



# Myanmar Country Coalition Report

Second Quarter  
April - June 2017

# Country Leadership



## **National Coordinator:**

Ma Cindy Chaw Khin Khin, CEO, Myanmar Computer Corporation

## **Working Group Lead for Data and Research:**

Ma Htaike Htaike Aung, Executive Director, Myanmar ICT for Development Organisation

Ma Aye Aye Thinn, Joint Secretary, Myanmar Computer Federation

## **Working Group Lead for Taxation and Tariff**

Ko Myo Myint Aung, Partner, PwC Myanmar

Ma Khin Su Lwin, PwC Myanmar

## **Working Group Lead for USAF**

Dr Thant Thaw Kaung, CEO, Myanmar Book Preservation Organisation

**Working Group Lead for Infrastructure sharing** Mr Andrew Gale, edotco Group, Myanmar



# Key Accomplishments

1. The regulator agrees to make telecom data open and transparent as demanded by the A4AI-Myanmar Working Group on Data and Research
2. Myanmar declared to have already met the 1 for 2 target, according to the draft Universal Service Strategy developed by intelecon, the consultants to the PTD.
3. Myanmar regulator agrees to make affordability targets more ambitious and rigorous
4. Myanmar infrastructure companies form an association C2EA - Connect to Everyone Association, thanks to the leadership of the A4AI-Myanmar WG lead for infrastructure deployment and sharing
5. Myanmar-A4AI Working Group members on USAF participate in the consultative workshop organised by the regulator on the Universal Service Strategy

# Key Challenges -I



## Infrastructure Sharing

### Challenges with the Central Ministry persist

- Single window clearance not operational yet
- Towercos are asked to negotiate with various regional and local governments for permits
- Landlords continue to demand high rentals
- Difficulties with farm land use
- Draft law and registration of deeds is a bit complicated
- Industry standards are absent; hence, the infra companies are struggling to meet the demand of the regulator

## Data and Research

### Challenges continue to persist with the Central Departments

- CSO requires huge capacity building in order to comply with the data requirements of ITU
- PTD requires assistance with publishing data it collects. Needs expert advice from A4AI
- Advocacy efforts among the line ministries for focussing ICT related statistics has not proven successful yet although the ministries recognise the importance
- Consumer organisations are not very strong in Myanmar

# Key Challenges- II



## Taxation

- Government continues to see the telecom sector as a revenue spinner for government business
- Less appetite from the regulator for the grey market study on access devices
- Deputy Ministers in the Ministry continue are acquainting themselves with new trends
- Expertise in the Ministry is limited; hence, arguments for efficient taxation mechanisms are hard to bargain for

## USAF

- There has been some delay in the publishing of draft universal strategy by the consultants.
- There is lack of consensus on the utility of the Universal Access Fund
- Lack of consensus on the start date of the fee collection for the telcos are busy expanding their network
- Lack of interest in developing the ICT ecosystem; therefore the fund is seen to be meant for infrastructure development rather than skill development and entrepreneurship development among the stakeholders



## Working Group updates and upcoming deliverables

# Working Group on Data and Research



1. Continues to focus on the three deliverables for 2017
  - a. Advocating for telecom data to be released to the public in Open API formats (Ongoing)
  - b. Enumerating the Open Data Indicators for open publishing by the regulator (to be concluded by September 2017)
  - c. Continue to support the needs of USF study by highlighting underserved areas in Myanmar (Ongoing)
2. Participate in the consultative workshop organised by the regulator to reiterate the demand for more research and data analyses in telecom sector for effectively using the USF
3. Participate in WRO research workshop on Gender Audit in Myanmar, organised by A4AI in Washington.

# Working Group on Taxation



1. Continues to pursue the three deliverables for 2017
  - a. Have been in discussion with the RC for drafting the Myanmar ICT fiscal map mainly to highlight the various taxation the industry and the market is subjected to.(To be published in the next quarter)
  - b. Discussing the phone market survey to determine taxation as deterrent to legalising the devices industry (research yet to commence; also require some resources to accomplish)
  - c. Recommendations to PTD on the air-time tax being levied on consumers (Discussion yet to commence)



# Working Group on Infrastructure



1. Continues to pursue the two deliverables for 2017
  - a. A white paper on farm-land use and registration of premises for long-term use by infra companies (a draft three pager is ready)
  - b. A white paper on construction permits and on the use of public infrastructure in urban locales (in discussion with the WG members on the merit of this paper)
2. Coordinates most of the advocacy actions through the newly formed association; shall use A4AI-Myanmar platform for complimentary advocacy

# **Working Group on USAF**

1. Continues to pursue the two deliverables for 2017 from Work plan
  - a. Contributing to the Universal Service Strategy - the members of the working group took part in the consultation and have provided necessary input; the draft strategy expected in October 2017
  - b. Awareness to stakeholders including public about USAF
2. Shall be offering input in the last quarter of 2017
  - a. Contributing to the establishment of the Universal Service and Access Fund (Yet to commence)
  - b. Identifying key areas of intervention for the pilot projects and supporting the project with expert advice (Yet to commence)

## Next Steps

- Working Group Leaders meeting scheduled for July 2017
- Assessment of Myanmar Country Coalition , what is working, what is not.
- Re-prioritising [work plans](#) deliverables
- Tentative coalition meeting for Q3 and Q4 to be communicated after deliverables are completed

**THANK YOU!**  
**THE A4AI MYANMAR TEAM**

**[WWW.A4AI.ORG](http://WWW.A4AI.ORG)**