

# Micro-Renewables and Rural Electrification: Myanmar's Emerging Opportunities For Cross-Sector Energy Development

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★ Taunggyi

★ Yangon

## Planning a New Energy Infrastructure:

- The effectiveness of current international aid structures is widely debated, as are the frameworks via which they form their goals (e.g. sustainable development vs. economic growth).
- Myanmar, which has undergone drastic political challenges over the last 4 years, is attempting to bring electricity to 2/3 of its population by 2030.
- Several major development actors are involved in this plan, although there is a rising chorus of voices that is calling for a more inclusive, bottom-up development approach.



## Research Questions:

How do international aid structures limit or encourage cross-sector development work?

What are the possibilities and challenges for achieving cross-sector renewable energy development in Myanmar?

## Methodology:

- Review of literature regarding international aid and development structures, electrification efforts in Myanmar.
- Conduct informational interviews in Myanmar. Meetings in Yangon with NGOs, a major energy company, JICA, REAM and WWF. Interview and visit to micro-hydro site in Taunggyi with a private developer, U Khun Kyaw.
- Develop actor-network diagrams to illustrate political economy relations.

## Results:

- Widespread disagreement across sectors about how to approach electrification strategy as proposed by World Bank and ADB.
- Need for better integration between state and federal ministries and a standardized regulatory framework
- Development of a private sector of micro-renewable projects could improve local economies and increase long term investment.

## Challenges, Possibilities and Lessons for the Future:

- Emphasis on national grid expansion based on macro energy development and lack of micro-finance institutions is limiting investment in micro-renewables.
- Development of small-scale power producer networks (such as SHPAM) could legitimize micro-renewable projects and increase access to multilateral and domestic finance opportunities.
- Pilot projects that utilize cross-sector collaboration could better communicate viability of micro-renewables to governments and increase their role in national electrification projects.



## Key Actors:

- **NLD:** National League for Democracy
- **MOEP:** Ministry of Electric Power
- **DRD:** Department of Rural Development
- **NEMC:** National Energy Management Council
- **JICA:** Japanese Int'l Cooperation Agency
- **WB:** World Bank
- **ADB:** Asian Dev. Bank
- **Private Energy Sector**
- **GIZ:** German Dev. Org.
- **REAM:** Renewable Energy Association of Myanmar
- **SHPAM:** Small Hydropower Assoc. Myanmar
- **WWF:** World Wildlife Fund (Myanmar Div.)
- **CSO's:** Civil Society Organizations
- **NGO's:** (Spectrum SKDN, Green Lotus)
- **CEI:** Columbia Earth Institute