



Half a year into Myanmar's minimum wage: Looking back, forging ahead

A Roundtable Discussion organized by CESD and IDRC

Date and venue: 26 February 2016, Summit Parkview Hotel, Yangon

Background:

In March 2013, Myanmar's Parliament passed a new minimum wage law. In August 2015, after two years of tripartite negotiations within the newly formed National Minimum Wage Committee, the minimum wage rate was defined to be Kyat 3,600 for an 8-hour working day, which was then put into force on 1 September 2015.

The minimum wage has been in effect for six months now. At the occasion of this half-anniversary, the Center for Economic and Social Development (CESD) Myanmar and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Canada organize a roundtable event that will bring together key stakeholders for a preliminary stock-taking exercise but also, more importantly, to look ahead and discuss about next steps.

The objectives of the roundtable discussions will be twofold: On the one hand, they will aim to improve the understanding on the challenges and benefits that different stakeholders, including companies, workers and the government, have experienced since the introduction of the minimum wage and how they have coped with the new situation. On the other hand, they will aim to facilitate an exchange and reflection on the impacts and necessary next steps that lie ahead for the different stakeholder groups.

The event will be held in English but simultaneous translation will be provided.

Agenda:

Time	Topic	Moderator / facilitator
08:30-09:00	Registration	
09:00-09:15	Opening remarks	Edgard Rodriguez, IDRC Mi Win Thida, CESD
09:15-09:25	Screening of a minimum wage documentary produced by CESD	Aung Myo Min, CESD
09:25-09:40	Introductory presentation: <i>Half a year into Myanmar's minimum wage: Looking back, forging ahead</i> <i>Key aspects and some empirical observations</i>	Thomas Bernhardt, CESD
09:40-10:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
10:00-11:30	<p>Roundtable discussion among panelists, structured around the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First experiences with and expected impacts of minimum wage 2. Compliance with and enforcement of the minimum wage 3. Supporting the smooth implementation of the MW and the role of complementary policies 4. Future reviews and adjustments of the minimum wage rate <p>Panelists include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U Myo Aung, Permanent Secretary, <i>Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security (MoLES)</i> • U Aye Lwin, Joint Secretary General, <i>Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI)</i> • U Win Zaw, <i>Confederation of Trade Unions Myanmar (CTUM)</i> • Piyamal Pichaiwongse, Acting Liaison Officer, <i>International Labor Organization (ILO)</i> 	Moderation: Mi Win Thida and Thomas Bernhardt, CESD
11:30-12:00	Q&A session Plenary discussion	Mi Win Thida and Thomas Bernhardt, CESD
12:00-12:15	Key take-aways and closing remarks	Edgard Rodriguez, IDRC Mi Win Thida, CESD
12:15	<i>Lunch</i>	