

# CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

October – December 2017

### CESD VALUE CHAIN WORKSHOPS COORDINATE STATE AND NATIONAL POLICY

CESD, in cooperation with the EU, FAO, and MoALI, facilitated four workshops to provide feedback and suggestions from key officials at union- and regional-level government ministries on Myanmar's food and agriculture industry's challenges and constraints. The workshops prioritized national and state policy and facilitated central- and regional-level inter-ministerial dialogues on policy coordination for critical topics including nutrition security, food security, production, value-added production, and land security. [Read More](#)



CESD's, Executive Director, Dr. Zaw Oo, speaking at the Inter-Ministerial Policy Dialogue on Food Security, Nutrition, and and Livelihoods in Bago.

### EXAMINING THE CONDITIONS OF ARTISAN JADE WORKERS IN MYANMAR

Since May 2017, the Centre for Economic and Social Development (CESD) has conducted research on the artisanal jade industry in Myanmar for a project funded by the International Growth Centre (IGC). The research focuses on the socio-economic conditions of hand pickers and freelance jade collectors who parse the leftover soil and rocks from industrial mining. Data was collected by the CESD team and enumerators near Hpakant in Kachin State. During the visit, enumerators and CESD employees distributed questionnaires, interviewed hand pickers, and surveyed conditions. [Read More](#)

### TRIPARTITE MINIMUM WAGE MEETINGS MODERATED BY CESD

The Ministry of Labor, Population, and Immigration invited CESD to moderate dialogue between grassroots organizations, employers, and regional government and labor officials on Myanmar's minimum wage. The dialogue focused on gathering inputs for the upcoming minimum wage review, and solicited feedback and suggestions on bolstering labor regulations. One major point of agreement between grassroots organizations and employers was the need for improved worker training programs. [Read More](#)

### CESD RESEARCHERS ENGAGE IN IDRC KNOWLEDGE FOR DEMOCRACY WORKSHOPS

Between November 25<sup>th</sup> and December 8<sup>th</sup>, CESD researchers and support staff attended the International Development Research Centre's Knowledge for Democracy Myanmar workshops. The workshops focused on a topics including, public speaking and presentation skills, gender analysis, research ethics, and communications. The workshops contribute to CESD's goal of developing and strengthening the skills and capabilities of its employees.

## CESD PARTICIPATES IN MYANMAR SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE PROGRAM (MYSAP) STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION IN YANGON

On Tuesday, 31st October the Myanmar Sustainable Aquaculture Programme (MYSAP) Stakeholder Consultation were hosted in Yangon. The Programme is a jointly implemented project between the Myanmar Department of Fisheries (DoF) and GIZ served with working with farmers, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), Government and Non-Governmental Organizations, the private sector, academia and other stakeholder members of the aquaculture value chain to sustainably increase Myanmar's aquaculture. CESD's Executive Director, Dr. Zaw Oo was moderator of two sessions focusing on stakeholder input for CESD's support of the upcoming National Aquaculture Development Plan (NADP) Policy Dialogue. [Read More](#)



Myanmar Radio and Television interviews CESD's Executive Director Dr. Zaw Oo during the Consultation.

## WORKSHOPS IN ACROSS ASIA EXPAND CESD'S EXPERTISE AND KNOWLEDGE

This quarter, CESD attended development and research workshops across Asia including a workshop on Rapid Value Chain Assessments organized by IFAD, IFPRI and SEARCA in Bangkok, Thailand; the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Global Think Tank Summit in Colombo, Sri Lanka; the Sustainable Minerals Institute of the University of Queensland, and the Southeast Asia Seminar hosted by the Centre for Southeast Asia Studies, Kyoto in Vientiane, Laos. CESD was represented by Mr. Min Zar Ni Lin, Deputy Research Director, Ms. Nang Seng Pin, Senior Program Coordinator and Ms. Khin Suu Thet, Research Assistant at the Rapid Value Chain Assessment workshop. During the event they learned to utilize a common, cost-efficient, research methodology for national level policy studies in the ATMI-ASEAN project, as well as rapid appraisals of value chains in agri-food systems.



Agricultural Transformation and Market Integration in the ASEAN Region: Responding to Food Security and Inclusiveness Concerns  
**TRAINING-WORKSHOP ON RAPID VALUE CHAIN ASSESSMENT**  
CENTARA WATERGATE PAVILLION HOTEL BANGKOK | 1-3 NOVEMBER 2017

Ms. Seng Pin (second from left, sitting) and Ms. Khin Suu Thet (third from left, sitting) at the Rapid Value Chain Assessment workshop attended by CESD.



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