

# Highlights from MMN's CSOs Meeting in Yangon

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# MMN's CSOs Meeting in Yangon



17 Representatives from 12 local organisations

# Objectives of the Meeting

- To introduce MMN and its activities;
- To exchange information, ideas and experiences about labour and migration; and
- To identify key issues for the network's activities in Myanmar.

# PEST Analysis

- Analysis of current Migration and Labour environment in Burma/Myanmar based on the changes in:
  - Politics and Legal Framework
  - Economy
  - Society
  - Technology

# Politics and Legal Framework

## Opportunities

- Govt's increased awareness
- More Freedom of Speech
- More CSOs and NGOs in labour rights movements
- More labour rights movements led by workers and migrants abroad
- Parliament discusses labour issues more
- More media freedom
- Myanmar being the chair of ASEAN in 2015

## Challenges

- Govt officials are less interested and lack knowledge and expertise
- Suppression of trade unions
- No proper implementation of labour laws
- Lack of/limited capacity of opposition parties and MPs
- Weak rule of law → no guarantee of freedom of speech

# Economy

## Opportunities

- Wages rise due to increasing FDI
- Companies competing for skilled workers
- More job and employment opportunities
- Provision of social welfare to workers
- More advance tools/materials for goods production
- More medical services available & Govt plans to introduce mobile clinics
- CSR: ...% of companies goes to charities
- US companies (FDI more than 500,000) have to follow specific code of conducts (e.g. no forced labour) → might influence practices of local companies

## Challenges

- No effective implementation of labour laws
- No minimum wage
- More internal migrants in SEZs → impacts on city planning & basic social services
- Shortage of farm workers in rural areas → decreased food production
- Increasing social problems
- No decent housing conditions
- Workers with no household registration have to report regularly
- CSOs need referral system
- (Need to do in depth research on US policies)

# Society

## Opportunities

- More CSOs can do more work on awareness raising
- Can protest freely; people organize protests more often
- More trade unions have office in YGN
- More networks like ITUC & ILO
- Networking with local, regional and international orgs strengthened
- More draft laws, policies and regulations
- Social media's reporting on labour rights issues strengthened
- Stronger cooperation from public media

## Challenges

- Competitions b/w CSOs & no unity
- Inaccurate information disseminated
- No follow up action from the govt & lack of monitoring process if demands are met
- Confrontations b/w workers & govt; employers & employees
- Some trade unions set up by govt & employers
- ITUC & ILO not inclusive; no contact with small unions/workers groups
- External influences not compatible with local cultures and practices
- Lack of time for consultation; delay in the process; less inputs from various stakeholders
- No concrete media protection law

# Technology

## Opportunities

- For migrants, it's easier to call back home
- Provision of Emergency Services (e.g. MOLES's hotline)
- Compilation of data on registered/documentated migrants and workers in Burma by MOLES
- Uploading data on the MOLES's website

## Challenges

- Not accessible everywhere by everyone
- SIM card is very expensive (\$100-200)
- Govt can arrest people who are using the Thai phone
- ES not effective and efficient
- Hotline: no one picks up
- Govt's data does not represent the whole population
- Lack of technical capacity → no updated data
- Govt does not transform data into action



Any questions or comments??

Thank you!

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