

Country Visit to Myanmar

February 4-5 2013

The team was welcomed by The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) led by Mr. U Aung Myint. He mentioned about the activities of the NGO - to name some would be human resource development and training of their people from different backgrounds.

Aside from the industries. UMFCCI has the energy and environmental group since 2005. Myanmar government has been supporting use of renewable energy (examples are biomass, biogas, biofuel and microhydro power) and energy efficiency this UMFCCI has been active towards these activities. In fact, their group together with government agencies like Ministry of Science and Technology (MST) is looking at Yangon River as a potential site for tidal power. Myanmar, having a long coastline, could have other sites as well, although the main source of constraint would be funding.

The UMFCCI and MST team reiterated the support Myanmar government on projects like these and to kick start such would be collaboration with other organizations or institutions like NTU. They are willing to be trained and tap their own human resource potential for collaboration on ocean energy or renewable energy related activities, training or workshop.

Dr. Abundo suggested that first "SEAcORE Technical Training" would be in resource assessment.

We also visited Myanmar Maritime University and was welcomed by Dr. Charlie Than. SEAcORE blueprint and vision have been present to the MMU team and they welcomed the idea of collaboration between MMU and NTU. MMU could provide the students who want to be trained or study marine renewables and SEAcORE network could be a platform where these students could be deployed for training in other Southeast Asian universities (ex. UTM) which has R&D facilities. MMU team toured the group into their Office and mentioned that these facilities could also be open to other researchers/students once the collaboration starts.

There was also a meeting with Myanmar Engineering Society (MES) led by Mr. U Win Khaing. He mentioned that the use of renewable energy is being pushed by the government especially for the electrification of rural areas. For example, they have biogas plant with 5-kilowatt capacity that are being used by 300 households in a community. The government aims to increase the renewable energy capacity from 150 MW to 200 MW per year.

MES expressed its willingness to be the focal point of contact from Myanmar aside from MMU for SEAcORE. They mentioned about ready projects (i.e. resource assessment of potential tidal energy area) that could serve as pilot project when collaboration through SEAcORE already starts. They mentioned that funding from the government could be tapped for these kinds of projects.

These are some of the attendees of the meeting with UMFCCI and MST: Mr. U Aung Myint, Deputy Executive Officer of UMFCCI, Mr. Htun Naing Aung, Chairman/CEO of Energy and Environmental Group (EEnG) of Myanmar Industries Association (MIA), Capt. Zin Maung Tun, Professor, MMU, Mr. Shein Kyi, CEC Member, Myanmar Industries Association and Member of Energy and Renewable Energy Committee and Dr. Zar Ni Aung, Deputy Director of MST.

Some of the attendees during the MES meeting were the following: from MES - Mr. U Win Khaing, President, Mr. U Tin Maung Win, Vice President, Mr. U Myint Soe, CEO, Col. Thoung Win, and Central Executive Committee Member Chairman. Mr. Kyaw Kyaw, Structural and Environmental Engineer, GReeN PLANET Associate. Dr. Myat Lwin (Acting Rector, MMU), and Dr. Charlie Than (Professor Emeritus, MMU) was also in the meeting.



