

Insight!



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MPRL E&P Newsletter

26th September 2019

Executive Summary:

The Blue Economy ideals are very broad, reaching a multitude of industries and technologies ranging from the creation of sustainable food supplies through fisheries and plant growth, to energy and mining, to shipping, to power generation, and to technologies and industries not yet invented. It is a futuristic vision for an ideal world, whereby we all share the same ocean waters, working together with the same goals, to guarantee protection and sustainability of the ocean's resources. It is unarguably an important mission, but comes with many challenges, especially with regard to implementation. One of the biggest challenges is the difference in the current environmental standards throughout the world, where more developed nations function under more stringent regulations while some of the lesser developed countries are still developing some of the most basic infrastructure. These differences bring significant challenges to the implementation of the Blue Economy ideals when trying to establish worldwide consistency.

Introduction:

The purpose of this paper is to provide a brief overview of the Blue Economy movement to help explain their origin and objectives, which will enable the reader to better understand the chal-

lenges that lie ahead regarding implementation. In particular, we will address the challenge of broad implementation across all economic sectors of the world.

The Blue Economy concepts grew out of the United Nations support of

tives, toward development and sharing of technology to better develop and exploit the ocean's resources in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner, are much needed for future generations. One can easily support the basis of their mission. However, at the same time, there are

BLUE ECONOMY

THE CHALLENGE OF PRIORITIZATION DURING IMPLEMENTATION

Brian L. Logan | Dr. Eloi Dolivo

ISA (implemented in 1994 under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas - UNCLOS), which now has members from approximately 167 countries and the European Union, many which likely joined due to the philosophical support of environmental and economic sustainability without having full understanding of how it will be implemented or how such implementation would impact their own regions.

The Blue Economy initia-

many questions about how to implement their ideals without imposing additional restrictions, especially on developing nations, which could hinder other basic and much needed development.

Even the more developed countries have challenges because the Blue Economy scope is much greater than the current budgets will allow. It will be a slow process that requires prioritization, not only by each of the supporting countries



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Your Opinion : What is Your Opinion on Workplace Bullying?

Aung Ko Min

Senior Drilling Fluid Engineer
Drilling Department

Ideally, workplace bullying should have no place in any public or private organizations because of its mild to life-threatening effects on victims. However, we can see it persists in schools, offices, and workplaces! In addition, it seems the majority of the targets of bullying are women, sadly.

Workplace bullying constitutes of verbal or physical abuse with varying degrees of seriousness, and can be directed to a single employee or a group of employees by one or more people in the workplace. The people who have experienced bullying in the workplace may suffer from feelings ranging from mild anger to frustration, stress, loss of self-confidence, motivation and morale. All of these can affect their job performance and increase absenteeism. In extreme cases, the victims may harm themselves or commit suicide.



Prevention is better than cure. We all have duties to prevent workplace bullying. We can minimize or even completely wipe out the risk of workplace bullying by creating and promoting a positive workplace environment in which

everyone is treated fairly and with respect. Multiple control measures should be put in place like raising awareness on bullying and providing a platform to report such acts.

In my opinion, any behaviours or acts of bullying should be reported as early as possible through our supervisors, managers or HR in writing or verbally. These reports should be taken seriously and properly investigated in an objective and respectful manner. So our supervisors and managers should be trained in the skills necessary to prevent, identify and handle workplace bullying.

We have a number of human resource related policies and procedures which aim to create a productive and ethical workplace environment and discourage workplace bullying and harassment. Good management practice and effective communications channels are important to support effective implementation of these policies and procedures. They should be subject to regular reviews through consultation with employees and their representatives. In this way, everyone can thrive in the workplace. ■

Hay Man Ye Lwin

Assistant Geoscientist
Geoscience Department

First of all, I would like to discuss what bullying is. Bullying is described as acts or verbal comments that can mentally and emotionally hurt or isolate a person in the workplace, and it has increasingly become a workplace issue. Deciding exactly if an act or comment is bullying is sometimes tricky. So, we have to be aware that bullying at a workplace is hard to detect and it is also hard to say if someone is a target.

There are some obvious actions that can indicate workplace bullying: physical abuse, social isolation, intimidation, withholding information on purpose, offensive jokes, spying, yelling, persistent criticism, etc. Organizations should



take workplace bullying into consideration seriously because it can lead to an unhealthy workplace with high absenteeism, increased turnover and poor image. Employees who have been the targets of bullying may suffer from stress, lack of motivation, decreased morale and productivity.

As you may all be aware, the worst consequences of workplace bullying are suicides. We have heard and read news on people committing suicides as a

result of suffering from sexual harassment or bullying in their workplaces. The responsibility lies with employers to protect and prevent employees from workplace bullying in accordance with all applicable laws. At MPRL E&P, the Employment Policy clearly states the company's commitment to create a workplace environment that is free of discrimination, bullying and harassment. We also have a Code of Conduct with which every employee has to abide by and if there are any grievances, they can be reported through the Whistle Blowing Mailbox and can also be settled in line with the Employee Grievance Policy.

Personally, I believe we can discourage workplace bullying by acting towards other people in a respectful and professional manner. We will also need to educate people that bullying is a behaviour that will not be tolerated and will be taken seriously once detected. If there are any cases, they should be dealt with promptly and confidently by responsible and competent personnel. ■

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Engagement with Host Communities: 1st Quarter CSR Performance Review Meeting

Thae Aei Khinn Zaw

MPRL E&P adopts the practice of working closely with stakeholders to maintain a social license to operate in Mann Field. Therefore, it is pivotal to keep in touch periodically with the local communities whom we come in contact with in order to keep them updated on CSR initiatives and implementations in 14 villages surrounding Mann Field by organizing the quarterly CSR Review Meetings. In July, the 1st quarter CSR Performance Review Meeting with Village Development Committees, Village Administrators and Community Volunteers was held and a total of 48 community members attended. During the meeting, the CSR team of MPRL E&P presented and discussed the current CSR work programs and future CSR activities that will be implemented. ■



Vocational Trainings: Leading to Increase Employability



Moe Thu Zar Soe

In line with CSR objectives, MPRL E&P has provided a series of vocational trainings on a wide range of focus areas of skill development for community members in Mann Field. In the last two fiscal years, a total of (196) community members including women and youth have been trained in (10) different types of vocational skills.

As a result of several discussions between the CSR team and women groups from communities conducted in the early months of FY 2019-2020, the CSR & Communications Department from MPRL E&P focused to support the women groups for their livelihoods development through the value-added food

making training in July 2019 in order that the women groups can start SME business. In collaboration with the Small Scale Industries Department (Magway Region), a five-day training starting from July 4 was delivered at Aye Mya village surrounding Mann Field. The course was mainly focused on making ready-to-eat products based on local fresh and raw materials. A total of 19 women joined the course and produced the seven items of ready-to-eat products to be marketed as part of women-led SME development program.

In order to help former trainees as of this July generate business idea and enable access to markets, the CSR team has provided a batch (2) "Start Your Business-SYB" training, developed by the ILO, run by Certified SYB trainer, at Aye Mya village from 25 to 27 July, with 16 trainees. And the batch (1) GYB-SYB training was provided in mid-2018 at Mann Field and 15 trainees also joined the course.

As the majority of the livelihoods of Mann Field communities are agriculture and farming, MPRL E&P has supported farmers to successfully implement and adopt the horticulture practices that preserve local ecosystems and promote social-economic development. A two-day Horticulture Training Program started on July 29 was con-

ducted by the certified technicians from the East-West Seeds, focusing particularly on how to grow tomatoes and chilies to upgrade the traditional ways of horticulture to the modern ones for optimum crop yield and a total of 41 local farmers joined the course through learning by doing approach. The trainers from East-West Seeds have provided technical assistance and guidance for model horticulture farming to the four farmers who are interested in the new farming methods.

MPRL E&P is committed to consistently providing the community livelihoods development through the well-equipped capacity building programs for Mann Field communities during the fiscal year 2019-2020 as part of CSR initiatives. ■



STEPIN Leader Program: A Suite of Personnel Development

Moe Thu Zar Soe

In July, the Human Resource Department of MPRL E&P had organized a comprehensive development program for some successors from each department within the organization from 23 to 24 at the Chatrium Hotel in Yangon.

A two-day "STEPIN Leader" program for staff in supervisory level aims to develop a core set of foundation skills and tools necessary to maximized effectiveness. The program focuses on increasing supervisors' accountability, quality, productivity, and engagement to match their higher responsibilities.

The program is designed to help rising leaders identify and refine their personal leadership styles, develop their emotional intelligence, and acquire the skills that will enable them to bring out the best in others with the friendly coaching by Mr. Chai Indrakanhang (Charlie), a senior coach from Southeast Asia Centre-SEAC.

"I can also enhance the idea generating through coaching the participants who come from different career backgrounds" the SEAC coach remarked.

The program also included a series of small group coaching sessions that helped staff member establish the personal development plan themselves, focusing particularly on the topics of "Explore", "Adjust", "Perform" and "Motivate".

A participant shared "This program offers participants an easy approach to skill development and practice through the use of theme-based activities and learn in completely new and exciting ways."

Over two days, staff from MPRL E&P gained perspectives on how they are perceived, learn to connect with others, and identify areas of growth. A total of 31 participants representing 16 departments are involved in the program. ■



Myanmar Engineering Society (MES) Conferred Appreciation Medal to MPRL E&P for being One of the Active Companies of Industrial Attachment Program (IAP) and providing Internship Trainings to Students from Technological Universities in Yangon Region



MPRL E&P arranged a Two-day Leadership Development Program, “Motivation, Team Work and Change Management” in Collaboration with Team Thinking Asia for 20 Field Engineers Working at Mann Oil Field.



Recognizing the Contribution that the Community Volunteers Made towards Strengthening our Communities

Moe Thu Zar Soe

A comprehensive recognition plan is balanced and will acknowledge participation and effort, and progress towards goals and excellence. In MPRL E&P, community volunteers play an essential part to help us achieve our goals of implementing sustainable CSR activities through effective engagement with the locals. MPRL E&P has always appreciated the role of community volunteers for their commitment, spirit of volunteerism, hard work and dedication.

In June 2019, MPRL E&P organized a three-day volunteer retreat for 36 people, including 14 volunteers, 2 CSR Field Staff from MPRL E&P and their immediate family members in order to pay homage to famous pagodas and temples throughout Mandalay and Sagaing cities and provide opportunities for short excursions to Saunders Weaving Insti-

tute and Mango Plantations Farms in Amarapura, Mandalay Region. MPRL E&P has organized the annual volunteer recognition retreat for the second time, and last year, volunteers made a round of visits to Bagan, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. ■



Sharing is Caring: Vocational Trainees Meetup

Thae Aei Khinn Zaw

As a responsible business of oil and gas exploration and production in Mann Field, MPRL E&P not only focuses on business operations but always takes into account the sustainable livelihood of the locals living in the surrounding Mann Oil Field. With that sustainable goal in mind, a series of vocational trainings have been organized with momentum since the fiscal year 2016-2017.

What is most important here is post-training skills on how the trainees deal with what they encounter when they sell their products in the competitive market. Of many vocational trainings, there were particular trainings that aim for the empowerment of women in the communities. In July, the CSR team of MPRL E&P led and facilitated the meetup for women’s groups of vocational trainees for Soap making, Bag making and Ready-to-eat Food Products making to create a shared space to learn from each other’s experiences.

We believe that providing training alone is not sufficient if there is no opportunity to swap the knowledge and lessons learned among the trainees to grasp a broader understanding of penetrating the market. During the quarterly meetup, the vocational trainees from the women’s groups gathered together, shared their ideas, experiences, challenges and future plans. After the meetup, the trainees of women’s groups from different vocational skill trainings got to know each other better and understood the importance of working in unity to become more productive in their own businesses. ■





THINKING ALoud with

Daw Nang Khin Win
Office Medic, HSE Department

1. Please introduce to us your role and responsibilities at MPRL E&P.

I am currently working as an Office Medic at the HSE Department as the first line of defense against mishaps in the workplace. Workplace accidents are far more common than you can imagine and one of the best ways to protect our employees in a simple and effective way is to make sure they can get the care they need on the spot without delay. So we provide emergency care, regular health care and keep daily patient records. When there are cases that need special attention, we provide referrals to a hospital after providing emergency care.

I used to work in a government hospital located in Shan State after attending a nursing training school for three years and getting a diploma in 1999. In 2002, I resigned from the service and since then I have worked in private hospitals and clinics for more than 15 years.

2. Why is it important for employers to encourage their employees to maintain good health and promote overall workplace health?

The World Health Organization (WHO) mentions many benefits of workplace health promotion for both employers and employees. For example, healthy workers are productive workers and they raise healthy families, leading to improvements in the community and public health at large. Safe and health-conducive workplaces can contribute to achieving sustainable development as they reduce workplace inju-



juries, health care and insurance costs as well as fines and litigations while improving employability and productivity of employees, paving the way for the goal of poverty reduction.

We are now running a healthy living campaign for all the staff in Yangon and Mann Field by collecting their weight measurements and monitoring them. Later on, we are considering providing counselling services, awards, and a sport program after grouping the employees into three categories according to their weight measurements. With the participation of our staff and support of Senior Management, we will be able to implement these employee wellness programs step by step.

3. Can you share some of the good practices that can help one stay healthy at their workplace?

We notice sometimes some hardworking employees prioritize their work over their health. They may skip drinking plenty of water, 2 liters per day, because they are busy at work. They may not exercise regularly because they work all the time. They never take time off to relax by themselves, with their families or friends. Sometimes they may be taking medicine without the need to do so. It is an unwholesome approach to work—every one of us should be aware that our health should always come first, and health and work are not mutually exclusive.

So we provide health education to our staff whenever we have a chance by asking friendly questions about their health practices. Everyone can empower themselves by following simple health habits that can help them live a long, fulfilling life. In addition, we are here to provide any advice or care our staff may need. So please remember we are just one call away whenever you feel unwell at work, even for a mild cold or stomach pain! ■



Our Community: Makyee Chaung Quarter

Zin Mar Myint, Community Investment Field Coordinator

Makyee Chaung Quarter is located in the urban area of Minbu (Saku) and it is in the southeastern part of Mann Field. There are a total of 349 households and 1,432 people living in Makyee Chaung Quarter. The main livelihoods are small scale commerce and farming. There are also people who are government staff, and others who engage in paid manual occupations.

As one of the surrounding communities in Mann Field, several CSR projects amounting to Ks 8,374,050 have been implemented in Makyee Chaung in order to contribute to local development.



These community investment initiatives are implemented through coordination and collaboration between the Makyee Chaung Committee, residents, MOGE and MPRL E&P's CSR Team. The process involves assessing community needs, carrying out field inspections, implementing the projects, conducting community satisfaction surveys, and then identifying challenges, lessons learned and best practices. ■



U Kyaw Min
Community Volunteer
Makyee Chaung Quarter

I became a Community Volunteer to help implement CSR projects in Mann Field and I am very interested in my work, which is all about doing good for the company and my own community. I focus on both the community investment projects and the Operational Grievance Mechanism in my quarter. Owing to the projects we have been implementing in the areas of community infrastructure, education and health, the quality of life has improved. For example, children in my community's school are now healthier and safer and can study happily. ■

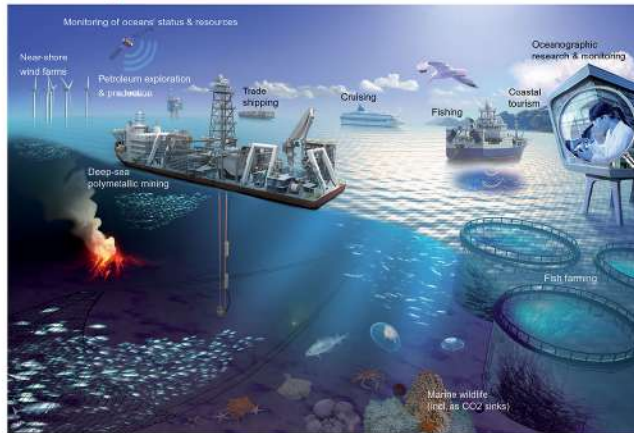


Fig.1: Some aspects of blue economy (modified from the "The Ocean Economy in 2030" - OECD (2016), Paris. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264251724-en>)

through their individual financial decisions, but also within the Blue Economy movement with regard to which of the many objectives deserve top priority. This may even require a different short-term strategy, where the initial efforts are more heavily focused on areas which can have a more significant and immediate impact, to help bring all areas of the world to a common baseline standard.

The Myanmar Example:

One good example is the current state of development within Myanmar. The offshore oil and gas industry is currently providing much needed electrical power generation, revenue for the government from exports (which helps fund other development projects within the country), and jobs for many Myanmar citizens. While the offshore oil industry complies with international environmental standards, some of the basic environmental conditions throughout the country, such as air and water quality, are below the desired worldwide standard. We believe everyone would agree that moving toward a higher environmental standard is the correct decision for Myanmar. However, some the basic development needs far outweigh the desire (and the ability) to comply with international standards at all levels. In situations such as this, where the country battles with conflicting goals, how would implementation of the Blue Economy assist



their effort and/or impact their decisions?

The Blue Economy focus is on the deep oceans outside the national jurisdiction of Myanmar. However, it is a fundamental truth that all the ocean's waters are shared so the real objective should be to protect the water quality of all water, regardless of whether it lies within or outside a country's jurisdiction. Now take that argument one step further to the rivers and streams that feed the oceans. When considering the above Myanmar example in light of the country's limited financial resources, it would be difficult to justify financial support of the Blue Economy objectives instead of making improve-

ments to their own local waterways.

This leads one to question the Blue Economy objectives. The idealistic future model is definitely worthy of effort and support, but how will those worldwide objectives be balanced against the immediate and pressing needs of countries such as Myanmar? Would it have a greater worldwide impact if the initial efforts of the Blue Economy and the sponsoring countries were focused instead on elevating the less developed nations to a higher environmental standard? In emergency response, this is referred to as "stop the bleeding". Therefore, if we are reacting to a worldwide environmental emergency, the

immediate top priority should be to stop the pollution at the source. It would likely benefit the long-term objectives of the Blue Economy if one of their first priorities was to help "stop the bleeding" on a worldwide basis.

Although countries like Myanmar want to change and recognize the benefit from change, their limited resources force them to prioritize. If faced with a worldwide governance or standard, some of the questions would be: 1) how quickly should the change occur, 2) what standard should be achieved, and 3) in the event of conflicting goals between worldwide and local needs, should any

- Established by the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS) in 1994
- Intergovernmental body based in Jamaica
- Established to organize, regulate and control all mineral related activities in the international seabed beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, which is most of the world's oceans

- As of today according to the fact sheet on contractors for seabed exploration ISA website, according to the following quote: "The International Seabed Authority has entered into 15-year contracts for exploration for polymetallic nodules, polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts in the deep seabed with twenty-nine contractors. Seventeen of these contracts are for exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone (16) and Central Indian Ocean Basin (1). There are seven contracts for exploration for polymetallic sulphides in the South West Indian Ridge, Central Indian Ridge and the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and five contracts for exploration for cobalt-rich crusts in the Western Pacific Ocean." (see map fig. 2 for an approximate location of these exploration areas).

- Their preamble declare their jurisdiction as "the seabed and ocean floor and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction"

- UNCLOS outlines the areas of national jurisdiction, leaving the rest for the international portion.

- National jurisdiction over the seabed usually extends to 200 nautical miles (370 km) seaward from the shore (the so-called exclusive economic zones, EEZ). ISA has no role in determining this boundary. Rather, this task is left to another body established by UNCLOS, the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf. Disputes are generally decided by bilateral negotiations or by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (such as in 2012 in the dispute of maritime boundaries between Myanmar and Bangladesh), not by ISA.

- Currently has 167 members and the European Union

- Two principal bodies establish the policies and govern the

outside worldwide entities have the ability to restrict a country from making decisions according to their own needs? These questions should be considered and incorporated into the Blue Economy objectives.

Background on the International Seabed Authority (ISA):

The Blue Economy efforts grew out of the ISA. Therefore, it is helpful to understand the origins and structure of the ISA, and how it is viewed by the other countries throughout the world.

Following are some basic facts about the ISA including some direct excerpts from Wikipedia:

work of the ISA: the Assembly, in which all members are represented, and a 36-member Council elected by the Assembly. Council members are chosen according to a formula designed to ensure equitable representation of countries from various groups, including those engaged in seabed mineral exploration and the land-based producers of minerals found on the seabed. The Authority holds one annual session, usually of two weeks' duration.

- Also established is a 30-member Legal and Technical Commission which advises the Council and a 15-member Finance Committee that deals with budgetary and related matters. All members are experts nominated by governments and elected to serve in their individual capacity.

- The Authority operates by contracting with private and public corporations and other entities authorizing them to explore, and eventually exploit, specified areas on the deep seabed for mineral resources essential for building most technological products.

- The Authority's main legislative accomplishment to date has been the adoption, in the year 2000, of regulations governing exploration for polymetallic nodules. These resources, also called manganese nodules, contain varying amounts of manganese, cobalt, copper and nickel. They occur as potato-sized lumps scattered about on the surface of the ocean floor, mainly in the central Pacific Ocean but with some deposits in the Indian Ocean.

- Contrary to early hopes that seabed mining would generate extensive revenues for both the exploiting countries and the Authority, no technology has yet been developed for gathering deep-sea minerals at costs that can compete with land-based mines. Until recently, the consensus has been that economic mining of the ocean depths might be decades away.

- The United States is not a member of the authority and has not yet ratified the Law of the Sea Convention.

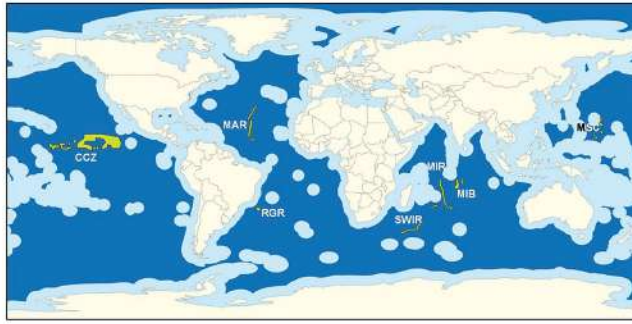


Fig. 2: International waters and main areas of ISA concessions for mining exploration of poly-metallic nodules (from Wikipedia article on "International Waters" and maps of Explorations Areas under ISA Contract - ISA website) CGZ = Clarion-Clipperton Zone; MAR = Mid-Atlantic Ridge; MIB = Mid-Indian Basin; MIR = Mid-Indian Ridge; MSC = Magellan Seamounts Chain; RGR = Rio Grande Rise; SWIR = SW Indian Ridge)

- Apart from poly-metallic nodules and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts, it is worth mentioning rare earth elements ("REE's"), an indispensable material for electrical and electronic consumers' goods such as mobile phones, but also high-performance batteries for the future of the electric car industry. Some of 85% of the REE's are mined in China. A most sizeable deposit has been found in April 2018 by 1,500 m water depth in the territorial deep waters of the Japan Exclusive Economic Zone. (<https://www.sciencelert.com/japan-discovered-a-rare-earth-mineral-deposit-that-can-supply-the-world-for-centuries>). The strategic importance of this material will most certainly soon arouse the attention of ISA.

- **ISA and Myanmar:** It is worth noting that the Myanmar Exclusive Economic Zone is only constrained by the exclusive economic zones of its neighbors, except possibly for a tiny area in the Bay of Bengal, which is not known to contain or be prone to poly-metallic deposits. Therefore, ISA is of little direct concern to the country. ISA may assist Myanmar, and more generally the ASEAN alliance to build good governance and possibly a common monitoring body for inventorying their territorial deep-sea mining potential, before evaluating the need for regulations to sustainably exploit these resources, while mitigating damages to the environment.

Controversy Regarding the ISA:

Although the ISA is supported by a majority of countries in the UN, there are some that question its legitimacy and jurisdiction. The following excerpt from Wikipedia addresses the resistance efforts by the United States.

"The exact nature of the ISA's mission and authority has been questioned by opponents of the Law of the Sea Treaty who are generally skeptical of multilateral engagement by the United States. The United States is the only major maritime power that has not ratified the Convention, with their argument being that the ISA is flawed or unnecessary. In its original form, the Convention included certain provisions that some found objectionable, such as:

- Imposition of permit requirements, fees and taxation on seabed mining; ban on mining absent ISA permission
- Use of collected money for wealth redistribution in addition to ISA administration
- Mandatory technology transfer

Because of these concerns, the United States pushed for modification of the Convention, obtaining a 1994 Agreement on Implementation that somewhat mitigates them and thus modifies the ISA's authority. Despite this change the United States has not ratified the Convention and so is not a member of ISA, although it sends sizable

delegations to participate in meetings as an observer" (Wikipedia)

The implementation of Blue Economy will most likely be met with similar resistance. Although, it is easy to support the concept at a high level, there will be resistance by local authorities if the role of Blue Economy becomes one of governance, especially when there is negative economic impact to their region.

The Blue Economy:

Following are comments about the Blue Economy movement, to provide some insight regarding their mission and objectives. These examples demonstrate the far-reaching and technically challenging scope of the Blue Economy mission, which is clearly focused on a futuristic and idealistic vision. In addition to these objectives, the Blue Economy should also develop a near term focus to address some of the more basic development needs throughout the world. While a lot of the long-term objectives require leading edge technology and future technology development, the short-term needs can be achieved with existing technology and would have a significant immediate impact.

"For some, blue economy means the use of the sea and its resources for sustainable economic development. For others, it simply refers to any economic activity in the maritime sector, whether sustainable or not. The principles have been developed to "fill this

gap in shared understanding about what characterizes a sustainable blue economy, and to help ensure that the economic development of the ocean contributes to true prosperity, today and long into the future" (WWF Briefing 2018)

"The 'Blue Economy' is an emerging concept which encourages better stewardship of our ocean or 'blue' resources". (The Commonwealth)

The oceans cover more than 2/3 of the earth's surface and offer abundant benefits, both in terms of current resources and opportunity for future development. The Blue Economy objective is to utilize the ocean's abundance to support sustainable economic development for the benefit of future generations. A few of the current benefits are listed below. A mission of the Blue Economy is to develop technologies that will further enhance the productivity, so that we are no longer dependent on the depleting land-based resources.

- The ocean provides 70% of the oxygen we breathe.
- It is the highest source of protein for more than a billion people and supplies 15% of the animal protein globally.
- It helps regulate the earth's climate
- It is responsible for 90 percent of internationally traded goods, via the shipping industry.
- The ocean would rank 7th based on GDP if judged as a nation, providing trillions of dollars yearly
- The ocean provides hundreds of millions of jobs through fisheries, shipping, tourism, energy and other sectors.
- It contains 37% percent of the world's oil and gas reserves
- Seafood provides sustenance to billions of people worldwide, including many of the poorest people who rely heavily on the coastal areas for survival.
- Supports 260 million fisheries worldwide

"For the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Blue Economy paradigm is a natural next step in the overall conceptualization and realization of sustainable human development. It mirrors our long-accepted definition of sustainable development as one that meets the

needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Simply put, it is the utilization of ocean resources for human benefit in a manner that sustains the overall ocean resource base into perpetuity". (Andrew Hudson, UNDP)

The following is the recommendations in the executive summary of an OECD report on "The Ocean Economy in 2030" published by the OECD in 2016:

"In order to boost the long-term development prospects of emerging ocean industries and their contribution to growth and employment, while managing the ocean in responsible, sustainable ways, this report puts forward a number of recommendations to enhance the sustainable development of the ocean economy.

Foster greater international co-operation in maritime science and technology as a means to stimulate innovation and strengthen the sustainable development of the ocean economy. This entails inter alia: undertaking comparative analyses and reviews of the role of government policy vis-à-vis maritime clusters around the world, notably in respect of their effectiveness in stimulating and supporting cross-industry technological innovations in the maritime domain; establishing international networks for the exchange of views and experience in establishing centres of excellence, innovation incubators and other innovation facilities in the field of cross-industry maritime technologies, and improving the sharing of technology and innovation among countries at different levels of development.

Strengthen integrated ocean management. In particular, this should involve making greater use of economic analysis and economic tools in integrated ocean management, for example by establishing international platforms for the exchange of knowledge, experience and best practice, and by stepping up efforts to evaluate the economic effectiveness of public invest-

ment in marine research and observation. It should also aim to promote innovation in governance structures, processes and stakeholder engagement to render integrated ocean management more effective, more efficient and more inclusive.

Improve the statistical and methodological base at national and international level for measuring the scale and performance of ocean-based industries and their contribution to the overall economy. This could include, among other tasks, the further development of the OECD's Ocean Economy Database.

Build more capacity for ocean industry foresight, including the assessment of future changes in ocean-based industries, and further development of the OECD's current capacity for modelling future trends in the ocean economy at a global scale."

Other Implementation Challenges - Integration with Existing Industries:

Although the objective of Blue Economy is well founded, the ability and methodology of implementation remains unclear. Their vision includes complete and accurate mapping of the entire ocean seafloor, worldwide met-ocean surveys, extended monitoring of weather and sea conditions, to name only a few. These objectives will require both leading edge current technology, as well as technology which has not yet been developed. Of course, with this technology comes substantial capital investment. It is unknown how the countries which support this initiative will fund the effort, or how they will directly benefit from the studies.

It is also not known how the implementation of Blue Economy might affect current industries, such as the oil, shipping and fishing industries (which are a big part of the Myanmar economy). Although these industries are part of the Blue Economy model, there are obvious areas of conflict as noted in the below publications.

"The Blue Economy is promoted as a model to improve the environmental performance of existing 'traditional' offshore activities such as oil and gas development, ports, shipping, fisheries, marine tourism and other marine industries as well as a tool through which to encourage emerging industries of aquaculture, carbon sequestration (or blue carbon) and renewable energy production, such as wind, wave and tidal energy. However, the extent to which environmental considerations and economic growth are integrated in decision making and how trade-offs between these are made is not clear." (Taskforce on Ocean Governance)

"The 'Blue Economy' is an increasingly popular term in modern marine and ocean governance. The concept seeks to marry ocean-based development opportunities with environmental stewardship and protection. This analysis reveals areas of both consensus and conflict. Areas of consensus reflect the growing trend towards commodification and valuation of nature, the designation and delimitation of spatial boundaries in the oceans and increasing securitization of the world's oceans. Areas of conflict exist most notably around a divergence in opinions over the legitimacy of individual sectors as components of the 'Blue Economy', in particular carbon intensive industries like oil and gas, and the emerging industry of deep seabed mining". (Voyer 2018)

There is some level of concern within industries (and many countries) with regard to the level of control and influence that the Blue Economy may have on their future operations. Although most companies already operate with a sense of social responsibility, the idea of a high-level mandate or additional regulation to that regard is concerning. The following excerpts suggest there is reason for concern, that the ultimate outcome could be oversight from entities outside the governing countries.

"In order for the Blue Economy to be an effective

and transformative new approach to oceans governance it will need to be socially supported, that is the concept of the Blue Economy, and it's component sectors, industries and businesses will need to obtain and maintain a 'social license to operate' and overcome any inherent resistance to change from communities, workers and the business community". (Taskforce for Ocean Governance)

"In areas beyond national jurisdiction - the high seas - UN-led negotiations are ongoing in order to determine how deep sea resources should be shared and managed to protect their biodiversity values and create new opportunities for growth (R Warner, 2009).

"The Blue Economy is emerging as a new governance tool which is used to articulate appropriate use within the oceans at global, regional and national scales" (Voyer 2018)

For Blue Economy to be successfully implemented, it will have to complement and not hinder the current industries. A lot of the subsea technology that is currently being contemplated for Blue Economy projects will use equipment that was developed by existing industries, such as the oil industry. It would be self-defeating for there to be less than full support of current industries, not only because of the economic and social benefit that results from their work, but also because of the synergies that exist for mutual benefit. Although the current industries may not fit perfectly into the Blue Economy model, there will likely have to be some compromise to achieve success. Overall success will have to take priority over an idealistic outcome.

Conclusion:

The Blue Economy efforts will result in significant long-term benefits through the development and support of sustainable resources. The objectives of Blue Economy are very broad and far-reaching, so one of the major challenges will be establishing priorities. The needs and stan-

dards throughout the world vary greatly from country to country. Therefore, to successfully move into the future, the Blue Economy should first consider the present, and strive to elevate all countries to a uniform standard. This should be done through assistance programs rather than governance, which restricts countries from establishing their own priorities and acting in their own best interest. Failure to improve the current conditions will make it more difficult to achieve the future ideals.

The implementation process needs to be one of prioritization at all levels. The Blue Economy movement will need to focus on the highest impact projects first, then expand to the idealistic model at a later time. There will also have to be some compromise on objectives. For example, there are potential conflicts between current industry, and possible misalignment of goals between local governments and Blue Economy. Priority will have to be placed on areas where there is mutual agreement, to gain support of the process at all levels.

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The Story behind Sewing Machines

Wit Hmone Tin Latt

"If you educate a man, you educate one person. If you educate a woman, you educate a nation". It's an often heard quote in development circles. Educate women and their community will prosper. The empowerment of rural women is

down preconceptions of what women can do, to become financially independent.

One of the strategic objectives of the CSR program of MPRL E&P is to open doors for economic empower-

or have even set up their own businesses and before school opens, they are busy with back to school uniform orders.

In January 2019, by providing a modern sewing machine and an initial fund, the program has helped a group of former women vocational trainees set up a sewing cooperative called "Nammadar", the product of Mann Field communities in Kyar Kan Village. It all started at an old cow shed and



seen as the only means of poverty eradication. Any economic step of empowering these women will make provisions to link the nature of empowerment with the skills training required to efficiently running it.

MPRL E&P is working exclusively on the skills development of women from the surrounding communities of Mann Oil Field since 2017 and giving women groups new opportunities. The skills programs constitute of entrepreneurial skills to facilitate the possibility of setting up their own businesses. We have been implementing several women-centric initiatives to achieve women's empowerment through skills development to break

ment for the women in the communities in Mann Field through the provision of a series of vocational skills trainings starting from the fiscal year 2017-2018 onwards.

In 2018, MPRL E&P provided the Sewing and Handmade Bag Making trainings to provide livelihood opportunities for women in Mann Field. The vocational skill training helped women to gain economic independence which proved a boon for a number of women and girls. Women could then sew their own clothing, do needlework for their neighbors or sell their work at the market as a good way to provide extra income for their families. After the course, some were either employed as wage workers



they have added a roof and a floor to the work shed and stepped in with sewing machines and supplies in this shared working space. When we received the first batch of cotton bags delivered from the Nammadar group, we couldn't help but smile.

We wanted to give these women the skills they needed to have a greater impact on their own lives. It was for this reason that we initiated our Women's Entrepreneurship Development Program in the fiscal year of 2019-2020 for the rural women with the objective to inculcate entrepreneurial values, attitude and motivation to take up challenges and to set up a group enterprise.

The livelihood business incubation approach is also used to foster women's empowerment through skill development and creation of occupational opportunities and to promote women entrepreneurs. Knowledge and independence are two important factors that play a decisive role in improving the status of women in village communities and ultimately in society as a whole.

Meet the four women to learn more about their backgrounds, how they operate the cooperative and what impact it has had on their lives.

... our story continues. Let's get these women sewing!



The Story of a a 4-women's Cooperative in Mann Field

Thal Sandy Tun



Ma Kyu Kyu Win
Kyar Kan Village

With her basic knowledge of sewing, Ma Kyu Kyu Win was able to secure her seat at the cotton bag making vocational training provided by MPRL E&P. She can now sew both cotton bags and traditional dresses. Therefore, she decided to concentrate on this business which enables her to earn a stable income.



Ma Kyu Kyu Win, another 47-year-old Kyar Kan resident, spends her time sewing bags at the women's cooperative Nammadar, the very first of its kind in the communities. On a daily basis, she would sit at the sewing machine and run the material through her fingers and under the pointed needle of the machine. The results are colourful bags ready and up for grabs!

Sitting in the middle of the sewing room which is a Kaleidoscope of colourful textiles, samples, threads and other necessary sewing items, Ma Kyu Kyu Win reflected, "The success of our cooperative depends on our organizational spirit. We have created rules since our establishment and we allocate profit among ourselves according to these rules. Personally, I am able to sew different patterns of bags. I now have many new customers and business contacts too. What I would like to request from MPRL E&P is to provide more training on designs. This will assist us tremendously in the future for the creation and marketing of our products." ■



Ma Kyi Kyi Myaing
Kyar Kan Village

which she fulfills by participating in this sewing group.

Ma Kyi Kyi Myaing said, "I am inspired to expand our business by marketing our products at the local shops such school uniform shops. I aim to work together with the Nammadar Women's Cooperative Sewing Group for the long term while performing my responsibilities as a Community Volunteer."

Ma Kyi Kyi Myaing is a 27-year-old resident of Kyar Kan Village, one of the surrounding communities in Mann Field. She is currently serving as a Community Volunteer for the implementation of MPRL E&P's CSR programs in Kyar Kan Village. While she recruited other women from her village who were interested in joining the vocational training on cotton bag making skills, she herself took part in the lessons. Then people said they liked the bags she made and she started to receive orders

She is hoping to save some of her earnings to invest in the future education of her son who has started attending the local school. ■





Ma Wai Wai Lwin
Kyee Pin Kan Village

Another beneficiary of the cotton bag making vocational training is Ma Wai Wai Lwin from Kyee Bin Kan Village. Although she was busy with her farming business, the 40-year-old decided to polish her basic sewing skills by attending the cotton bag-making vocational training in late 2018.



It has proved to be a good investment because with her enhanced skills she is able to produce better products which ensure customer satisfaction and attract more customers. She said satisfactorily, "Our cotton bags are becoming more and more popular with the customers because they are affordable in terms of price and sustainable in terms of the environment."

With regard to her future plans of expanding the business, she hopes to receive additional support from the CSR program of MPRL E&P in Mann Field that will strengthen her business knowledge and pattern skills to master the textile arts. ■

Ma San San Htay
Lay Eain Tan Village

Ma San San Htay is a 25-year-old member of the cooperative from Lay Eain Tan Village. She explained that the cooperative would sell their own bags as well as customized products upon requests from customers. This allows them to be flexible with their customers. She is also thinking of concentrating on this bag making business as she has realized its potential to grow with the addition of design concepts and through the endorsement of her growing customer base.



With regard to the support provided by the CSR programs, she said, "The CSR team has conducted many follow-up activities which are very supportive for us. They have this Vocational Training Support Program which enables us to secure material supplies, to further enhance our business skills, and to seize networking opportunities to market our products from the local level to the regional level. For our cooperative, we need to work together and aim to be an enduring success." ■



Learning Club Program: Creating a Culture of a Learning Environment

Htet Aung Soe

The time was A.D 596-612, the ruler was King Kya Swar, the era was the Bagan Dynasty, and there existed an illiterate old monk who had an epiphany that he could become literate by collecting knowledge instead of waste, after seeing a landfill of twigs which were disposed of after teeth cleaning each day. So, he went to the king to ask for a supply of stationery. The king made fun of him saying that he was too old to learn and only when a pestle grows a sprout, will he become literate. He filled his pool of knowledge as time went by, until the time came and he paid a visit to the king again with a sprout attached to a pestle. He became literate at last! He is famous in Myanmar's history as "U Kyi Pwae" also known as "Shin Dithar Parmauk" and he later on became the first diplomat of Myanmar, who single handedly prevented the Mongolian invasion.

How come a man of such potential was not able to read/write in the first place? Was he not given a chance or was he simply less enthusiastic? Think about how many people are like him around us? Or even ourselves?



Let us delve into a deeper meaning of learning. According to several dictionaries, learning is the acquisition of knowledge or skills through study, experience, or being taught. So, it is evident that we have to study books, experience something or be taught by someone to gain knowledge. I would like to call it "lateral learning", where the process goes only one direction. What if we combine all these things together?

Learning club was founded on the idea that everyone has something to share; be it their own experience or a skill they have been taught or something they have studied. It is a concept of "Peripheral Learning" where there is no teacher and learner, enabling the participants to interact and get involved. Ernest Hemingway once said, "There is nothing noble in being superior to your fellow man; true nobility is being superior to your former self". What is more noble than everyone helping each other to become a more superior version of themselves? It is a place of no façade or hinderance where the only objective is to further develop people through sharing and learning.

As a first step, the very first event was held on the 31st of July 2019. We invited an internal speaker, Consultant Geoscientist U Than Tun, who also happened to be a writer and a lecturer. He shared his knowledge and lifelong experience under the topic of "A Home called Life". He discussed, in comparison with his own life, about how everyone should repair and improve their own lives as one would continuously improve and upgrade one's own house. The atmosphere was cheerful, energetic and there was some-

thing for everyone to bring back home – be it knowledge or an appreciation gift for the Q&A session.

The organizing team is composed of nine sprouts from different departments. The events will be held quarterly where people, either internal or external, of different backgrounds and expertise will be invited for a sharing session with various topics based on their different walks of life. Moving forward, there could also be sessions where we organize learning English from peer to peer, or just watch an educational video and discuss about it.

The purpose is to create a comfortable atmosphere of learning and sharing.

As Benjamin Franklin said, "Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn", our culture is based on involvement. No matter how much times have changed, how great technology has become and how good the content is, you still have to open the book/ press the play button and watch/listen attentively to the information to gain knowledge. Learning Club is your door to the future and the door is always open for you. All you need to do is take a step in! ■





Towards Zero Road Accidents: Drivers' Behaviour Change Program

Moe Thu Zar Soe

Implementing change in an organization has always been a difficult endeavor. However, in an environment where technology and work practices move fast, change is inevitable and must be managed well.

At MPRL E&P Group of Companies, a safety initiative called "Drivers' Behaviour Change Program" has been implemented since 2018 in an effort to monitor the driving behaviours of the company drivers on a daily basis. It is a supplementary program to the defensive driving training. In addition, the program aims to help the drivers to prevent traffic and road hazards during the commute and highway trips.

According to the Myanmar Transport Sector Policy Note, published in 2016 by the ADB, the transport safety issues in the country have attracted heightened attention from policy makers due to the upward trend of road accidents and resultant human tolls over these years.

Every driver has differing attitudes and behaviours. Sometimes they have an impact when they are at the wheel. The social pressure and personal emotions can also have a spillover effect on the road in a certain circumstance.

U Tun Lin Naing who has over 8 years of driving experience at Myint & Associates Company Limited, a sister company of MPRL E&P, said, "We welcome the defensive driving training as it educates us about the way a driver should act in order to stay safe on the road for themselves and their passengers. In order to reinforce our safety practices at the wheel, both ourselves and our employees can join forces together through this program."

In this "Drivers' Behaviour Change Program", employees-cum-passengers can monitor the driver's behaviour through a checklist and report through a CARE Card accordingly. The HSE Department can then identify the specific driving behaviours that contribute to road safety.



The Assistant Manager U Sithu Zeya from the HSE Department encourages all employees to actively participate in the program through a CARE Card. "We want to encourage all our staff to report both safe and unsafe behaviours of our drivers. They can use the CARE Card system to improve not only workplace safety but also traffic and road safety. We will respond to the reports according to their level of importance."

The department aims to monitor and correct the unsafe driving behaviours that are most common among the motorists by referring to the rules and regulations of the Road Transport Administration Department. In this way, the department will be able to promote safe driving behaviour while reducing accidents as a result of unsafe behaviour on the road. The disciplinary actions will be enforced incrementally so that drivers can take time to learn and correct their behaviour.

U Sithu Zeya continued, "Comparing the figures of fiscal years 2017-2018 and 2019-2020, we can reduce road accidents up to 50% as the number of cases went down from 16 to 8. 6 of them were caused by the behaviours of our motorists and the number has been halved to 3. Today, although we note there are risks regarding road safety posed by third parties and we are promoting a sense of positive safety culture at an organizational level."

Towards the goal of zero road accidents, all employees and motorists are invited to be actively involved in and cooperate with this program. ■

A Female Petroleum Engineer from Mann Oil Field

Thal Sandy Tun

The Junior Engineer enjoys working as part of the field operations team in Mann Field where she sees the results of her efforts first hand.

Petroleum engineering is the application of science, engineering and economic principles to the discovery of oil and gas resources over land and under seabeds. It is one of the most challenging and rewarding careers that ensures access to energy and national prosperity in our modern civilization which depends on vast energy systems. In this regard, petroleum engineers function in oil and gas exploration and production projects around the world and here is the story of a female petroleum engineer, Naw Floriance George, aka Floriance, working in one of Myanmar's onshore producing fields which has played an important role in fulfilling national energy needs since 1970.

Floriance, named after St. Floriance for being a Roman Catholic born on his feast day, hails from northern Kayin State, and her earliest and closest experience with petroleum was the kerosene lantern with which she worked on her lessons with at night during her childhood. She introduced herself saying, "I was born in a town called Leik Tho in Kayin State. I studied my secondary school years at a boarding school in Pyin Oo Lwin. I am a Kayin Gekho by ethnicity, like the well-known Myanmar women professional fighting sensations Bozhena Antoniyar and Veronica. Naw is an honorific for all the girls and women, and George is my family name. There is no one associated with with petroleum field in my family."

Quizzed about how she happened to choose the petroleum engineering subject as she was applying for universities upon passing the Matriculation Examination in 2012, Floriance laughed and said, "The decision is like love at first sight. I really had no idea what the subject would be all about. I saw an offshore rig, a very big one, on the university's prospectus and I decided this is what I wanted to study. Boom!"

While studying petroleum engineering for six long years at the Yangon Technological University (YTU), she went all out to make the most of the multiple internships at MPRL E&P and Petronas Carligali Myanmar (PCML). When asked if she could work as part of the field operations team in Mann Field during the job interview, she was beyond herself with excitement at the idea of getting her hands dirty and being on the frontlines. Then, she successfully landed her career as a Junior Engineer in December 2018.

Today Floriance is full of pride and satisfaction for her role in the production operations in Mann Field where she gained hands-on experience every day with the mentorship of senior colleagues which includes engineers, geologists and technicians. She said, "Production optimization operations is the playing ground where I imagined to be all the time during my final year at YTU. I like starting with the basics and I love to go the extra mile at a time.



I want to see the result of my efforts first hand so, a field job suits my personality."

She spared no effort during the first few months of her career in Mann Field, and Floriance has now garnered a good grasp of the production enhancement operations and the importance of teamwork. "The daily production of Mann Oil Field depends on the synergy of the whole field operations team. To have team work, means comprehending one another and understanding that their jobs matter. We will leave no stone unturned!"

Floriance also enjoys taking the very challenges of consummating the marriage of theory and practice in daily operations. "Because we cannot see everything with our own eyes, some have to be imagined in the mind's eye. When problems arise on the ground, we have to figure out a practical solution, and I love it. Another challenge is to take the positive safety culture we already have to a whole new level where each and every one of the folks here lives by it."

Life in the field is also a challenge, Floriance agreed. "The weather is different. In summer, it is scorching hot and we are prone to heat stroke and heat stress. In winter, you have to anticipate temperatures dropping to a freezing point. Both types of these extreme weather conditions affect us. I live in a separate cabin in the camp with another female junior engineer colleague





from the same batch at university. We are in different teams and so we seize ample opportunities to exchange our experiences after daily routines. Normally, we work for 12 hours a day and stay in the camp for 28 consecutive days. There are a set of rules to follow while in the camp. Then we are off to home for two weeks."

Expounding on the success of the enhanced oil production techniques in Mann Field, the Junior Engineer said, "We work on optimizing and stabilizing oil production on a daily basis. Personally, I like using software applications to promote and support these operations. Now we are targeting to implement the spot water injection project in Mann Field. As we step up our efforts to extract more oil, we need to manage potential social and environmental impacts from our operations. I recall our Country Manager U Sithu Moe Myint giving a good example on the importance of social management in extractive projects during the orientation week. I believe we have very

strong and successful social and environmental management programs in Mann Field, for instance, vocational trainings for local communities and zero discharge targets."

While she is learning to involve herself actively in many aspects of the onshore field operations in Mann Field, Floriance entertains the idea of participating in the offshore oil and gas development as the offshore drilling rig was what attracted her to the industry. Floriance uttered decisively, "I am aware of what I wanted to become may not fit into traditional gender roles but I have stuck to my guns to pursue my dreams anyways. The oil and gas industry is said to be a tough one with heavy machinery and dangerous operations, and not suitable for the faint-hearted. According to my experiences here, I can do what other male counterparts are doing, and I have set my heart on becoming a professional petroleum engineer in the future. So the debate is over." ■



Final Year Petroleum Engineering Students from Thanlyin Technological University on Internship Program at Mann Field from June to July 2019



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of Good Health, Happiness and Success.

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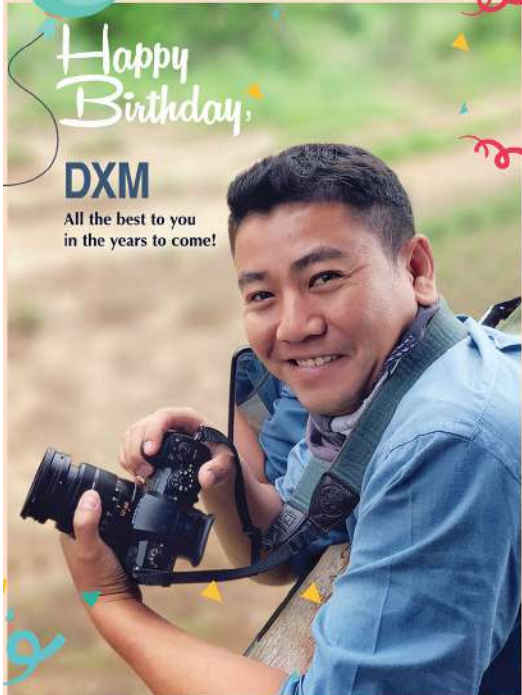
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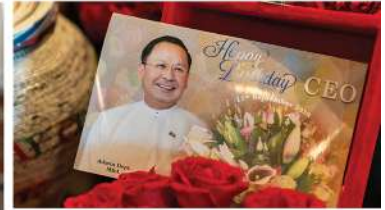


September Memories



Events





The Success of the Energy Sector Depends on the Efforts of All Players: U Than Tun

Thal Sandy Tun quizzes Consultant Geoscientist U Than Tun.

First of all, please introduce your role and responsibilities at MPRL E&P.

My main responsibilities as a Consultant Geoscientist at the company is to advise Senior Management and the Geoscience Team on geoscience related matters with regard to the offshore oil and gas exploration and development activities, to impart my experiences and knowledge to the younger generations, and writing supportive papers. As offshore Block A-6 is entering its development phase soon, I am obliged to support it with my best efforts. I think here I will be able to do what I could not during my previous service with the government.

What do your education and career histories look like?

I completed my high school in Taungtwingyi. Then I attended the Mandalay Arts and Science University and graduated in Geology in 1976-1977. I carried on attending the Rangoon Arts and Science University and got my master's degree in Geology in 1981.

My career as a geologist started with an internship at the Myanmar Oil Corporation (MOC) in 1980. Until 1986, I worked in the oil fields located across the country. Then I was transferred to the Exploration and Development Department in 1987, and again to the Offshore Exploration Department in 2004 at the Head Office of MOGE. In 2010, I became a deputy director and in 2013, I served as a director. Two years later, I retired and worked as a consultant at the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) for six months. After retiring completely from the government office, I worked as a consultant in private oil and gas companies. Out of my own interest, I have written a number of books and educational novels related to the oil and gas industry. I am a columnist on the oil and gas sector in 7 Day News and The Myanmar Times Journal from time to time. I have published four books on the oil and gas industry, and three novels. I continue writing until now.

How did you happen to become a Consultant Geoscientist at MPRL E&P?

I joined MPRL E&P through my boss U Sein Hlaing, who is a long-serving Consultant Geoscientist at MPRL E&P. As I have experience in offshore oil and gas development through my former job at MOGE, I believe it is a good opportunity for me to contribute to this pioneering development milestone of the company that is block A-6 project.

What is your point of view on MPRL E&P's role in the country's energy sector?

I believe the company is active in a number of projects related to the oil and gas exploration and production sector. We should be proud of the fact that it is the only Myanmar company active in the E&P sector or the upstream sector of the energy industry in Myanmar. In this regard, the company has set a track record by leveraging its human resources, mobilization of capital, discipline and determination. I expect that the company will rise as a competitive oil and gas establishment against



against other international energy majors from the Asia Pacific Region in the coming years.

What is your view on the related oil and gas sector laws, rules and regulations? How can the new Petroleum Bill, especially, change the oil and gas sector of the country? What kind of reforms are needed in order to shore up foreign investments for the sector?

Myanmar's oil and gas industry used to have its own rules and norms which were systematic since the time of British colonial administration. However, the progress of the industry has been at a snail's pace. A wide range of reforms have to be implemented and well-experienced and fully-informed individuals should pull the strings in order to ensure a success story.

In the new bill, there are several changes that aim to attract foreign investment into the industry. However, there are still some matters that should be further fine-tuned based on the practical conditions and that need to be modernized. As the nature of oil and gas investments differ from other investments, we need to study international rules and disciplines, and leverage them effectively in our own situations to pull foreign investment towards the country. Specifically, as the industry is a risky one, we need to ensure that the rewards outnumber the risks for investors.

Basically, a level playing field must be created to strike a balance between the interests of the country and those of the investors. This is not an industry with dead-sure returns on investments like manufacturing or service industries. Millions of dollars of investments will be lost if and when things go up in smoke. Therefore, a better law must be crafted.

What is the current situation of the oil and gas sector of Myanmar? How are the trends going?

As a matter of fact, there are more projects up and

running on the ground now, but the success level lags behind the previous period. We reported accordingly what needed to be changed about the industry when I was in office. We discussed the matters with the assistance of the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, but everything seems to have fallen on deaf ears. If we cannot initiate or ramp up necessary reforms we will not be able to keep up. We must start the ball rolling with practical reforms. Some of them have been introduced but are in limbo now. In this regard, a review can help us to examine the gaps in the process. While our competitors are running ahead, if we remain stuck here, the gaps will just get widened. Currently, my opinion is there is an uptake in rules to the detriment of the progress of projects. This may result in compromising tasks on their level of difficulties and some of them will be even set aside completely. So I would like to suggest considering what should be next steps carefully. There are ample reforms to be executed and I hope they are the correct ones.

What kind of incentives should be provided to the participants in the new round of oil and gas exploration bids reportedly to be carried out soon?

The priority is strengthening incentives for the upstream investors in terms of profit obligations. Also tax regimes will be amended I assume. Complicated *modus operandi* must be changed. However, without accountability in sight, progress will still be slow. A good understanding of the industry is essential too.

How would you like to comment on the CSR and environmental management work in Mann Field?

I believe the company always strives to apply international standards to its operations as it aims to become an international energy player in the future. The more comprehensively a company can conduct CSR activities in their operation areas, the

Microplastics, What & Where?

Dr. Eloi Dolivo

In early July, news channels made headlines of the "Bangkok Declaration 2019 to fight marine debris in the ASEAN region". The three-page Bangkok Declaration insists all along on plastics, mentioning it seven times in the three-page document. Meanwhile, micro- and nano-debris are mentioned no less than five times. Plastics are increasingly becoming a major villain when talking about the environment. Pictures of overflowing garbage dumps and entangled dolphins and tortoises circle the Web.

On one hand, plastic is a great material to build all kinds of containers, bags and packaging gear, as well as construction material. In 2015, some 400 million tons of plastics were produced (equal to some 55 kilograms or some 120 pounds per inhabitant of the Earth). About 1/3 of these plastics were used for packaging, another 1/3 in consumers' products (such as textiles) and the last 1/3 for industrial applications in electronics or machinery. Plastics are sturdy, light, colourful, hygienic, easy and cheap to produce. Packaging of food products with plastics from harvest to retail shops is essential to prevent spoiling and waste from insects and contamination. Try whatever we like to minimize consumption, we are bound to need plastics.

On the other hand, when poorly processed after use, plastics are a great source of concern for pollution in land and oceans. Most plastics hardly biodegrade, and therefore if not properly disposed, travel far and survive for a long time. The harmful and increasingly widespread end journey of plastics in marine wildlife is of particular concern, especially of microplastics. It is estimated that about eight million tons of plastics end up in the ocean every year, that is more than 1 kilogram (more than two pounds) per inhabitant of our planet.

Let's concentrate on micro-plastics for today. What are microplastics marine debris? Where do they come from? Where do they go to and in which amount? You are also kindly referred to a more general paper on the subject of **plastics recycling** in Insight's issue of December 2018.

1. What are microplastics?

Micro-plastics are plastic fragments that are less than 5 mm in size (less than half the width of the nail of the little finger). Nano-plastics are smaller than one tenth of a millimetre (the width of a hair). "Micro-plastics" will designate both micro- and nano-plastics in this snippet. Micro-plastics exist under two categories and reach the sea by various means:

- the **primary microplastics**, that are made on purpose, such as:

- pellets, usually microplastics, as the raw material for making all appliances after moulding or any other fabrication means. These pellets may travel to the sea by leaking from containers on ships or from poorly maintained factories leaking in drains where

pellets may be washed by wind and rivers.

- **micro-beads**, mostly nano-plastics, which are found in many personal care products, toothpastes and cosmetics, replacing more traditional scrubbing material, such as powdered wood or pumice, ground almonds, sometimes making up to half by weight of the product.

Micro-beads are also used in the industry to remove paint or rust via air blasting, replacing sand. These micro-beads, even though recycled, become contaminated with toxic heavy metals, such as lead, chromium or cadmium. Micro-beads are sometimes found as carriers to transport medicine in the body.

Micro-beads travel to the sea via water sewages and poorly maintained water treatment

plants. Even the best maintained water treatment plant lets about one micro-bead over 1,000 escape in the rivers and ultimately the seas.

- the **secondary microplastics** are garbage resulting from wear and tear of plastic items, such as:

- micro-fibres from synthetic fabric clothes during washing,

• degradation of larger plastics debris, many from packaging, bottles, single-use bags, through exposure to sunlight and water in poorly maintained landfills, followed by transport to the sea by wind and rivers,

- stranded or abandoned fishing nets and gear:



Fig. 1: Various kinds of microplastics, from top to bottom and left to right: a) primary microplastics "nurdles" as feedstock to mould plastics items, b) secondary microplastics in bottled water (preferable to contaminated water though), d) micro-fibres from textiles and/or fragmented fishing gear

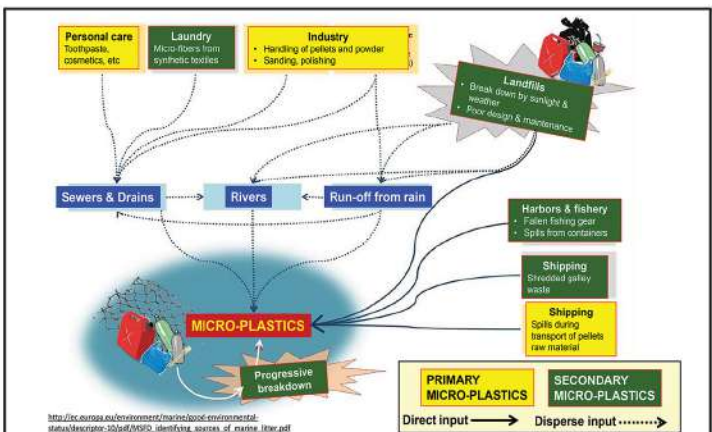


Fig. 2: Primary vs secondary microplastics, and how they reach the sea

How can we know of the presence of primary microplastics in our consumables? First of all, the composition of the product should be indicated on the package, as mandatory since April 2019 in the country. Do we expect plastics in our toothpaste? Probably not. If the labelling of the product includes a name sounding like a plastics name, such as the most common "polyethylene" (not the only one, but the names of plastics sound a bit similar), then these plastics are present as micro-beads.

2. How do microplastics reach the oceans?

Plastics are a stable material that degrades very slowly, therefore may travel far. In coastal areas, i.e. where people live less than 200 km from the shores, about 8% of the plastics reach the ocean. This journey starts from improper disposal, whether thrown away by careless littering, wild dumps, poorly designed and/or maintained drains and landfills.

Flying, floating or running plastics end up in rivers, the great rivers of the world being the main providers of plastics to the oceans. Only some 20% of plastics in the oceans is estimated to originate from shipping and fishing vessels.

The Ayeyarwady River ranks the 9th river in the world for the weight of plastics it carried to sea in 2015 (see for more information <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/myanmar-lifeblood-peril.html>). All the rivers in the world are estimated to have brought 40 times as much plastics as the Ayeyarwady River alone. Estimates for 2010 show eight million tons of plastics reached the sea from coastal areas. Such an amount of plastics, even once compressed, would still fill some 220 Vantage Towers.



Fig. 3: Some 220 times of the Vantage Tower in volume of plastics reach the oceans of the world in one year

Micro-plastics is estimated to contribute to some 10% to 30% in weight of all plastic debris at sea, and are the most difficult to clean up. Once in the ocean, micro-plastics can be easily ingested by fish, birds and other living organisms. They provoke a false feeling of repletion, of having eaten enough. Since plastics do not contribute to diet, animals may die of malnutrition.

How do we know so much microplastics reach the sea? This is because many studies have been carried in the last 40 years on the plankton, the beginning of the food chain of fishes, starting from the tiniest algae and shrimps to increasingly large fishes, to end up at some time on our plates. A by-product of sampling plankton through very fine-meshed nets (fig. 4), is microplastics.

Hundreds of studies have meticulously counted and weighed micro-plastics alongside of the plankton and reported the amounts in publications. A compilation of these publications for the last 40 years indicates the presence of concentrations of plastic garbage yielded by sea currents.

Figure 5 shows the concentration of micro-plastics floating on the oceans, the map does not account for the plastics that has sunk or has been absorbed by the fish and other organisms feeding from the sea. The map also shows how rivers play a big role in these concentrations, esp. in Asia and the Mediterranean Sea.

The most famous example is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch in the North Pacific Ocean between Japan and North America, covering about twice the size of Myanmar, with a density of plastic debris, mostly microplastics, of 10 to 100 kilograms per square kilometre, about the area of water we can see from standing on one of the dykes of the Inya Lake. The total plastics in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch alone is estimated to weigh 87,000 tons, about the weight of 16,000 elephants. Some 10% of this plastic soup is microplastics.

3. Conclusions

Want to know more? The Bangkok Declaration is to be read under: <https://asean.org/storage/2019/06/2.-Bangkok-Declaration-on-Combating-Marine-Debris-in-ASEAN-Region-FINAL.pdf>

Once again, the website "Our World in Data" is a fantastic source of data, just data, unbiased, not tinkered, just for educating ourselves and drawing conclusions from our own power of analysis. This is an addictive site for those thirsting for real and clean information.



Apart from the indispensable Wikipedia, this snippet has mostly used information drawn from the following links:



Fig. 4: Sampling plankton and microplastics - Top & bottom left: a trawler to collect plankton (the very small plants and animals that live in the sea and are the primary food for ever larger fish and whales) and the result of collection (plastics and very small fishes). Upper right: plankton and fibrous microplastics. Bottom right: micro-algae and two pieces of blue and blackish microplastics

- Frequently Asked Questions on Plastics:
<https://ourworldindata.org/faq-on-plastics>

- Plastic Pollution :
<https://ourworldindata.org/plastic-pollution#ocean-plastic-sources-land-vs-marine>

- Primary Microplastics in the Oceans -
<https://www.iucn.org/content/primary-microplastics-oceans>

- A global inventory of small floating plastic debris, by Erik van Sebille & al, in Environment Research Letter 10 (2015) 124006

How can we know whether our products eventually contain microbeads? The following Australian website provides some good teasers and pieces of information.

<https://www.choice.com.au/health-and-body/beauty-and-personal-care/skin-care-and-cosmetics/articles/microplastics-and-microbeads-in-toothpaste-facial-body-scrubs>

Now that we know, we can think and we can act on how to minimize our consumption. Our favourite CSR shop on the 9th floor

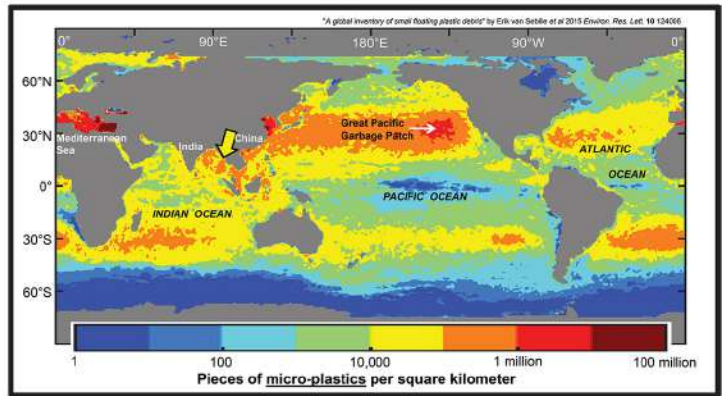


Fig. 5: Distribution of micro-plastics floating on the oceans of the world - The yellow arrow shows the mouth of the Ayeyarwady River with the associated higher concentration of plastics brought by the river (between 100,000 and 1 million pieces per square of one kilometre side); just to the West is the concentration of micro-plastics brought by the Ganges

might have some solutions and be a source of inspiration.

Let's review in the next issue of Insight! whether **bio-degradable plastics** could be a solution. ■

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better the results will be in a way that creates shared value for both sides. I also noted there are many good environmental management undertakings in Mann Field, and I think other oil fields in the country should look into it.

What kind of message would you like to convey to the young geologists working at the company as well as the next generations?

Pursuit of knowledge is an endless effort, and the knowledge must be carried forward from one generation to the next. One must nurture the next generation and next generations should work hard. There should be continuous learning—internal and overseas experience must be sought while practice must be combined with theory. We should try to gain experiences from international oil and gas companies investing in the country. This is a great opportunity for us. Our company leaders should understand and support this opportunity. It should be the priority of human resource functions. Our practices should be in line with international standards in the future.

What kind of insight and knowledge would you like to offer as a veteran geologist to the readers here?

I have mentioned a lot above already. What I would like to add here is that the energy industry is of paramount importance to the national economy. When the industry grows, so does the country. The growth and development of the industry rests with the knowledge, experience, empathy, wisdom, accountability and effort of those within the industry. There is a saying I like: "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children". Yes, we have to pay back what we owe. Only then will we have fulfilled our duties. This is the concept we all should be endowed with. Thank you. ■





U Moe Myint & Family's Educational Foundation
Scholarship Program for Talented Myanmar Nationals

University Scholars from U Moe Myint & Family's Educational Foundation Scholarship Program



The U Moe Myint & Family's Educational Foundation was created upon the goal of providing financial support for the higher education of outstanding students from staff families, and underprivileged Myanmar scholars. On these ideals, the foundation was born on the birthday of CEO U Moe Myint in 2011.

Since its inauguration, 2,882 students from the basic education level, 117 students who have passed their matriculation examinations with flying colors, and 27 general scholars have benefited from the foundation. Among them, 7 have already graduated from their university studies and are now working in respective professions. In this regard, the foundation has spent a total of MMK 9,623 lakhs supporting these outstanding Myanmar students.

The followings are interviews with university scholars.





Ma Thin Thiri Soe
House Officer
Thingangyun Sanpya General Hospital

I am the daughter of U Sein Mya who is an Operations and Logistics Supervisor at Myint & Associates Company Limited. I am now serving as a house officer at the Thingangyun Sanpya General Hospital after having studied at the No. 2 Institute of Medicine.

I passed the Matriculation Examination in March 2012 with five distinctions and 534 marks.

As a result, I was honoured to become a beneficiary of U Moe Myint and Family's Scholarship Foundation. In addition, I also received a university scholarship to be able to study at the No. 2 Institute of Medicine with monthly stipends.

Since my first day at the university, the foundation supported me with monthly educational payments which enabled me to study without financial burden. I was able to withdraw the monthly stipends without an issue, and we scholarship recipients could submit monthly reports on our progress of studies, achievements and challenges (if any) to the foundation.

In January 2017, a ceremony on the scholarship provision program was held for the students and parents to get to know one another. At the ceremony, I was given an opportunity to deliver a thank-you speech and I am proud of it. The scholarship recipient students got to know one another too. During Tazaungdaing, we paid homage to Sayar U Moe Myint and we were filled with joy to see Sayar's happiness during the occasion.

Sayar also talked about how he overcame difficulties in life and what we should avoid in our lives. We felt very motivated by his valuable words. Sayar also encouraged us to continue contributing towards the foundation to be sustainable in the future. What I would like to say to both my junior brothers and sisters is the scholarship provided by this foundation was very supportive of my educational journey reduced financial burden on my parents. Therefore, as Sayar said, let's work together to contribute to the foundation in our own capacity. ■



When I passed the Matriculation Examination in 2012-2013 with four distinctions, I was gratefully awarded by U Moe Myint and the Family Scholarship Foundation. In addition, I also received a scholarship to study at the dental university with ease. With the scholarship, I was able to buy the necessary learning materials and go on field trips without difficulties.

During my house officer-ship, I volunteered at the Pale Monastery to provide free treatments for dental diseases. After completing my house officer-ship, I aim to fulfill my role for the country.

Maung Pyae Phyo Hein
House Officer
University of Dental Medicine

I am the son of U Ko Ko Naing who is a Material & Logistics Manager at MPRL E&P Pte Ltd. I successfully sat for the final examination of the University of Dental Medicine Yangon in the 2018-2019 academic year, and now I am serving as a house officer at the university.

I would like to express my thanks for the financial support provided by the foundation from my university's first year until graduation. I always wish Sayar U Moe Myint and his family happiness and health. Also I wish the MPRL E&P Group of Companies to grow prosperously and the foundation to live long. ■





I am the daughter of U Htay Naing, Guard In-Charge at the Administrations Department of Myint & Associates Company Limited. I am studying my final year at the University of Medical Technology in Yangon. I am a recipient of U Moe Myint and Family's Foundation scholarship award.

My father is an employee at Myint & Associates Company Limited and my mother sews. My father is a long time employee at the Company. Since the day I attended primary school until I passed the Matriculation Examination, the foundation supported my education along the way with supports made at the beginning of every school opening season.

Although they were not financially very strong, my parents always encouraged me to pursue education. On my part, I worked hard to achieve a variety of educational and extracurricular awards from the primary school level to the high school level. By becoming an outstanding student, I would be able to return the gratitude of the foundation, said my father.

In that way I passed my Matriculation Examination in the 2014-2015 academic year with five distinctions.



tical studies of the major like Ultrasound, CI, MRI and X-rays.

A remarkable moment of my university life was participating in the Student Exchange Program 2018 in Thailand for a month as one of the two female students from my uni-

other employees were also encouraged to study hard and the foundation is ready to support outstanding students, so I am very happy for them.

This October, I am sitting for my final examination and graduation is

company takes care of not only the family's livelihood but also education and health matters, we should not forget the gratitude of Sayar U Moe Myint. He reminds us to be faithful to the company and work harder for it.

Personally, I believe the foundation is a very good program of the company. Its scholarship awards are



something that are very valuable and that make awardees like me very proud. As it is an award, there are certain rules that we have to abide by. We feel obliged to study hard to pass every academic year successfully and it is a very good driving force. So I would like to give the message that if the next generation can study hard, there are foundations like this one which will support their effort.

The foundation does not just give away the awards. It also cares about our GPAs and academic reports every semester. It also organizes awarding ceremonies, meetings with Sayar U Moe Myint, members of the foundation, and of the company as well as paying homage events. I am very grateful for these activities of the foundation.

In the future, I am determined to become a radiation technologist who can support public health. I also always think about returning the gratitude of Sayar U Moe Myint and the company. If I have a chance, I would like to serve Sayar U Moe Myint and the whole company with my hard work and concentration. Summing up, I am very thankful for all the support I have received from the foundation from primary school to university graduation. I would like to wish the benefactor of me and my family, Sayar U Moe Myint and his family to be happy and healthy. I also wish Myint & Associates Company Limited and the MPRL E&P Group of Companies prosperity and success. ■

university course, my father encouraged me to choose a subject that could help me support the company like petroleum geology. Anyhow, I ended up attending the University of Medical Technology.

The studies will last for four years and my major subject out of four major options is radiology and imaging technology. During the first year, the curriculum was the same like all other medical schools. In the second year, we have to choose a major subject and in the third year we have bloc-posting at teaching hospitals. In the final year, we are pursuing both theoretical and prac-

university. In that program, I gained valuable knowledge related to my studies, languages, communications as well as culture. I was also proud of the fact that I served as a representative for my country, my school, my parents and the foundation in the program. My father talked about it with his colleagues at work and he enjoyed all their attention and praise. In addition, the children of

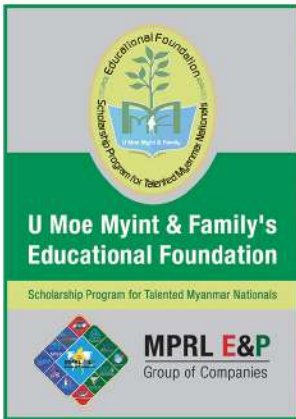
in February of next year. Therefore, the pillars of my educational pursuits are both the guidance of my parents and teachers, and the financial support of the foundation. We are also beneficiaries of the company's health insurance coverage at the Green Cross Hospital. Therefore, it would be right to say that the company is the patron of my whole family. My father always says as the

Photo: Myint & Associates Company Limited

Photo: Myint & Associates Company Limited

Photo: Myint & Associates Company Limited

Photo: Myint & Associates Company Limited



Maung Thaw Zin
Second Year
Yangon Technological University (YTU)



I am the son of U Than Win who is a Catering and Beverages Assistant at Myint & Associates Company Limited. I am now attending my second year of mechanical engineering at the YTU. I have received the financial support from the foundation since fourth grade along with my younger sister.

When I passed the Matriculation Examination with five distinctions, I was honoured to receive a prize at the scholarship awarding ceremony of the foundation and delivered a thank-you speech on behalf of all other outstanding students. With the cash award, I was able to attend an English Language class, a Basic Computer Training class and bought the necessary materials for my university studies.

class through the university scholarship provided by the foundation.

My ambition is to become a professional engineer. I am very thankful to Sayar U Moe Myint and the foundation which has supported my educational pursuit with yearly scholarship awards from the primary school to the university today.

I was also able to buy course books without difficulties, and during my second year, I attended a computer aided machine drawing training

I will strive my best to live up to the prestige of these awards and I promise to become an outstanding engineer in future. ■



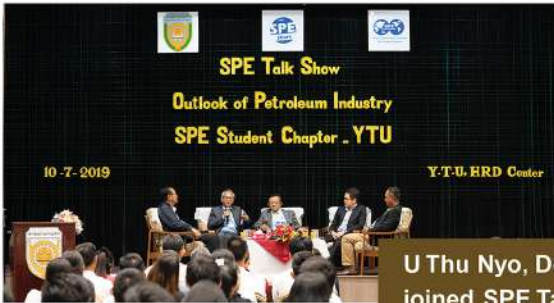
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U Thu Nyo, Deputy Technical Manager of MPRL E&P Pte Ltd. joined SPE Talk Event 2019 - Outlook of Petroleum Industry as a Panelist, organized by SPE - Student Chapter - YTU



U Soe Than Naing, Rig Manager of Asia Drilling Pte Ltd. made a Presentation on the topic of "Introduction to Underbalanced Drilling (UBD) and Successful Utilization of UBD Equipment" at SPE Talk and Networking Event, organized by Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) at Hotel Mercure





Who's Who at MPRL E&P?

Government & Public Affairs

As the National League for Democracy Party hit a home run with the inauguration of the first fully civilian democratic administration in April 2016, CEO U Moe Myint anticipated political reforms will be accompanied by greater transparency in the affairs of international relations, of economy and of society at large whereby for the MPRL E&P Group of Companies, it was time to kick off its strategic growth plans which require formulating and carrying out public relations and stakeholder engagement activities in a more transparent and comprehensive manner.

Based on these expectations and assessments, a Government and Stakeholders Engagement Com-

mittee and a Public Relations Committee were brought into formation during the month of September 2016 to mobilize resources towards these new enterprises.

These two committees applied public relations tools to mirror the progress of engagement with the government and to elevate the public perception of the business to a higher level. The committees also discussed implementation of public relations campaigns appropriate to the developments in the companies' respective business contexts. The two bodies came into operation in September 2016.

Fast forwarding to 2017, Senior Management came up with the idea of forming a dedicated business function with a group of professionals which would be more effective than the committees in executing their tasks. The Government and Public Affairs Department which came into existence in April 2017 was the end result of this decision.

The mandates of the Government and Public Affairs (GPA) Department allow it to initiate engage-

ments with respective government departments and seek their input with regards to applicable laws, regulations, procedures, and strategies in light of the business development plans of the Group of Companies. Then, the findings are discussed internally and presented to Senior Management who will review and make the final say in the progress of negotiations and closing of deals. In these instances, the GPA Team is on the ball carrying out numerous engagement sessions with its stakeholders under the auspices of Senior Management in line with business goals.

Taking the reins of government affairs, the GPA Team undertakes multi-level government engagements: at the national level, regional and state levels as well as district and township levels. In addition, they take advantage of existing civil society organizations and individuals to inform, consult and involve in the processes in a timely and efficient manner.

By the same token, the department is tasked with promoting the companies' image and informing the general public by driving well-orchestrated PR campaigns in coordination with respective companies through PR tools such as press releases, documentaries and commentaries in the local, private, as well as government media channels. The overarching objective of these activities is to solicit stakeholders' interest and support in the companies' business goals. Other important functions that the department takes at the helm include seizing opportunities to take part in high-level exhibitions organized by national, state and regional governments with displays of companies' projects, running media conferences, serving as the official voice piece to media enquiries, representing the companies in public consultation activities related to conducting environmental impact assessments for projects with respective government departments, communities and third party organizations, and concocting alignment with government officials and with private media for well-timed and positive coverage of the companies' business affairs. ■

U Tint Swe Executive Director Government & Public Affairs, MPRL E&P Group of Companies

U Tint Swe is responsible for the relationship management and communication between MPRL E&P and the state, local and Union Government as well as the media.

U Tint Swe joined MPRL E&P in September of 2016 as a Senior Management Advisor, before assuming his current role of Executive Director in January of 2017. With over 33 years of experience in the fields of government and media, U Tint Swe has served as Editor in Chief of the Military Science Journal, Ministry of Defense as well as the Director & Director General for the Department of

Information and Public Relations and at Myanmar Radio and Television, and then Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information.

U Tint Swe holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the Defense Services Academy in Pyin Oo Lwin (one of the nation's most elite military schools) and also has a lifelong passion for literature and writing, for which he was awarded the Thuta Swel Sone Award (International Affairs) from the Literature Awards Team (Swel Sone Media Group) in 2006. ■





Myo Zaw Oo
Assistant Manager
Government & Public Affairs

Myo Zaw Oo joined MPRL E&P in October 2015 as a Senior Stakeholder Engagement Officer at the Department of CSR & Communications and he initiated the training program for Mann GM and HoDs, as well as the monthly coordination meeting with MOGE in Mann Field. In addition, he participated in the introductory stage of the stakeholder engagement process at the M&AOSB project since 2016. Since that period, he coordinated with the Ayeyarwady Region Government to obtain necessary assistance and participated in Public Consultation workshops with communities for Block A-6.

Due to the requirement of the business function, he was transferred to XOD's Office to assist XOD in implementing effective government engagement and public relations in April 2017 and then he was promoted as Assistant Manager in October 2018. He assists XOD to prepare the budget and work plans of Government engagement and Public Relations which covers MPRL E&P GoCs' activities, and he mostly focuses on engagement with the level of Union and Regional Government and the Parliament to update them on project level reporting. In addition, he conducts research independently based on the desktop and networks when it is instructed by senior management. He also represents MPRL E&P as one of the MSG members implementing Myanmar Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative implemented in Myanmar since April 2017.

Myo Zaw Oo received his B.A. degree in an English Specialization from the University of Yangon (Main Campus) in 1995 and a Master Degrees in Archaeology from the University of Yangon in 2000, and in Development Studies from the Institute of Economics Yangon in 2011, respectively. In addition, he also studied to attain the Diplomas of Computer Science, Applied Psychology and Social Work at respective Universities in Yangon. Up to the requirement of career opportunity, he learned to obtain a Diploma in Business Studies and Certificate in Public Relations, LCCI-UK (Level III) in 2000 and 2001. Before he joined MPRL E&P, he spent his careers at the Embassies of the Republic of Korea (2002-2007), the Netherlands and New Zealand (2013-2015) in Yangon, Myanmar. In addition, he also worked for the Nargis Cyclone Emergency Project funded by Care Australia in 2008. ■



Ei Ei Maung Maung
Junior Departmental Assistant
Government & Public Affairs

Ei Ei Maung Maung joined the Government & Public Affairs Department of MPRL E&P Pte. Ltd. since November 2018 as a Jr. Departmental Assistant. She graduated in 2012 majoring in Chinese from the Yangon University of Foreign Languages (YUFL), with a Diploma in Chinese and also graduated from Dagon University majoring in Law (L.L.B) in 2012. Throughout her academic years, she has worked as a Chinese Teacher in a Chinese Temple and has also worked as a Lawyer in the Law Field with experience of over 5 years. After working as a lawyer, she started her career at Myint & Associates Co., Ltd. as a Junior HR Assistant and then transferred to MPRL E&P in November 2018.

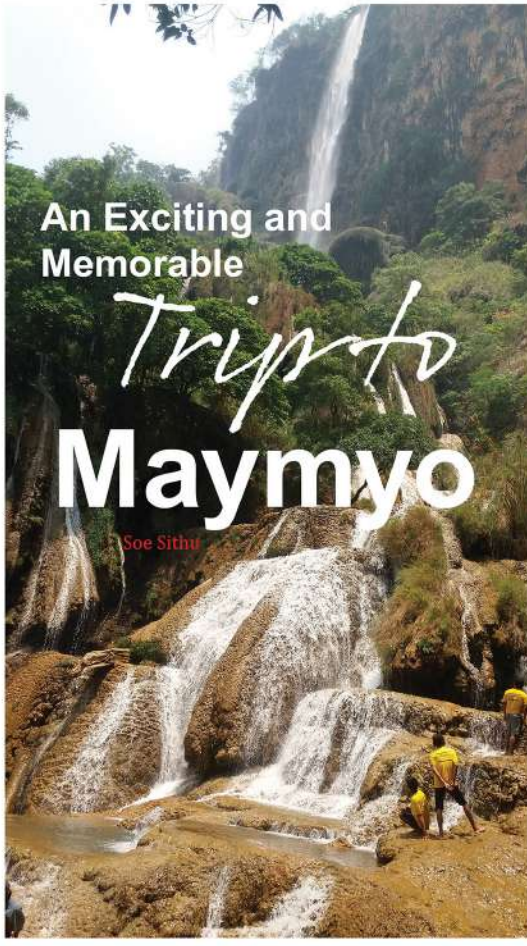
Her current responsibilities as a Junior Departmental Assistant are to support the Government & Public Affairs office, and to provide various secretarial and administrative support to ensure efficient operations in the team. ■



Nandar Win
Junior Departmental Assistant
Government & Public Affairs

Nandar Win graduated with a Bachelor of Psychology from Dagon University in 2013 and a Diploma in English from Yangon University in 2018. After her Matriculation Exam, she started working in Real Estate Services as a Marketing Executive from 2010 to 2012. She likes parts of a customer service job; and therefore, she changed to working in hospitality at Sule Shangri-La Hotel as a Service Associate in Cafe Sule since 2014 and joined Myint & Associates Co., Ltd. as a Receptionist in May 2017, later transferring to MPRL E&P Pte Ltd. in November 2018. She joined the Government & Public Affairs Department as a Junior Departmental Assistant and is responsible for assisting with all tasks associated with desktop research, communications, implementing, and liaising with multi-stakeholders for projects under supervision of the Assistant Manager and Executive Director. ■





"With age, comes wisdom. With travel, comes understanding" - Sandra Lake

Travelling refreshes the weary soul and lets us enjoy regional knowledge, traditions, and customs through sightseeing. That is why, I went on a trip with my friends to Maymyo, in Pyin Oo Lwin. I chose to go to Maymyo because there are quite a number of scenic places to go to and it is worth getting carried away by spectacular view points to ease the tired mind and body and is a good escape from the hustle and bustle of the urban city. This is my second time visiting Maymyo, and on the first time I went around the whole town and just enjoyed my stay there. But as a second time there, I went on an adventurous trip with my friends to "Ban Bwae Kyin" waterfall, which is one of the most famous places in Maymyo.

We did not plan our trip with a Tour Company as we preferred to go with our own itinerary due to the fact that we could adjust the trip plans as we would like.





During our trip, we visited the National Kandawgyi Park, December Garden, MaHar Unt Htoo Kan Thar Buddha Image, Cave of Pate Chin Mhyaung, Myo Shaung Road and the famous Ban Bwae Kyin Waterfall. Among those places, the waterfall of Ban Bwae Kyin makes us memorable and unforgettable with excitement, experiences and pleasure.

The most memorable part of the trip was going to Ban Bwae Kyin Waterfall by motorbike, which took over 4 hours to drive as we wanted new experiences and feel nature up close. Of course we had to take the necessary safety precautions like wearing helmets and I must say, riding bikes on the way to Ban Bwae Kyin waterfall is still very fresh and vivid in my mind until now.

When we got to the waterfall, with the help of two local guides, we went down to the base of the waterfall for two hours. Me and my friends helped each other along the way to the base by climbing and crawling adventurously, which made our bond of friendship stronger and understand each other better. When we got to the waterfall, its breathtaking views made all the tiredness along the way disappear.

The people we met along the trip were friendly and helpful. The two local guides to the waterfall were really nice and patient and shared their knowledge concerning the waterfall. The tastiest meal during our trip was having a "Sa Kaw" meal, which included four or five curries to go with rice in a round bamboo tray. We devoured the "Sa Kaw" meal on the way back from the waterfall and I must say I couldn't have had a better meal in my life before.

During the trip, we got both valuable experiences and knowledge, which makes us more confident physically and mentally. Though the trip was rough, our firm decision to make it happen brought us there. We came to know the value of good team work before planning and during the trip, which I shall say is more than just traveling experiences.

One important thing to be careful for planning the trip is not to count on information from social media too much but instead on the information from the people who have been there. This traveling experience is useful both for the



personal and professional life because it took perseverance, persistence, and firm decisions to make it happen. I have a plan to go on such challenging trips again in the future and thus I would like to encourage my friends and co-workers to go on adventure trips while you still have the energy, time, money and last but not least your good health. ■



M&AOSB Completed a Series of ECC Disclosure Workshops in June

Yin Mon Aye

In June 2019, M&AOSB disclosed its final EIA report and ECC in coordination with the Ayeyarwady Regional Government (ARG), which included representatives from the Ayeyarwady Region Investment Commission (ARIC), Environmental Conservation Department, Port Authority, Department of Labor, as well as Regional and Township General Administration Departments. During the workshops, the questions and key concerns raised by the community stakeholders were addressed by related government entities and M&AOSB representatives.



Key Highlights of M&AOSB ECC Disclosure Workshops

Date	Location	Number of Participants	Engagement Hours
25 June 2019	Patheingyi Hotel, Patheingyi	46 persons	3 hours
26 June 2019	Aung Thukha Monastery, Nanintharpu Village Tract	252 persons	3.5 hours
27 June 2019	Ayeyarwady Region Parliament, Patheingyi	28 persons	2 hours
Total Number of Participants - 326 Persons			
Total Engagement Hours - 8.5 Hours			





Meet the Trainees (Welding Training)

Pyae Pyae Phyoo

Myint & Associates Offshore Supply Base Limited (M&AOSB) helped ten of the community stakeholders complete basic welding training (one of M&AOSB's CSR Training Series for FY 2019-2020) successfully. The chosen trainees of the community acknowledged the support of M&AOSB for the completion of the welding training at the Skills Training Center (Patheingyi) in August 30, 2019. All trainees showed great diligence in their training both theoretically and practically. They passed their one-month training period with great effort and had a lot of fun in the process. They also mentioned their willingness to achieve the National Skill Standard Authority (NSSA) certificate, which is recognized by the ASEAN labour market. The trainees shared how much they enjoyed the training and how they plan to apply their training knowledge in the future. ■



Tin Min Khant, 22
Nanttharpu Village Tract
Ngaputaw Township



"I attended this training actively as it was a suitable training for my future job opportunities. As I was new in the field, it was challenging for me during the practical aspect but I overcame it smoothly with the support of the trainers and M&AOSB staff. I am very motivated to continue learning and improving my technical skills to pursue welding as a professional. I hope to apply the skills learned at the construction site and to eventually get my NSSA certificate." ■

Myo Ko Ko, 29
Nanttharpu Village Tract
Ngaputaw Township



"I currently run a car body repair business and I attended this training as it can be useful for my business. Based on my previous experience working at construction sites, I can firmly say the training will provide us more job opportunities. It is very beneficial for me as I can take an exam for my level-1 electrical certificate while attending welding training here. I am very pleased with myself after the training and I will continue to attend other trainings too." ■

Phyo Min Htet, 25
Kyway Chaing Village Tract
Ngaputaw Township



"I have been operating a workshop for 6 years, but I never had a chance to learn the techniques properly. I joined this training as I realized there are many areas I can improve and some incompetencies to work on to provide better services to my customers. I believe the certificate will also open a door for me to get better job opportunities. After this training, I have learned new welding types and systematic ways of welding. I would like to learn more and to eventually possess the NSSA certificate." ■

Nay Moon, 24
Nanttharpu Village Tract
Ngaputaw Township



"This welding training was a great opportunity for me to learn an additional vocational skill. I will try to improve my skills constantly and I will utilize what I have learnt from the training to get a job related to welding after the training. Despite being my first experience, I was okay with everything because of the support of M&AOSB staff and the trainers. I hope to attend training up to the international level as it will help me to get a job with the skills, knowledge and attitude I have acquired." ■

Aung Myo Lwin, 24
Nanttharpu Village Tract,
Ngaputaw Township



"I attended this training to be proficient in welding technical skills. We have learnt not only the actual lessons but also new opportunities to learn more about welding. I will share the training knowledge to the youth in our community and I am aiming for employment at the company by learning and improving my skills continuously. I am satisfied with the completion of my study and I have an ambition to get my NSSA certificate and I have an idea of how I can apply my new found welding knowledge in business." ■

Ko Ko Lin, 22
Nanttharpu Village Tract,
Ngaputaw Township



"I have been working as a welder for nearly 3 years but this training helped me a lot in improving technically. I will keep on learning the skills until I can start my own business related to welding. Many thanks to the staff from M&AOSB and the trainers from the training school for organizing this. I wish to suggest the company to support other people like us." ■

Ye Min Thu, 28
Kyway Chaing Village Tract
Ngaputaw Township



"I have worked as a welder for two years but I did not have any certificate to prove my skills. It was only okay to run own business and there were no jobs available to apply at companies. I attended this training to learn the welding skills more systematically and to be certified as a welder. I learned a lot in terms of technical skills from this training. I hope to apply this training knowledge at the construction site and to get my NSSA certificate for welding. I would like to thank M&AOSB for its beneficial CSR Training Series." ■

Zabu Tun, 22
Nanttharpu Village Tract,
Ngaputaw Township



"I attended this training as I would like to learn systematically on welding and how to seize better job opportunities. I will continue pursuing to master the skills for my occupation and I tried my best in learning the practical and theoretical skills during the training. I'd like to attend another training for my NSSA certificate and computer training in Nga Yoke Kaung, too." ■

Thant Zin Tun, 20
Kyway Chaing Village Tract
Ngaputaw Township



"I am an assistant to a welder currently. I attended this training to improve my skills as a professional. I believe more job opportunities will come to me after the training and I am endeavoring to work as a certified welder at construction sites. I like to attend welding training (level 2) and I would also like to pay back the gratitude of M&AOSB for its creation of job opportunities." ■

Ye Htet Aung, 25
Kyway Chaing Village Tract
Ngaputaw Township



"I intended to gain vocational skills from this training and improve my capacity. I had no background knowledge related to welding but there was not much struggle because of the help of the experienced trainers during the training. After this training, I will seek to be employed as a professional welder. I will share my training knowledge to my friends. I will try not only for my training completion certificate but also for my NSSA certificate." ■



MPRL E&P
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13th Time
Blood Donation
by the Staff of
MPRL E&P
Group of Companies

Events



Date : 7th September, 2019





ODAM Team Race Championship 2019



Ngwe Saung Sea Training for 30th SEA Games



NATIONAL SAILING TEAM



Bali Training

NATIONAL SURFING TEAM



Ngwe Saung Yacht Club and Resort facilitates a Myanmar Non-profit, Lesswalk's Donation of Bicycles to Students from Ngwe Saung Middle School, Bu Kwe Gyi Village, Ngwe Saung Township.



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1 - 31 October 2019





**Asia Drilling 20,000 Ft Rating Rig AD-2
at Block MOGE-3 PTTEPI Onshore
Drilling Campaign**

Photo : PTTEPI



Final Year (2nd Batch) Petroleum Engineering Students from Yangon Technological University presented their Final Defense on their Dissertation Papers to the Technical Operations Team

