About the World Economic Forum on East Asia
Since 1992 there have been 22 World Economic Forum meetings in the region, including Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Vietnam, Japan, Indonesia and Thailand.

After a series of bold economic and political reforms in Myanmar, the World Economic Forum on East Asia will be the first leading international gathering of senior decision-makers from industry, government, academia and civil society to be held in the country. Through this unique multistakeholder platform, the meeting will be an unrivalled opportunity to understand and to shape Myanmar’s ongoing reforms and reconciliation process.

In addition, Myanmar assumes the chairmanship of ASEAN* in 2014, it will have a critical role in guiding the bloc’s 10-member economies towards the planned economic integration in 2015. In this context, the 22nd World Economic Forum on East Asia will be an exceptional opportunity not only for leaders from the ASEAN region, but also for those who see in the ASEAN countries a major evolving geopolitical and geo-economic pillar of the global economy.

*ASEAN (The Association of Southeast Asian Nations) is a geopolitical and economic organization of 10 countries in Southeast Asia: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

Main Themes of the Meeting

Inspiring Inclusive Transformation
Discussing how Myanmar will balance rapid social, economic and political reforms while ensuring equitable and sustainable growth, employment creation and resource security. Plus, broader issues relating to Myanmar’s democracy, human capital and jobs market.

Realizing Regional Integration
Discussing how ASEAN’s emerging and fast-growing economies such as Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar become better connected to the region through improved infrastructure. Unifying ASEAN’s efforts to strengthen risk resilience, promoting inclusive growth while staying competitive in the global investment market.

Regional Solutions for Global Resilience
Discussing how Asian innovations in energy, sustainability and resource management can address global challenges. Forging foreign and local partnerships to reach regional development goals. How will government and institutions develop the financial policies to manage inflation, capital outflows and rebalance growth towards greater domestic and regional demand?
What to Watch at the World Economic Forum on East Asia

If you wish to cover any of the stories below or you need help with interviews, please contact:
Vivian Yang vivian.yang@weforum.org or Fon Mathuros fmathuro@weforum.org

Workshop on Myanmar’s Competitiveness
The World Economic Forum’s Global Competitiveness Report assesses countries’ business operating environment based on a number of factors related to productivity. With its recent transition, Myanmar is opening to an array of opportunities to become a highly competitive country in the ASEAN region. Although the country is not yet included in a number of international data assessments, the World Economic Forum on East Asia will host a workshop on competitiveness to mobilize and foster dialogue on the important factors determining a country’s competitive strengths.

The workshop on Myanmar’s competitiveness, on Friday 7 June from 07.30 – 09.15, will bring together business executives and policy-makers and experts from Myanmar and abroad, to discuss ways to improve the country’s enabling factors. To learn more visit http://www.weforum.org/issues/global-competitiveness

Enabling Trade Initiative
Reforms of trade regulation in South East Asia could add 9.3% to the region’s GDP. ASEAN integration is helping to drive progress, yet foreign investors, local enterprises and the clamour for jobs are keeping the pressure on the need to reduce practical barriers and connect to global supply chains. The Wold Economic Forum’s Global Enabling Trade programme is exploring what actions are under way to enable trade with Myanmar. Particular focus will be on smart customs as a way to enhance investment and trade. Learn more at http://www.weforum.org/reports/global-enabling-trade-report-2012

Creating efficient and sustainable healthcare in East Asia
Transforming the health ecosystem in East Asia is becoming increasingly urgent as healthcare spending has consistently outpaced economic growth in the past 50 years. Creating the path to sustainability involves the development of healthy cities and environments as well as innovation in healthcare delivery, and leveraging big data. Many of the health burdens of developed economies such as non-communicable diseases and fragmented delivery systems present challenges to both populations and governments. Additionally, infectious diseases and maternal and child mortality continue to burden the health systems as well. To address all these issues on the regional health landscape and globally, the World Economic Forum brings leaders together to enable health systems transformation through an integrated health eco-system and the identification of leapfrogging opportunities to avoid system pitfalls experienced in developed economies. For more information visit http://www.weforum.org/issues/global-health

Mining and Infrastructure: Collaboration to Deliver Greater Value
The Mining and Infrastructure Industries could create greater value through closer collaboration. The Mineral Value Management Framework, developed under the Forum’s Responsible Mineral Development Initiative (RMDI), defines infrastructure as one of the seven key value-adds that the mining industry can bring to society. Given Myanmar's decades of under-investment in infrastructure and the large economic potential in resource development, the role that both industries, with support from the government, can play to unlock growth potential will be critical. The World Economic Forum is hosting a private meeting, Mining & Infrastructure: Collaboration to Deliver Greater Value, to convene the top decision-makers from the relevant industries and governments. They will explore three key areas: delivery of sufficient infrastructure; better capital flow in resource development; and fulfilment of the role of business. The insights shared by the participants at the meeting will serve as a valuable basis of the Forum’s cross-industry initiative that is currently under development.
Learn more at http://www.weforum.org/issues/responsible-mineral-development-initiative

Regional Leaders Seek to Harness the Power of ICT to Drive Growth
As Myanmar continues to ride the wave of momentum from recent political and economic reforms, a spotlight is being cast on the transformational potential of its ICT to deliver economic and social value for national competitiveness and global integration. While opportunities are enormous, challenges loom large in addressing weak infrastructure, electricity shortages, a growing digital divide and low consumption.
The ICT Summit will bring key industry players and policy-makers together to examine the regulatory frameworks, incentive models and public-private collaboration required to accelerate the development of
digital infrastructure while concentrating resources in areas with the greatest potential for success. Results of
the ASEAN's rankings in the 2013 edition of the Global Information Technology Report will be assessed to
explore links between the uptake of ICT and national competitiveness. The summit will also address the
build-up and transformation of the media industry in Myanmar as the country opens up to the world.

Achieving the New Vision for Agriculture
Agriculture has been an engine for economic growth and development in Southeast Asia, lifting millions out
of poverty and positioning the region and potential powerhouses, such as Myanmar, to be a source of global
food security. Today the region faces new challenges to meet growing demand, with risks from natural
resource scarcity, shocks from food price volatility, and climate change. The World Economic Forum’s New
Vision for Agriculture initiative facilitates public-private collaboration to realize a vision of agriculture as a
driver of food security, environmental sustainability and economic opportunity worldwide. With a focus on
strengthening public-private collaboration, the initiative has catalyzed collaborative action and leadership
commitment at global, regional and country levels. The initiative has developed an innovative win-win
partnership model for accelerating sustainable agricultural growth that is now being implemented in 12
countries (including Vietnam and Indonesia).

In Myanmar, global and regional leaders from business, government, civil society, academia and farmers will
engage in an interactive workshop to brainstorm and identify opportunities to enhance the agriculture
sector’s role as a driver of food security, environmental sustainability and economic opportunity in Southeast
Asia and Myanmar, in particular.

Learn more at http://www.weforum.org/issues/agriculture-and-food-security#nva

ASEAN Integration and Myanmar Labour Needs
Members of the Global Agenda Council on South-East Asia will engage in multilateral dialogues with
Members of the Global Growth Companies Community (GCC), key business leaders in the region, heads of
international organizations and ASEAN government representatives. The Council will work with relevant
regional players to implement good practices to enhance the development agenda of ASEAN and Myanmar.
At the Myanmar session, participants will engage in dialogues with key national players on the country’s
labour needs. Participants will discuss recommendations from regional experts and share insights from the
World Economic Forum’s Talent Mobility Good Practices report, with the aim of providing next steps for
Myanmar to address labour issues as expressed by Aung San Suu Kyi at the 2012 World Economic Forum
on East Asia. The Network of Global Agenda Councils is a global community of over 1,500 thought leaders
who are the foremost experts from academia, business, government, international organizations and civil
society.

Corruption as an Emerging Business Risks in Myanmar
Myanmar is undergoing tremendous change. New market dynamics are taking shape on an emerging
playing field, but one where the risk of corruption is also emerging, with the potential to damage the
investment environment. The World Economic Forum will organize a roundtable through its Partnering
Against Corruption Initiative (PACI). The aim is to discuss transparency challenges in the aviation, travel and
tourism value chains, with a focus on the Asia-Pacific region. This will be the first of a series of regional
dialogues under PACI, tailored for the aviation and travel industry sectors.

Learn more at http://www.weforum.org/issues/partnering-against-corruption-initiative

Building the Investment and Financial Services Ecosystem for Myanmar
Myanmar has a rare opportunity to be the first country that is opening its markets to foreign investors and
setting investment policies aligned with responsible investing, robust economic growth and inclusive financial
markets. The Financial Services and Investors Industries communities of the World Economic Forum will
convene a day-long meeting on creating the financial and economic ecosystem conducive to Myanmar’s
economic growth and financial stability. The meeting will include leaders from global and South-East Asian
financial institutions, with representation from countries around the world that are investing in the region’s
future. The World Economic Forum, through its multistakeholder initiatives (Financial Development Report,
Long-term Investing, Green Growth, New Models in Entrepreneurship), is well-positioned to contribute to this
great challenge.

Building Peace in Myanmar
Myanmar has recently embarked on an important political transformation with great potential to advance the
resolution of on-going conflict in that nation. Yet, achieving lasting peace is a project that all sectors of
society and all actors must be firmly committed to. Laying the foundations upon which peace can be
constructed requires greater understanding, trust and practical collaboration between government, civil
society, the international community and the private sector. The Global Agenda Council has created a cross sector network to help contribute to peace-building in Myanmar. The publication Natural Riches? Perspectives on Natural Resources management in conflict-affected countries will be launched during a private meeting on partnerships for peace building in Myanmar on June 6.

Travel and Tourism Meeting
The World Economic Forum is organizing a one-day Travel and Tourism Meeting around the theme “Building Myanmar’s Travel & Tourism Industry – Driving Growth and Jobs Creation”, which will focus on competitiveness, travel facilitation, infrastructure, sustainability and the industry's inclusivity.

Myanmar is starting to open up its borders to tourism and foreign investment. In 2012, Myanmar recorded its first 1 million foreign visitors. The Tourism Ministry reported an almost 30% rise in arrivals in 2012 to 1,060,000, from about 800,000 the year before. Myanmar’s tourism industry is at a crossroads and there is an urgent need to develop a sound blueprint for the industry to ensure that it balances sustainable growth with national economic aspirations. The Forum is ideally placed to convene national, regional and international experts to help Myanmar set its priorities and develop the pillars of competitiveness that will drive the sector for the future.

Learn more please visit http://www.weforum.org/issues/travel-and-tourism-competitiveness

A Study on Myanmar’s New Energy Architecture
The World Economic Forum’s New Energy Architecture Initiative assesses how countries can enable an effective transition to more secure, sustainable and affordable energy systems. The report is the culmination of a six-month multistakeholder study into Myanmar’s energy architecture and will be launched and discussed within a broader energy summit at the World Economic Forum on East Asia. As part of this initiative, the Forum is collaborating with the Ministry of Energy of Myanmar, Accenture and the Asian Development Bank to help support Myanmar’s energy policy reform, after successful studies in Thailand, India and Japan.

Forum Communities at the Meeting

The Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship
The World Economic Forum on East Asia will be attended by 17 outstanding social entrepreneurs from around the world. Social Entrepreneurs are innovators who implement practical and sustainable solutions to address challenges in areas such as health, education, environment, job creation and access to technology. Whether they are for-profit entities, hybrid social ventures or not-for-profit organizations, their primary focus is transformational social change. Social entrepreneurs develop a revenue stream through the sale of products, services, and fees, or develop key partnerships to achieve sustainability. For more information, visit www.schwabfound.org, Twitter http://www.twitter.com/schwabfound Blog http://www.forumblog.org/socialentrepreneurs Facebook http://www.facebook.com/schwabfound

Global Growth Companies from Asia
The World Economic Forum’s Community of Global Growth Companies (GGC) was formed in 2007 to engage dynamic, high-growth companies with the potential to be tomorrow’s industry leaders and to become a driving force of economic and social change. A unique strength of the Community is that it provides a platform from which leaders of the most dynamic organizations can address key issues in further developing their companies and contributing to economic and social development.

As of March 2013, more than 350 companies from over 50 countries had been admitted to the GGC Community. Asia has been strongly engaged in the Community and today has one of the largest representations with a total of 200 from all over Asia, including South Korea and Japan, and from every sector, especially information technology and electronics, retail and consumer goods and banking.

Global Shapers in East Asia
The Global Shapers Community is a network of Hubs developed and led by young people between the ages of 20 and 30, who are exceptional in their potential, achievements and drive to make a positive contribution to their communities. There are nearly 30 Hubs established in East Asia as part of the World Economic Forum's commitment to help young people make a positive and tangible impact on their society. Shapers are working on a range of initiatives, including support for communities after the earthquake in Japan, a campaign to raise awareness of traffic safety in Hanoi, a knowledge project aimed at establishing 200 public
libraries in the Philippines, support for carers for the elderly in Hong Kong, and employment workshops for students in Kuala Lumpur. Twenty-five Shapers will represent the Global Shapers Community at the World Economic Forum on East Asia. For more information, contact maxwell.hall@weforum.org. Learn more at www.globalshapers.org.

Young Global Leaders (YGLs) Annual Summit
This year, 300 YGLs from across the world will gather for an annual summit in Yangon. The aim is to give them the chance to understand Myanmar in more depth, to build relationships with local leaders and organizations and to share their impressions.

Nineteen Impact Journeys in Yangon on June 4 are structured along the themes like arts and culture, business in Myanmar, capacity building, urban development or healthcare services and are open to the media. If you wish to attend one of them, please contact maxwell.hall@weforum.org by Monday 13 May.

On Wednesday 5 June, the YGLs will join the World Economic Forum meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. The programme will offer insight blasts – small presentations featuring innovating ideas from YGLS in an interactive format and will be an opportunity to initiate new dialogues for action on issues such as entrepreneurship and education. New members of the YGL Class of 2013 will meet with their community peers. If you wish to arrange an interview or meet with one of the Young Global Leaders, contact maxwell.hall@weforum.org. Read more at www.youngglobaleaders.org.

Private Pre-Summit Events on 5th June
Before the start of the official World Economic Forum on East Asia on 6 to 7 June, the World Economic Forum is hosting five private mini-summits on 5 June in Nay Pyi Taw at Myanmar International Convention Centre. These sessions are off the record although some are open to Reporting Press upon sign up. Should accredited reporters wish to cover some part of these events, sign up is required. Please contact vivian.yang@weforum.org for sign-up and access to sessions.

- Travel and Tourism High Level Meeting (13.30 – 19.30) (Limited sessions for reporting press)
  Building Myanmar’s Travel & Tourism Industry: Driving Growth and Job Creation

- Financial Services and Investors Summit (9.00 – 16.00) Off the record
  Includes sessions that address how Myanmar approaches the challenges that stem from being both the hottest emerging market and the most underdeveloped in the East Asian region

- Accelerating ASEAN’s Integration and Conversation with Myanmar Business Leaders
  Wednesday 5 June 14:15 - 16:30 (Open to reporting press)

- Inclusive Development Summit (09.00 – 8.00) Off the record
  Includes sessions that point to opportunities for Myanmar and the region to ensure that growth and development successfully engage and benefit citizens across all social groups and economic sectors

- Information and Communication Technologies Summit (12.00 – 18.00) Off the record

- Energy Summit (12.00 – 17.45) Off the record
  Courageous Transformation for Inclusion and Integration
Useful Links

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