



# COUNTRY UPDATE Myanmar

**Nr. 1, February 2017**

We would like to keep you up to date about the recent developments in the field of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and the Ayeyarwady delta in Myanmar. This newsletter is a joint initiative of the Ministries of Infrastructure & Environment and Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP) and the Embassy of the Kingdom of The Netherlands in Yangon. The agencies are working closely together with the Delegated Representative Water to find business opportunities and stay in close communication with the Dutch water sector.

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## **1. Learning by Doing Projects**

In May 2013, a MoU was signed between the Netherlands and Myanmar for the cooperation on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM). A next step was the Strategic Study in 2014 and the implementation of 5 Learning by Doing projects:

- Feasibility of Pan Hlaing River Integrated Development Project (finalized)
- Bago-Sittaung Integrated Water System Analysis (finalized)  
<https://sites.google.com/site/bagosittaungriverbasinanalysis/system-discription/a-phy/vi-infrastructures>
- Feasibility Study Mandalay-Bagan navigability improvements (finalized)
- Bagan Multi-Purpose Pilot River Beautification (ongoing PPP project)
- Meikhtila Lake Integrated Development project (started in May 2016 and ongoing until May 2017)

Since 2016, the focus of the Netherlands water cooperation in Myanmar moved towards the large delta of the Ayeyarwady river. During 2017 the partners will be developing an Integrated Ayeyarwady Delta Strategy (IADS) for the future of the delta. This is an important next step and it will be followed by the formulation of no- or low- regret measures. Two new learning by doing projects located in the delta are in the preparation phase. One project will focus on flood protection of the Nyaung Done area. This is a follow-up of a DRR mission that was done in 2015. The second project concerns the

development of the agricultural polder area South West of Yangon (also called "Paddy III").

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## 2. Integrated Ayeyarwady Delta Strategy



After a period of bidding and selection, the contract for the Integrated Ayeyarwaddy Delta Strategy (IADS) was won by a Dutch consortium led by Arcadis, together with Deltares, TU Delft, Wageningen University (WUR), Sweco, HKV Lijn in Water, INK strategy, IUCN and NEPS. In December 2016 they had their inception mission and at the 1<sup>st</sup> week of March 2017 they will finish the inception phase of the IADS project.

The IADS project is one of the stepping stones of the relationship between the Netherlands and Myanmar in the field of water. IADS will develop a strategy for the Ayeyarwady delta. Four Burmese/Dutch working groups are installed by the Myanmar government: (1) baseline layer, (2) network layer, (3) occupation layer and (4) the governance/stakeholders. The delta of the Ayeyarwady is one of the 7 subareas of the Ayeyarwady river basin. IADS will be executed in close coordination with the larger delta strategy project of the Worldbank, AIRBM project.

For updates and insights into IADS one can take a look at the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/IADSMyanmar/> or contact Rob Steijn ([rob.steijn@arcadis.com](mailto:rob.steijn@arcadis.com)) and/or Tanya Huizer ([tanya.huizer@arcadis.com](mailto:tanya.huizer@arcadis.com)).

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## 3. Save-the-date: Incoming high level delegation (19<sup>th</sup> of April 2017 - tbc)

From the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2017 until the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April (tentative), a high level delegation of the Government of Myanmar will visit the Netherlands. The high level delegation will consist of the following persons (still tentative): the second Vice President/VP2 (who is the chairman of the National Water Resources Committee of Myanmar), the Minister of Transport and Communications (vice chair of the National Water Resources Committee), three Chief Ministers of the three delta regions (e.g. Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Bago) and several DGs from the ministries of transport and communications and agriculture, livestock and irrigation.

The main purpose of this visit is to gain insight into the Dutch water expertise. Myanmar has formulated as theme for this mission: *"Water as a driver for strong economic development; example from The Netherlands"*. Next to bilateral meetings, the program will also encompass a workshop on urban water challenges as well as several field visits. During this visit, the annual official Joint Steering Committee meeting will also take place to discuss the cooperation and activities under the MoU between NL and Myanmar. The program is still under development and NWP will keep you updated on the possibilities for the sector to meet with the delegation and present itself.

In case of concrete requests or ideas, please contact Lindsey Schwidder ([l.schwidder@nwp.nl](mailto:l.schwidder@nwp.nl) / +31 70 304 3719).

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## 4. World Water Day 13 and 14 March 2017



Ever since the first World Water Day in 1993, this day focuses on raising awareness on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. This year's theme

for the day will be 'Wastewater'. A theme that is very relevant for Myanmar. Over the course of two days, 400 water experts from the Netherlands, Australia, INGOs, World Bank, concerned departments as well as 40 organizations will participate at the World Water Day in Nay Pyi Taw, the capital of Myanmar. The ambassador of The Netherlands, H.E. Wouter Jurgens, will give a speech during the opening session and Mr. Peter Kerssens, team leader of IADS, will give a presentation about the Integrated Ayeyarwady Delta Strategy (IADS). Next to these presentations, a separate workshop will be held to discuss a possible future river crossing connection between the city of Yangon and the town of Dala, including the rural area Paddy III (South of Yangon). The existing concept of a bridge will be presented by Korea and the possibility of a tunnel will be presented by the Netherlands. For more information on World Water day, please contact the NL Embassy in Yangon: [armand.evers@minbuza.nl](mailto:armand.evers@minbuza.nl) and/or [carola.baller@minbuza.nl](mailto:carola.baller@minbuza.nl).

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## **5. New Partners for Water project in Myanmar – TU Delft**

The TU Delft has been active in Myanmar already since 2013 and recently they were awarded with a new pilot project funded by Partners for Water.

### Capacity building in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in Myanmar (NICHE-MMR-250)

This NUFFIC funded project is implemented by TU Delft, Unesco-IHE and Deltares and will be half way in August 2017. In those first 2 years' staff of two universities (YTU and MMU) are strengthened, curricula and courses of the universities in Water Resources Engineering are adapted and new type of educational methods are introduced. This capacity building project is being conducted parallel with other projects of the Dutch water sector in Myanmar. The involved companies are making an important contribution by offering practical examples to the students and researchers and by providing internship positions and feedback on the development of the curriculum as well as by actively seeking cooperation with the academic and business communities in Myanmar.

This business component will get more attention in the second part of the project which will last till September 2019. If you are interested to contribute to the project with your companies' expertise please contact Marjan Kreijns ([m.s.kreijns@tudelft.nl](mailto:m.s.kreijns@tudelft.nl))

Some information on the project can be found in the following links:

<http://www.tudelft.nl/en/business/research-projects/watermanagement-in-myanmar/>

<http://www.tudelft.nl/zakelijk/onderzoeksprojecten/watermanagement-in-myanmar/capacity-building-in-integrated-water-resources-management-iwrm-in-myanmar/>

### Leapfrogging Delta Management in Myanmar – Showcase smart information solutions in the Ayeyarwady Delta

In January 2017, a new innovation project funded by the Partners for Water programme started as a follow-up of the Bago-Sittaung " learning-by-doing project" . Under the umbrella of VPdelta, seven start-ups and two SME's will test and demonstrate innovations in Myanmar. For example, TU Delft start-up Disdro took part in a measurement campaign to chart the flow of the country's largest river, the Irrawaddy. The delegation took with them 15 specially-made GPS trackers and 400 balloons with LED lights to help complete the task. Once the devices were put to water, the team tracked their progress as they travelled several hundred kilometres downstream. Using this method, the team collected data on the variations in the flow rate of the river. The team also measured the quality of the water. The data will be used to calibrate a model of the river's hydraulics and water quality. More information on that campaign can be found in the links below:

<http://www.citg.tudelft.nl/actueel/social-media/irrawaddy-in-kaart-met-ballonnen-en-gps-trackers/>

<http://www.tudelft.nl/en/current/latest-news/article/detail/irrawaddy-in-kaart-met-ballonnen-en-gps-trackers/>

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## **6. Conferences and exhibitions: MyanWater / Myanmar Water 2017**

In 2017 the following two conferences and exhibitions are expected to take place, which may be relevant for the Dutch water sector:

19 – 31 March 2017 – **Myanmar Infrastructure Summit 2017**

Venue: Sule Shangri-La, Yangon Myanmar

This summit is supported by the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC), Myanmar Investors Development Association (MIDA), Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association (MCEA), and Myanmar Engineering Society (MES) along with key stakeholders, the Government of Myanmar plans to pursue balanced territorial development with the aim to upgrade its infrastructure capacities to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth as the fundamental of economic development.

This year's theme is "*Accelerating Myanmar's Infrastructure Development for Sustainable Growth*", MIS2017 is set to provide a platform for potential foreign investors, infrastructure developers, technology providers and infrastructure funders to be updated on the development plans and policies of investing in Myanmar's urban and rural infrastructure; to assess market opportunities and at the same time build potential business and investment networks with the local policy makers and industry players.

06-07 June 2017: **ASEAN Ports & Shipping 2017**

<http://www.transportevents.com/ForthcomingEventsdetails.aspx?EventID=EV E133>

Venue: Sule Shangri-La Hotel, Yangon, Myanmar

October 2017, **Oil & Gas Myanmar 2017**

Venue: Myanmar Convention Centre, Mindhamma Road, Mayangon Township  
Yangon, Myanmar

<http://ogmyanmar.com/>

26-28 October 2017 - **Myanmar Water**

<http://www.myanwater.com/>

Venue: Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall  
Yangon, Myanmar

23 – 25 November 2017 – **MyanWater ' 17**

<http://www.myanwater.org/>

Venue: New Expo Hall  
Yangon, Myanmar

In case the sector expresses sufficient interest, a Holland pavilion could be arranged for the above mentioned events, next to some extra matchmaking and networking events. If you are interested to attend one of these exhibitions, please indicate your interest to Lindsey Schwidder ([l.schwidder@nwp.nl](mailto:l.schwidder@nwp.nl)).

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## 7. Other possibilities and contact information

Several developments are taking place in Myanmar, varying from dredging and port developments to irrigation and wastewater treatment. If you are interested in a specific water related sector, please contact us via the contact details below.

### *E-mail contact*

Contact person on Water Affairs in Myanmar: [armand.evers@minbuza.nl](mailto:armand.evers@minbuza.nl)

Embassy of the Kingdom of The Netherlands in Myanmar: [YAN@minbuza.nl](mailto:YAN@minbuza.nl)

NWP: Lindsey Schwidder [l.schwidder@nwp.nl](mailto:l.schwidder@nwp.nl)

RVO: Fernanda van der Velde, [fernanda.vandervelde@rvo.nl](mailto:fernanda.vandervelde@rvo.nl)

### *Websites*

Embassy of the Kingdom of The Netherlands in Myanmar:  
<http://myanmar.nlembassy.org/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/netherlandsmissionmyanmar>

Embassy of Myanmar in Brussel: [www.embassyofmyanmar.be](http://www.embassyofmyanmar.be)

Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce: [www.umfcci.net](http://www.umfcci.net)

Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP): [www.nwp.nl](http://www.nwp.nl)

Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO): [www.rvo.nl](http://www.rvo.nl)

Partners voor Water: <http://www.partnersvoorwater.nl/>