myanmar boasts a coastline stretching over 2,800 km, divided into three main regions: the upper Rakhine Coast, the middle Ayeyarwady Coast, and the lower Tanintharyi Coast, all renowned for their rich coral reefs. The Myeik Archipelago, located off the Tanintharyi Coast, is renowned for its stunning coral reefs, which boast more than 500 recorded species. This biodiversity hotspot has been proposed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is part of Myanmar's broader efforts to establish Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

Despite their importance, coral reefs in Myanmar are facing severe threats. According to the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), Myanmar's coral reefs have declined by more than 56 percent, primarily due to the combined effects of climate change, destructive fishing practices, and unregulated resource extraction.

The Gaw Yan Gyi area in the Ayeyarwady Region is one such area where coral reefs are under threat. Known for its vibrant marine life, this area is also in urgent need of conservation efforts to preserve its rich coral ecosystems. Recognizing this need, MPRL

A-6 Pyitharyar Integrated Project (PIP) CSR Program has embarked on a crucial initiative to protect Myanmar's coral reefs. In 2023, the CSR Program launched a coral reef conservation pilot project named “Coral Revive” in the Gaw Yan Gyi area, near the proposed offshore Pyitharyar Integrated Project (PIP).

The pilot project began with a series of stakeholder engagement activities aimed at assessing the current state of coral reefs in the Gaw Yan Gyi area and identifying the causes of coral degradation. The CSR Team conducted extensive engagement activities before the project began, gathering insights from local fishermen, community leaders, civil society organizations, and tourism operators. These discussions highlighted several key themes, including the presence of numerous coral reefs in shallow waters near the project area, the causes of coral reef destruction, the lack of knowledge about coral conservation, and the challenges and opportunities for preserving these ecosystems.

One of the project's cornerstone initiatives is the establishment of a locally managed coral reef conservation area around Sabahtar Island, near Gaw Yan Gyi Island. Set to run from 2024 to 2026, this two-year project aims to engage the local community in the conservation efforts, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility for the protection of their natural resources.

On 03 April 2024, the project began with a Birds of a Feather (BoF) session, which served as both an information exchange and a workshop on coral reef conservation. The session was well-attended, with 40 participants, including members of the CSR Team, marine experts led by Dr. Cherry Aung, the Professor of Marine Science Department at Myeik University, and local stakeholders such as government representatives, fishermen, and community leaders.