



MYANMAR'S FOREIGN POLICY AND CONTEMPORARY MYANMAR-RUSSIA BILATERAL RELATIONS

H.E. MR. LWIN OO
AMBASSADOR OF MYANMAR TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION



ECONOMIC FORUM
ΦΟΡΥΜ

CONGRESS

Myanmar's Foreign Policy and Contemporary Myanmar-Russia Bilateral Relations

- **Introduction**
- **Brief history of Myanmar**
- **Myanmar's foreign policy**
- **Establishment of diplomatic relations**
- **Bilateral relations.**
- **Bilateral cooperation**
- **Conclusion**

❑ The first Myanmar Empire was founded by King Anawrahta in 849 AD

❑ It was King Bayintnaung of the Toungoo-Hanthawady Dynasty who founded the second Myanmar Empire on 1516 AD

❑ The Third which is also the last Myanmar Empire was founded by King Alaungpaya of Konbaung Dynasty in 1752 AD



❑ The name "Myanmar" is our original; meaning of "Myanmar" is "tough and swift"



❑ The British imperialists invaded Myanmar three times in the years 1824, 1852 and 1885



❑ When the Unity of Myanmar shattered, after the last one, the whole country was colonized and named "BURMA" by the British



□ King Thibaw, along with his Queen, family were exiled to India



□ India's last Emperor Bahadur Zafar Shah exiled to Myanmar and died as an ordinary person

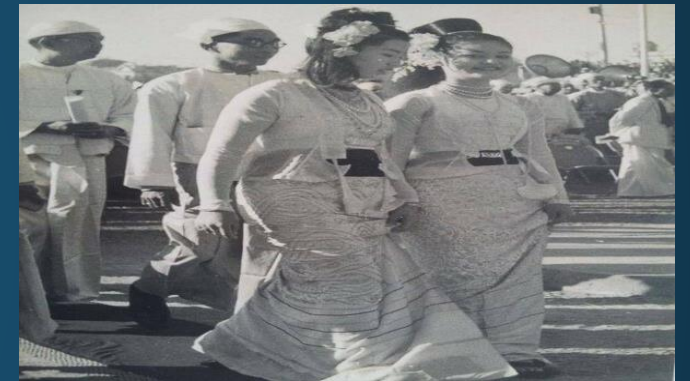


□ His tomb is still in Yangon, often visited by dignitaries from South Asian countries

❑ After long, bitter and hard struggle with much loss of lives and tremendous sacrifices by our people, Myanmar regained its independence on 4th January 1948

❑ Upon regaining the independence, multiparty democracy and market-oriented economic system

❑ Lack of unity among leading parties in the Parliament led to formation of caretaker government led by General Ne Win; general





❑ On 1960 March, the elected U Nu government came into power; reassuming of multiparty democracy system, fine economy but failure of political system led to disintegration, disunity among national races

❑ Revolutionary Council assumed state power on 2nd March, 1962; Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP) was established and governed by one-party system of administration, based on socialist principles



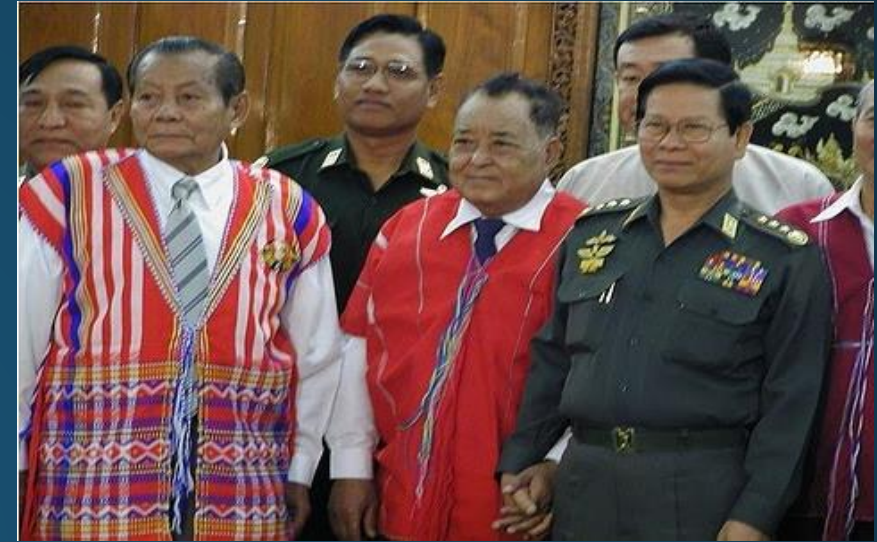
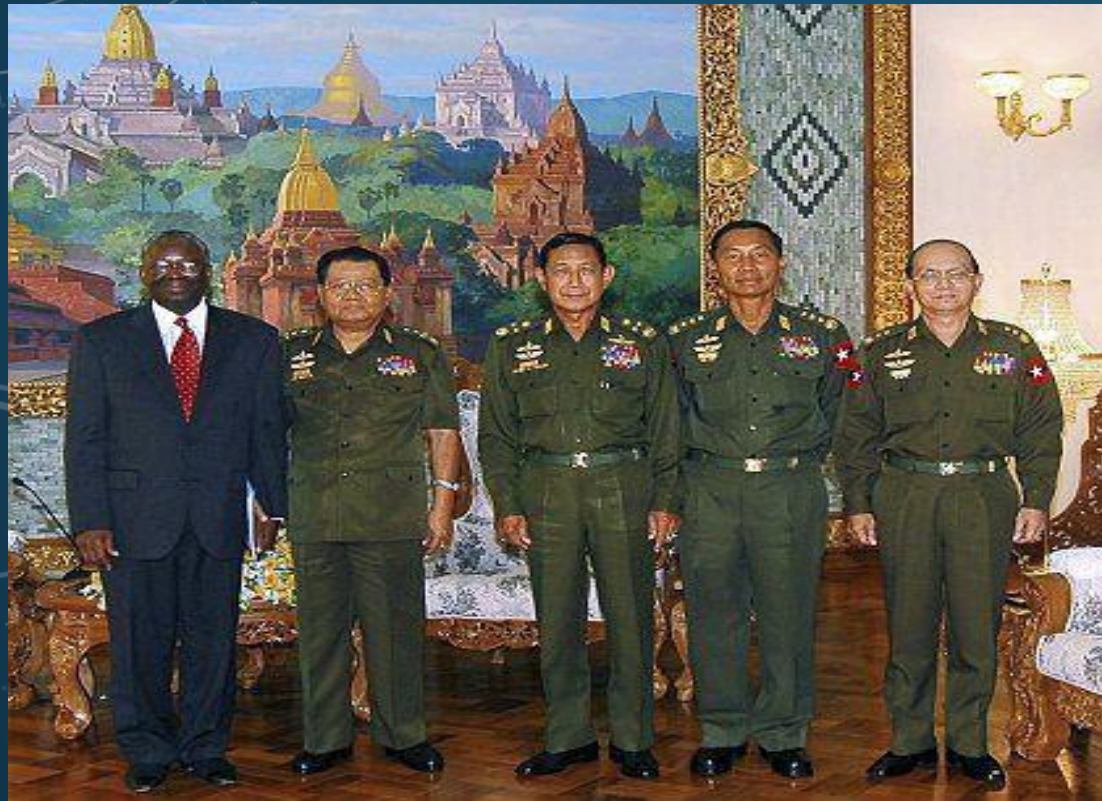
❑ A new Constitution was adopted by referendum in 1974

❑ 1962-1988 was the period of Socialism, practicing centrally-planned economy system led to economic chaos and failure



❑ In 1988, the military took power again and formed the SLORC (State Law and Order Restoration Council)

❑ SLORC government succeeded in making peace agreements with 17 out of 18 ethnic armed groups across the country



❑ In 1997 November, government name is changed from SLORC to State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), with the intention of building the country to become a peaceful and modern one

❑ SPDC strived for the emergence of a new State Constitution 2008 so that a genuine multi-party democracy system can flourish in



❑ In November 2010, multi-party democracy elections were held

❑ On 31st January 2011, (Parliament) Hluttaw meeting was attended by the representatives elected by people





❑ SPDC systematically handed over the State Power to the President and newly-elected Government in 2011 March

❑ Since 2011, Myanmar took the path of multiparty democracy, in accord with 2008 Constitution

❑ 2010, 2015 General elections and by-elections in 2012 held by USDP government were free and fair

❑ However, major vote fraud was discovered in the 2020 elections; Tatmadaw's multiple requests to find a solution were rejected and ignored



❑ State of emergency introduced in accordance with 2008 Constitution; temporary transfer of State responsibility to Tatmadaw



❑ Taking state responsibilities inevitably in 2021 January, State Administration Council Government makes efforts to restore democracy, implements Five Point Road Map

❑ Currently making arrangements -

(1) to hold free and fair multi-party democratic elections

(2) to transfer state responsibility to the winning political party, at the end of the emergency period



❑ Recently, the emergency period had been extended again for six months to stabilize the situation so that all-inclusive general election can be convened

Facts on Myanmar

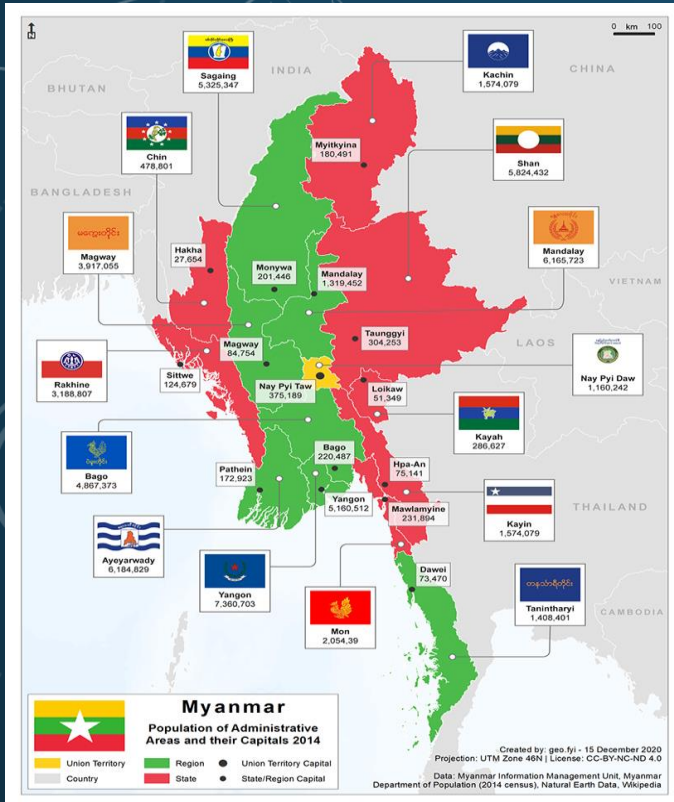
❑ Myanmar is neighbouring with five countries; China, India, Bangladesh, Thailand and Laos



❑ 135 national races in Myanmar; eight main races - Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan

❑ Estimated population nearly 54 million
 population growth rate 1.84 percent

❑ Constituted with seven Regions, seven States and the Union territories



- ❑ Main religion - Buddhist (89%), Christians (5%), Islams (4%), Hindus & others (2%)



- ❑ Head of State and Head of Government is the President. Legislature power is vested in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Parliament)

- ❑ Parliament is bi-cameral (2 chambers) comprising Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) and Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House)



MYANMAR'S FOREIGN POLICY

- ❑ Upon gaining Independence in 1948, Myanmar declared a policy of Positive Neutrality
- ❑ Since post-independence period, governments have steadfastly upheld Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence as the foundation of foreign policy according to history and geopolitics of Myanmar



Figure 13: Ali Sastroamidjojo (left), Prime Minister U Nu (1907–95) of Burma (centre), and Nehru (right) during a break. Image courtesy of the Museum of the Asian-African Conference, Bandung, Indonesia.

❑ In 1962, Revolutionary Council declared Positive Neutrality as its foreign policy



❑ In 1981, Fourth Party Congress of BSPP declared Independent and Active Foreign Policy

❑ 1971 First Party Congress of Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP) termed Myanmar's Foreign Policy as Independence Foreign Policy



❑ In 1988, State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) assumed power declared that Myanmar would continue to adhere to the Independence and Active Foreign Policy



❑ In 2008, after the promulgation of the State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, it practices Independent, Active and Non-aligned Foreign Policy

❑ Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence remain as Main Cornerstone of Myanmar Foreign Policy:

- 1) Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty;
- 2) To abide by mutual non-aggression;
- 3) Non-interference in each other's internal affairs;
- 4) Respect for mutual equality and to work for mutual benefit; and
- 5) Peaceful co-existence

❑ The State Administration Council Government has been serving the State's responsibilities in line with the State Constitution (2008); cooperating with international organizations such as the United Nations, ASEAN and BIMSTEC and other countries under international law, treaties and conventions

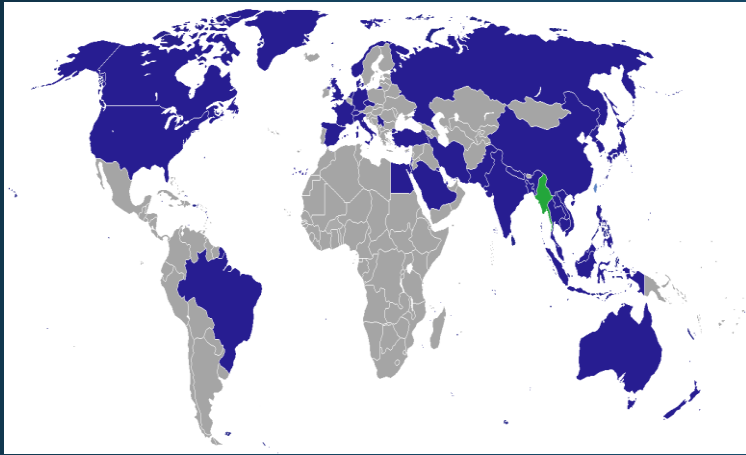


❑ Adhering to the foreign policy to safeguard sovereignty, security and interests of Myanmar, the Government places emphasis on global affairs and friendly relations with other countries, close cooperation with neighbouring countries; peace, stability and development endeavours of border areas



The Government always ensure for the peace, stability and development of neighbouring countries by adopting a practical policy of "not allowing any organizations to utilize Myanmar's territory to conduct activities against friendly neighbours"

ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS



☐ Myanmar has diplomatic relations with 125 countries; 33 Embassies, 3 permanent missions, 5 Consulate General offices abroad and soon-to-be opened CG offices in Minsk and Dubai

☐ Actively participate in regional and international organizations - 15 UN Agencies, ASEAN, BIMSTEC, GMS, ACMECS, NAM, ASEM, FEALAC, SAARC, CLMV

☐ Most recently granted in Shanghai Cooperation





BILATERAL RELATIONS



- ❑ Russia (former Soviet Union) is the sixth country among the first countries establishing diplomatic relations with Myanmar
- ❑ After Myanmar's independence in 1948, Russia and Myanmar established diplomatic ties on February 18, maintaining and promoting mutual relations
- ❑ This year is the 75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee of the establishment of diplomatic ties since we waxed and waned together for 75 years





BILATERAL RELATIONS



□ Lots of historical traditions regarding bilateral relationship; current development coincides with our Gautama Buddha's teachings of legend and myths full of charms and blessings

□ In the book "The biography of King Alaung Phayar U Aung Zeya", written by Pali expert U Saw, under the title "Revelation-Ally" states that

"After the Mouse King (Thoma) dug up the soil and made it an offering to the Buddha, the Lord Buddha accepted his offering and smiled. When his brother Ashin Ananda asked him about why he smiled, "Dear Ananda, this Mouse King will be one of the Russian King in next 2000 years. That Russian King will learn all kinds of weapons and become a

master of weapons. The King of Russia, who is the master of weapons, will be a friendly ally with the King of Myanmar”, the Buddha replied.

- ❑ Historical records show that communication between Myanmar and Russia began in the 15th century
- ❑ In 1873, during the reign of King Min Ton, during the last dynasty of the old Myanmar Kingdom, King Min Ton sent a memorandum through a Russian traveler to establish diplomatic relations with Russia
- ❑ In 1875, King Win Mingyi, Minister of Myanmar Kingdom, sent a memorandum (with his signature) to Russian Foreign Minister, Alexander Gorchakov stating that King of Myanmar wanted to establish relations with Russia



❑ Alexander Gorchakov replied that he had submitted the contents of the memorandum to Emperor Alexander II

❑ In 1876, Peter Shino, a Russian diplomat and an orientalist, visited Burma and reported to the Russian government that King Min Ton was interested in learning about the King Peter the Great

❑ Myanmar was stated to be wishing to send young Burmese royal servants to Russian military defense institutions for military education



❑ One copy of report addressed to Foreign Minister Alexander Gorchakov, sent through Peter Shino, another addressed to the Minister of Defense for Military Affairs, Dmitriy Milyutin; the plan was not actually implemented

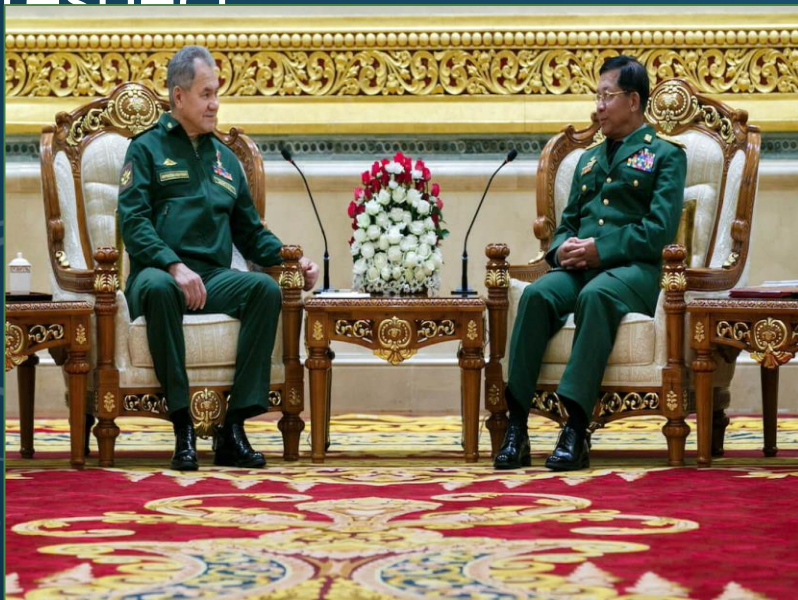


❑ During the last dynasty of the ancient Myanmar Kingdom, the Kon Boun Dynasty, Myanmar tried hard to build friendly relations with Russia



❑ In Myanmar's history of resisting colonialism, efforts of old Myanmar Kings and Nobles to establish diplomatic ties with Russia played an important role; little success due to the geopolitical situation at that time

❑ Over the last 7 decades, despite geographical distance, Myanmar - Russia have consistently maintained the amicable relations, built upon steadfast ground of friendship, understandings and mutual respect



❑ Myanmar always regards Russia as a true friend and appreciates its consistent and valuable support



- ❑ Russia – the biggest country in the world extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the Pole to the heartland of the world

- ❑ Myanmar located in South East Asia; its geostrategic position serves a land bridge that links between South East Asia and Central Asia



- ❑ Russia and Myanmar also shared the history of fighting the Nazi and Fascist

EXCHANGE OF VISITS



❑ Frequent exchange of high-level visits contributed to fostering bilateral relations



❑ Lots of exchange of visits at high level as well as senior official level between the two countries since the establishment of diplomatic relations

❑ In 1955, when the country was still being rebuilt, in October, Myanmar Prime Minister U Nu made his first goodwill visit to the Soviet Union





□ In return, the two leaders of the Soviet Union, Nikita Khrushchev and Nikolai Bulganin, visited Myanmar on a goodwill visit in December 1955



□ In 1960, a group led by Nikita Khrushchev visited Myanmar for the second time on a friendship trip



Министр иностранных дел СССР Андрей Андреевич Громыко (второй справа) принял генерального секретаря Организации Объединенных Наций У Тана (слева)



Сентябрь 1965 год, Премьер-министра Бирманского Союза У Не Вина в СССР



BILATERAL COOPERATION



- ❑ Myanmar and Russia cooperating since the establishment of diplomatic relations
- ❑ Many areas such as military, economy, education and sports and culture

- ❑ In January 1957, Myanmar(Burma) exported rice to the Soviet Union to mark the friendship



၁၉၅၅ ခုနှစ်တွင် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဝန်ကြီးချုပ်နှင့် ရုရှားနိုင်ငံ (ယခင် ဆိုဗီယက်) ခေါင်းဆောင်တို့ နိုင်ငံတည်ဆောက်ရေးလုပ်ငန်းများအတွက် လက်မှတ်ရေးထိုးစဉ်။

- ❑ Russia (Soviet Socialist Republic) handed over an Illusion airplane to Myanmar government as a present
- ❑ Assistance in building the Sao San Htun Hospital in Taunggyi, Yangon Institute of Technology, the Inya Lake Hotel in Yangon and the Kyat-Mauk-Taung Dam in Mandalay Region



- ❑ Construction of such infrastructure has brought many benefits to Myanmar and contributed to the development

ရုရှ - ဗမာ လေကြောင်း ပို့ရေး

၂ နိုင်ငံ သဘောတူစာချုပ် ချုပ်ဆို လိုက်ပုံ
ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံနှင့် ဆိုဗီယက်ဆီရယ်လစ်ပြည်ထောင်စု သမတနိုင်ငံတို့ နှစ်ပြည်ထောင် လေကြောင်းပို့ ဆောင်ရွက်ရန် တိုက်ရိုက်ဆက်သွယ်မှု အချိန်ရန် ရည်ရွယ်ချက်ဖြင့် နှစ်ပြည်ထောင်လေကြောင်းသယ်ယူပို့ဆောင်ရေးသဘောတူစာချုပ်တစ်ရပ်ကို ချုပ်ဆိုခဲ့ကြောင်း ဖော်ပြပါပုံရိပ်များတွင် တွေ့မြင်နိုင်ပါသည်။

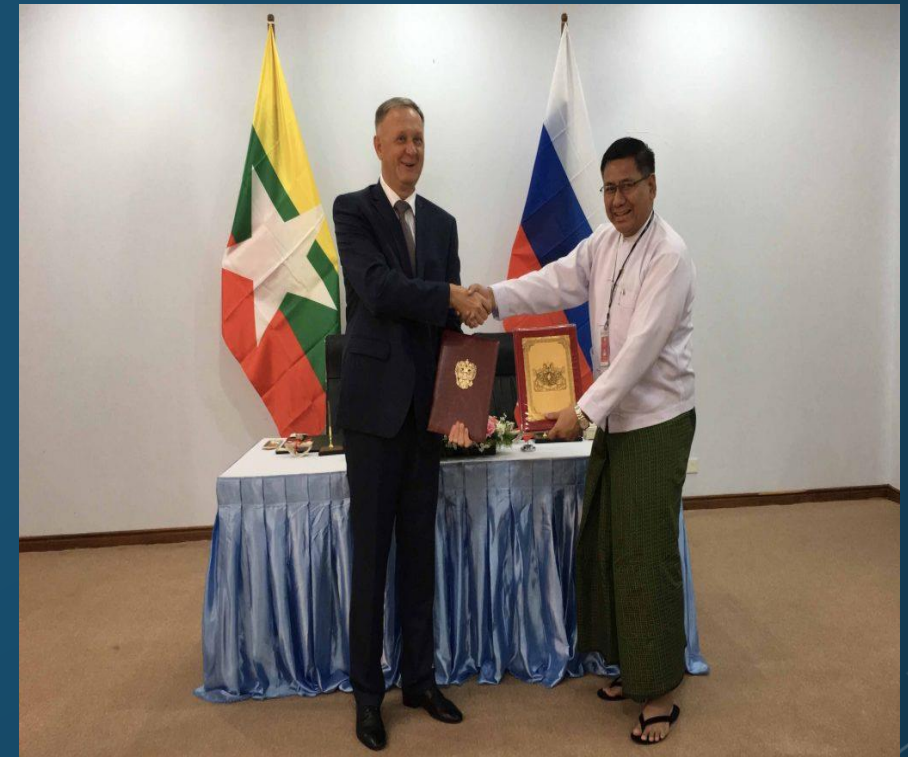


❑ In 1964, signed bilateral Air Service Agreement and Aeroflot flied directly to Yangon up to 1990



❑ In 1965, Chairman of State Revolutionary Council, General Ne Win travelled to Soviet Social Republic for goodwill visit and in 1970 there were exchange of culture and sports team delegations

- ❑ In 2009-2012, Myanmar served as the coordinator of the Russia-ASEAN Dialogue
- ❑ Signed Agreement on Cultural Cooperation, Agreement on the Exemption of Visas for Holders of Diplomatic and Service Passports
- ❑ In May 1999, Plan of Consultations between the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Myanmar Ministry of Foreign Affairs was signed with regular renewal



❑ H.E. Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs and H.E. Mr. Maxim Reshetnikov, Minister of Economic Development, H.E. Mr. Rustam Minnikhanov, Head of Republic of Tatarstan, Eurasian Economic Commission and businessmen made their visit to Myanmar during 2022

❑ H.E. Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs signed an Agreement and Plan of Consultations (2022-2024) with his counterpart H.E. Mr. Wunna Maung Lwin



❑ Seven MoUs regarding different economic sectors were signed during the visit of H.E. Mr. Maxim Reshetnikov

❑ Myanmar Government making endeavours to promote multi-sectoral cooperation

❑ Proved by the visits of Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Ministers to the Russian Federation last year



- During the private visit of Myanmar Prime Minister to Russia in July, two MoUs were signed between Myanmar Ministry of Science and Technology and ROSATOM
- In September, he attended the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok and met and discussed with President Putin Multi-sectoral cooperation

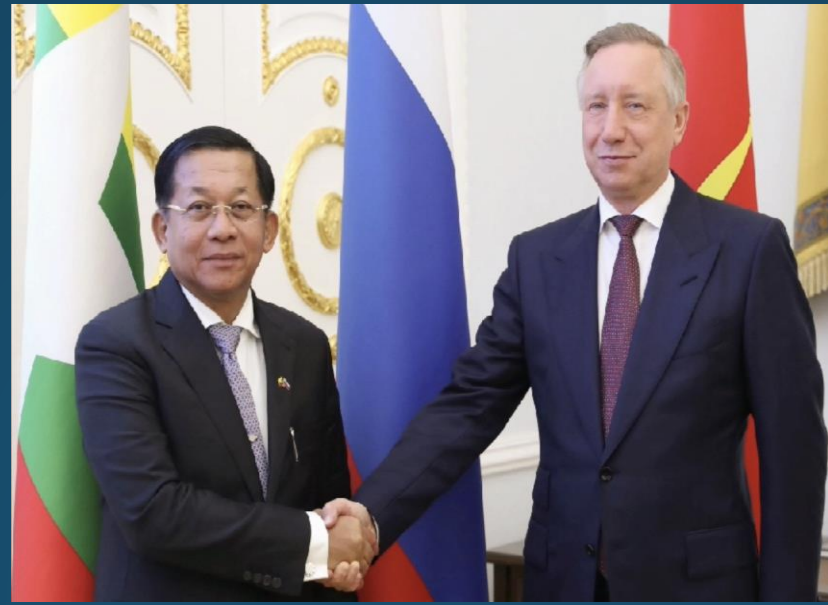




❑ In terms of economic cooperation in 2022, in St. Petersburg International Economic Forum; Myanmar invited Russian entrepreneurs to visit and invest in Myanmar's Petroleum and Energy sector



❑ Myanmar relevant Ministers and their delegation participated in various Fora hosted by Russia such as Russian Energy Week Forum, Seafood Expo Russia and Global Fishery Forum, Transport Week and ATOMEXPO Forum, International Military and Technical Forum, Judges' Forum and so forth

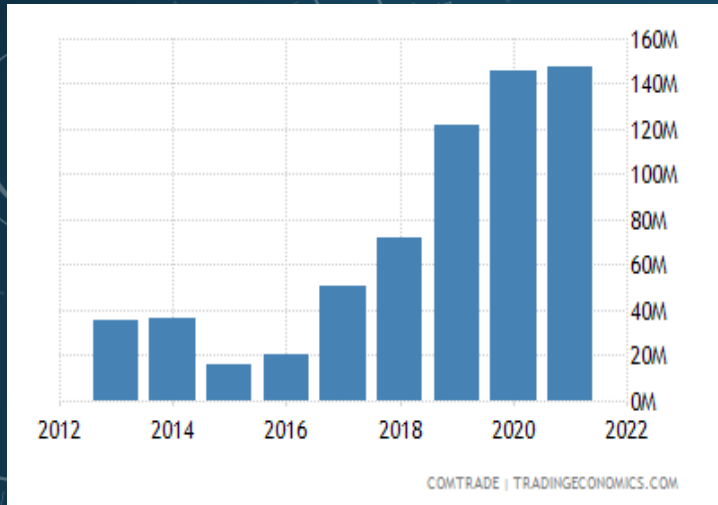


□ During these forums, Myanmar-Russia bilateral investment and trade promotion, economic cooperation development were also discussed



Union Minister for Electric Power and party informally meeting with Mr Alexander Shulginov, Secretary of the Chairman of the Forum Organizing Committee in Moscow

Photo of officials of Myanmar and Russia signing the bilateral agreement on cooperation in aquatic products sector



❑ Bilateral trade on the rise with gradual increase year by year

❑ In 2020-2021, export to Russia is US\$ 9.1 million and import from Russia is US\$ 6.6 million

❑ In 2022, increased to more than 335 million USD

❑ Bilateral joint big project is Pinpet Mining Project in Shan State in Myanmar, to produce iron ore; jointly invested by MEC (Myanmar Economic Cooperation) and Russian Tyazhpromexport





❑ Russia to Myanmar Principal export commodities - rice, garment, footwear, pulse, mineral, fuel and oil, fertilizer, chemical elements and compounds, edible oil, paper, paperboard and manufactures

❑ In addition to promoting trade and investment, significant cooperation in the area of peaceful use of nuclear energy for socio-economic development as well as aerospace and satellite technology



❑ Both sides trying to resume direct flight between Moscow & Yangon



❑ Recently, on Feb 6, 2023, "Nuclear Technology Information Centre" was opened in Yangon

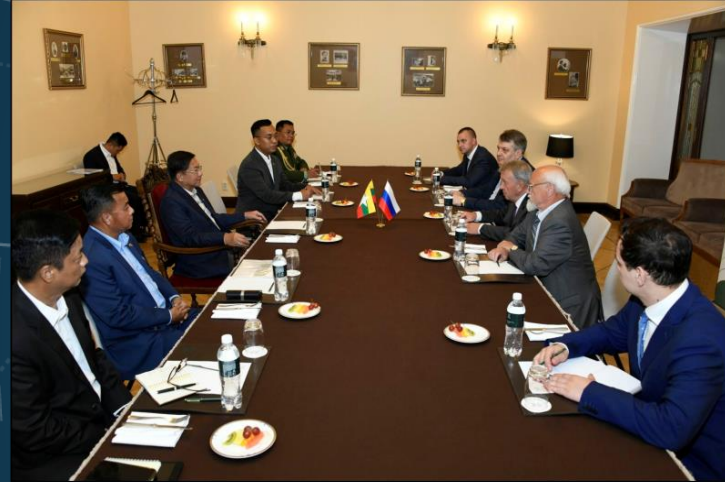
❑ In 1972, an educational exchange programs for students from the two countries were initiated. A total of 6000 Myanmar civilian students and military trainee officers passed from Russian universities

❑ At present, 500 students are studying Bachelor's, Master's and Ph.D and DSc programs in various Russian universities

❑ Myanmar language is studied in Moscow and St. Petersburg National Universities; Myanmar students studying Russian language at Military Academy, University of Foreign language Yangon and Mandalay



❑ During the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia as a producer of Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccines, donated Myanmar with the necessary vaccines



Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holding meeting with a delegation led by Mr Dmitriev Mikhail Arkadievich, Chairman of Russia-Myanmar Friendship Association

❑ Russia-Myanmar Association for the Friendship and Cooperation (RMAFC) was established in 1960 and current Chairman is retired General Mr. Mikhail Dmitriev



❑ Myanmar-Russia Friendship Association (MRFA) was established in Myanmar in 2015; current Chairman is former Myanmar Military Attache to the Russian Federation and former Deputy Minister for Defence Commodore Aung Thaw (Retd)



□ Present bilateral relations between Russia and Myanmar at its best of all time as “A friend in need is a friend indeed”



□ Myanmar and Russia share the same position on world issues, supporting and encouraging each other in international affairs as always

❑ Russia and Myanmar face a variety of challenges in the new landscape of the world; changing the balance of global power

❑ Myanmar will maintain good foundations of strategic and comprehensive relations with Russia and increase cooperation

❑ Finally, despite the geographical distance, heart-to-heart contact of the peoples will surely keep up to the closest possible friendship and best wishes for "75th Anniversary of Long-Lasting Friendship".





Thanks for your attention.

