

Urban Development in Myanmar

Mr. Soe Lwin

Deputy Director General

Department of Rural Development Ministry of Border Affairs



Profile of Myanmar

- The full name is Republic of the Union of Myanmar situated in South East Asia.
- It is delineated and constituted by 7
 Regions and 7 States and the 1Union
 Territory consisting of 330 townships
 and 64,817 Villages.
- Total land area of 677,000 sq km.
- Nay Pyi Taw is the capital of Myanmar and Government's Bodies have been set up here. So it is also known as administrative capital.
- Nay Pyi Taw covers an area of 7,054.37 sq km and has a population of nearly one million.
- It has 8 townships and Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee has responsibity to implement its development plan.



Myanmar drafts urban development plan

- → Myanmar is drafting an urban development plan under the leadership of a Planning Commission, headed by President U Thein Sein, giving priority to Two major cities of Yangon and Mandalay of which Yangon was once a model city in Asia.
- → The drafting of the plan, which also involves towns and villages, is being implemented in line with the governments's reform strategy.
- → Insufficient electricity, insufficient safe drinking water, incomplete sewage system, poor transportation facing these two cities are being carried out.
- → President urged respective rigion/ state governments to draft Municipal Acts in accordance with the constitution, saying that budget allotment and taxation must be carried out and foreign loan and aid be distributed equally to each region/ state.



40-year Yangon City Upgrading Plan

- → Yangon is the former capital port city with a population of over 6 million and an area of 795 sqkm. It is demarcated as 45 townships, of which 33 represent the municipal area.
- → JICA is also drafting a 40-year Yangon City Upgrading plan, aimed at helping boost the backward former city of Yangon to a city having modern urban characteristics.
- → The 40-year draft plan, expected to be completed by 2013, include upgrading the city's drainage system, urban transportation, drinking water system, Thilawa Special Economic Zone and port termianls.
- Overpasses are being planned in some traffic junctions in a bid to ease traffic jam.



Mandalay City

- Mandalay stands as the last royal capital of Myanmar with rich cultural heritage. It covers 113 sqkm and has a population of nearly 1 million. It located 716 km north of Yangon on the east bank of the Ayeyarwaddy River.
- Mandalay is the second largest city lying at the center of the country and remains a commercial hub for trade with neighbouring China in the northest and India in the northwest.
- The Mandalay new satellite town to be set up on a land plot of 8,910 hectares is being projected by a public company.
- ❖ So far, the company has seen 3,000 prospective shareholders to join the project lying in Mandalay's Tada Oo township, 8.8 km from the Mandalay Internatioanl Airport.



Measures Taken for Urban Development by Local Governments

- To achieve even development throughout the country and to narrow down the development gap between urban and rural areas, the respective region/ state government's Chief Minister has responsibility to implement their respective urban development plan in accord with the constitution.
- At Union Level, Our Department of Rural Development will support technical and other necessary assistants to respective local government for achieving urban devlopment.
- In Myanmar, urbanites constitute 32.6% of the whole population with Yangon and Mandalay population making up a total of 20%. So if that two cities develop rapidly, the rest whole country will develop soon.

