

## Statement on behalf of Ambassador of India at the MDCF 28-01-2014

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to me, Gautam

Excellency,

Yesterday, at the second session, my Ambassador made a short intervention from the floor on the volume, spirit and content of our development assistance to Myanmar and its future direction with a focus on investments and rural development. I would like to elaborate on a few points (on behalf of the Embassy/Ambassador of India).

In the area of investments, we believe there are five broad areas where our post-independence development model and experiences can help meet Myanmar's priorities as spelt out yesterday and today, and where we may have some relative or comparative advantages. They are in the areas of agricultural and industrial development, education & training, economic reforms, legislation and regulation, and services like IT and health.

In agriculture, India can offer the accumulated experience of its Green Revolution of the 1970s that transformed India from a famine prone country at the time of independence to a food surplus country through the farmer-based development of its whole livestock and agriculture chain from scientific research (ACARE, Rice Bio Park), extension methods, irrigation, fertilizers and farm equipment, to post harvest processing and technologies for Myanmar's agricultural growth.

In the area of industry we can offer our model of development of domestic industry rooted in the concept of 'swadeshi' or 'self-made' industry as part of our struggle for independence, reinforced by values of 'self-reliance', post-independence, and international partnerships and inter-dependence with our economic reforms of the 1990s and adaptation to globalization. Indian industry has been built on a broad base of hundreds of thousands of small and medium labour intensive industries distributed over the length and breadth of the country that can partly offset the risks of a narrow and skewed model of economic ownership based on big international companies and privileged domestic partners.

Third, India can offer its experience of training and education, especially English-language based training and education which was strong in Myanmar until the 1960s to develop the skills required for a growing, modern economy.

Fourth, India can offer its experience of economic reforms and opening of the 1990s and therefore, perhaps, one cycle ahead of Myanmar's exciting current reforms, in the areas of

legislation, implementation and regulation in critical sectors like power, telecommunication, aviation, banking, finance etc.

Fifth, India can offer its experience in the broad area of services, but especially IT services and health.

Ambassador remarked yesterday that we have been a bit shy in involving ourselves too closely in the MDCF and Nay Pyi Taw Accord. This was not out of neglect. India does not consider itself a 'donor' country. The percentage, numbers and scale of poverty in India far exceed that of Myanmar. India's development assistance emanates from a belief that India's prosperity and economic security is tied to that of its immediate neighbourhood. Our philosophy and methods of aid delivery and cooperation too are different and we believe that implementation is best when coordinated and supervised by the recipient country. While we therefore prefer dealing with our development partners bilaterally we are not against aid coordination and effectiveness. More of more of our small development projects under which we fund schools, health centres and bridges in remote areas, and Lines of Credit, are implemented by the Myanmar government. Our experience of such implementation has been good. We are not too comfortable with the outcomes of the Paris, Accra and Busan conferences on aid coordination and effectiveness. Nevertheless, there are many areas where our objectives are common and philosophies not dissimilar, where we see value in working together with the international community for Myanmar's people-centred development, as, in particular we are doing increasingly with UN organizations. We would be happy to contribute more to the MDCF process within this spirit.

Chezu Timbare.

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