A New Step towards Myanmar Germany Cooperation

The elections in November 2010 changed Myanmar’s political system fundamentally. Since March 2011 Myanmar has again officially a civilian government, which after years of political and economic isolation has introduced initial reforms towards democratization and opening up the economy.

In light of these reform efforts, the European Union has lifted the sanctions on Myanmar. This has enabled Germany to resume its development cooperation after suspending activities for nearly twenty years.

During his visit to Myanmar in February 2012 German Federal Minister Niebel announced that German development cooperation will be further expanded in the priority area of sustainable economic development.

Projects Implemented on behalf of the Federal German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development:

- Private Sector Development
- Financial Sector Development
- Technical and Vocational Education and Training

Private Sector Development

Project Title: Capacity Strengthening for Private Sector Development in Myanmar
Implementing Partner: Ministry of Industry
Duration: 33 Months
Budget: EUR 4,500,000

Background
The Myanmar German Private Sector Development Project promotes sustainable private sector development and broad-based job-creation by strengthening institutional, political and technical framework conditions and capacities. In order to support local economic development on the ground, the project will open its first branch office in Taunggyi in mid-2013.

Objective
The project aims at strengthening capacities for sustainable private sector development with focus on improved services for small and medium enterprises (SME) in Myanmar.

Approach
By providing advisory services to Ministries as well as Chamber of Commerce, sector associations and civil society organisations the project contributes to coherent planning and implementation of economic promotion measures on all levels. Measures range from technical and procedural assistance to SME related law drafting processes and economic policy development to advice to public and private institutions in expanding their services to SME. This includes a comprehensive training programme for entrepreneurs and start-ups well as support to selected value chains.
Background
An efficient and stable financial sector is prerequisite for sustainable economic development. The financial sector in Myanmar needs to reach international standards in order to fulfil its role as intermediary.

Objective
The financial sector development project aims at supporting Myanmar stakeholders in creating an inclusive and stable banking sector.

Approach
The project supports the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) in promoting and creating stable and enabling framework conditions for banks. It cooperates with bank training providers as well as banks in order to foster the development of human resources. The project actively advises banks in their efforts to offer sustainable financial services to SME.

Support activities to the above mentioned key actors comprise of specific technical and institutional advice as well as human capacity building measures.

Background
Demand-oriented and flexible TVET is an important prerequisite for accelerating socioeconomic transformation. Recognizing the crucial role of an educated and skilled workforce for economic development and poverty reduction, the Government of Myanmar has launched interventions on various levels. Germany is amongst others one of the key supporters to TVET in Myanmar.

Objective
The project aims at supporting the Government of Myanmar to orient the TVET system sustainably towards the needs of the labour market within a dynamic economy. Thus, the quality and quantity of skilled workers will be raised.

Approach
Interventions on different mutually reinforcing levels in close cooperation with key ministries like MoI, MoLES and MoE intend to foster stakeholder cooperation, communication and the use of institutional best practice on the policy level.

The upgrading of the ITC Sinde in terms of equipment and training standards is directly linked to the capacity development of the National Skills Standards authority and the policy advice to the Comprehensive Education Sector Review.