



# CONVERGENCES

## MYANMAR FORUM

REPORT OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> INTERNATIONAL EDITION  
ROSE GARDEN HOTEL - YANGON | 10 MARCH 2017

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CONVERGENCES

**ZERO** EXCLUSION  
CARBON  
POVERTY

# ABOUT CONVERGENCES MYANMAR FORUM

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN MYANMAR

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## Main partners



## Technical partners



**ZERO EXCLUSION  
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Launched in 2008, Convergences is the first platform for thought in Europe that aims at building new convergences between public, private, and solidarity-based actors to promote the Sustainable Development Goals and the development of a “Zero Exclusion, Zero Carbon, Zero Poverty” world.

## OUR CORE MISSIONS



**INSPIRE**



**SUPPORT**



**GATHER**

Convergences seeks to engage with various stakeholders in order to disseminate good practices and to promote co-construction approaches with the aim of creating high impact and innovative partnerships.

## OUR SHARED OBJECTIVES



**OUR DNA**  
ALLIANCES FOR  
A FAIR AND  
SUSTAINABLE  
WORLD



## THE 1<sup>ST</sup> CONVERGENCES MYANMAR FORUM

For the first time since its creation 10 years ago, Convergences is going global with a Forum organised in Yangon, Myanmar on March, 10<sup>th</sup> 2017.

The Convergences Myanmar Forum originates from the participation of the French Embassy to Myanmar in the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the Convergences World Forum in Paris in September 2016, where it co-organised a session entitled “The transition in Myanmar: Emerging new actors”. H.E. Olivier Richard, French Ambassador to Myanmar, participated in this session moderated by Charles Bonhomme, Head of the French Institute in Yangon.

Enthusiastic about the Forum, the Burmese delegation coming to Paris wished to organise a similar event in Myanmar. As a result, Convergences started working on organising the Myanmar Forum with the support of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the French Embassy to Myanmar.

This one-day meeting brought together 200 experts and professionals, representing the public, private, academic, NGO and civil society sectors, and aimed at addressing development challenges thanks to four solutions-oriented workshops and a plenary session. In each session, a multi-stakeholder panel debated with the audience around potential solutions to achieve a “Zero exclusion, Zero carbon, Zero poverty” world, in the Myanmar context.

To organise this forum, Convergences is being supported by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the French Embassy to Myanmar, EcoAct and BRAC. Convergences also counts on the technical support of ACTED Myanmar, the French Institute, and the Representation of the French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Myanmar.

# STATISTICS

## KEY FIGURES

40

SPEAKERS

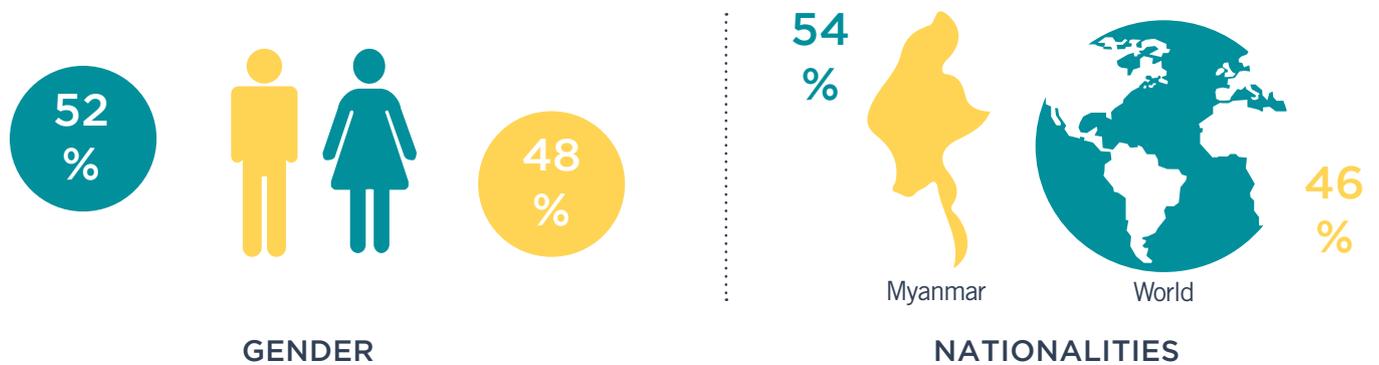
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ATTENDEES

28

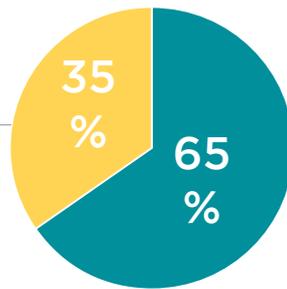
NATIONALITIES

## DEMOGRAPHICS

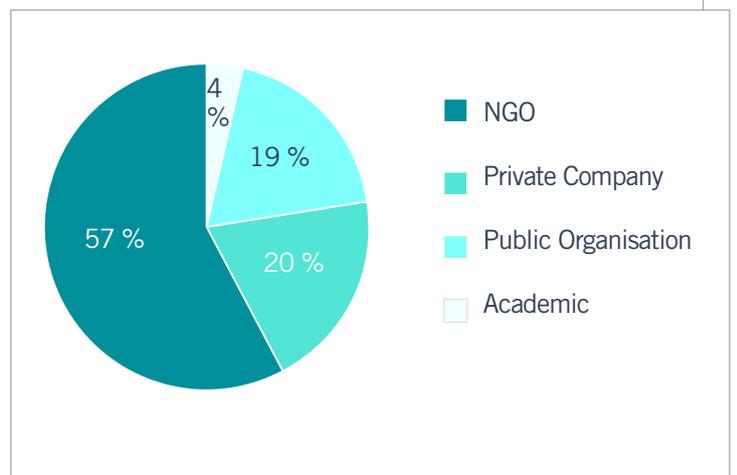
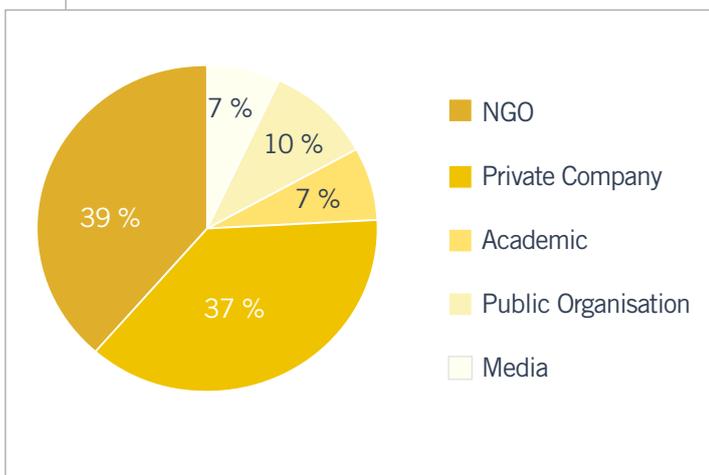


## ORGANISATIONS

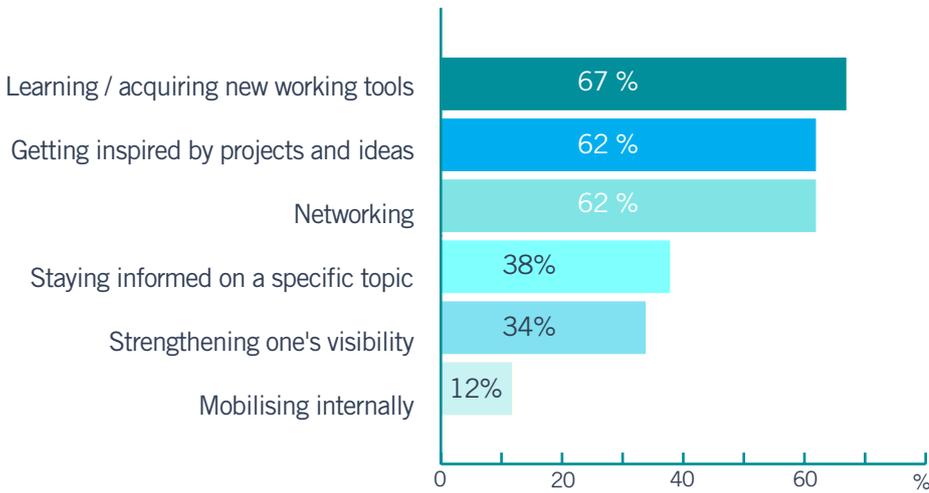
ATTENDEES WORKING FOR BURMESE ORGANISATIONS



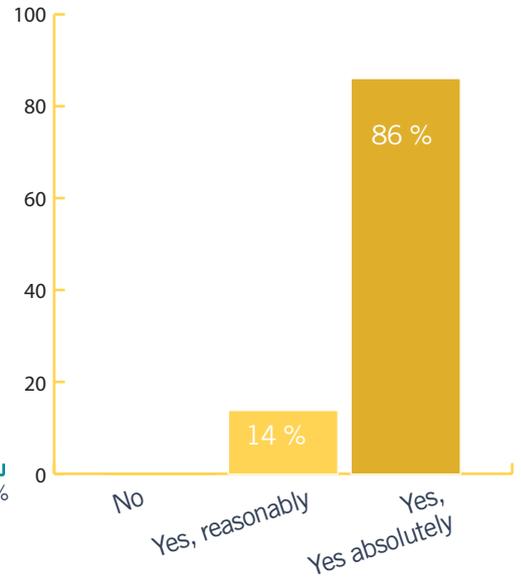
ATTENDEES WORKING FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS



# EXPECTATIONS

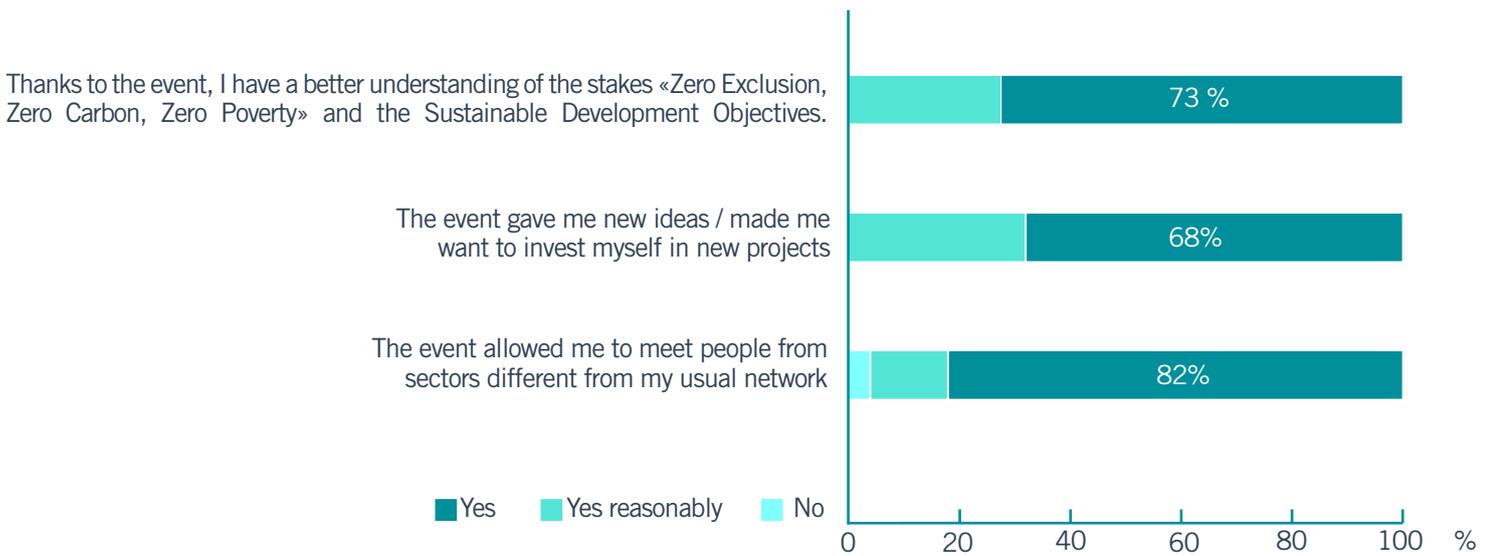


**EXPECTATIONS BEFORE THE FORUM**



**WERE PARTICIPANTS' EXPECTATIONS MET?**

# ADDED VALUE OF THE EVENT



**PARTICIPANTS' OPINION ABOUT THE CONVERGENCES MYANMAR FORUM**

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# 3ZERO GLOBAL ALLIANCE

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The conclusion of the Convergences Myanmar Forum “Strengthening cooperation towards sustainable development in Myanmar”, the first international edition of the Convergences World Forum that was held in Yangon, Myanmar on Friday 10 March 2017, saw the launch of the Global Alliance for a Zero exclusion, Zero carbon & Zero poverty world (“3Zero Global Alliance”). Frédéric Roussel, Founder and Development Director of NGO ACTED, defended the vision of a “Zero exclusion, Zero carbon, Zero poverty” world that calls all individuals and organizations to think and act together as to respond to the duty of achieving a world without exclusion, carbon and poverty.

The 3Zero Global Alliance empowers stakeholders from all over the world to make lasting connections to create positive change and, together, educate and advocate to shape solutions and multisector partnerships that save and improve millions of lives. It inspires stakeholders to drive societal change and address some of the most pressing issues the world faces today.

“We are the last generation that can truly have a positive impact on the issues of exclusion, climate change and poverty,” asserted Frédéric Roussel. “This is both a heavy responsibility to bear and a challenge to meet. A challenge that can only be faced if each and every citizen has a voice and is in a position, individually or collectively, to influence his/her own development. If we want to, we have the capacity to drastically tackle these issues and the Sustainable Development Goals have clearly paved the way for such an ambition.”

In Yangon, ACTED called upon civil society, public and private actors but also academics and the media to work together on addressing the poverty challenge that most of the world’s population still faces, through an inclusive and low carbon growth, limited in use of natural resources and rich in personal and collective development. In order to do so in an inclusive, cross-sectoral and creative manner, stakeholders were called to join the 3Zero Global Alliance for a “Zero exclusion, Zero carbon, Zero poverty” world.

“Together, as 3Zero Global Alliance, we hold governments, companies, NGOs, citizens and all other actors to account to their duties and responsibilities for the Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved and thus the future of humanity and our planet safeguarded.” concluded Frédéric Roussel.



Add your voice to the movement of actors from all over the world, join the 200 organizations already standing together around our common 3Zero Ambition and principles of action.

To be at the forefront of a movement towards a shared vision of a 3Zero world, with global ambition, become a member of the 3Zero Global Alliance for a “Zero carbon, Zero exclusion & Zero poverty” world.

[www.3zero.org](http://www.3zero.org)

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## NINE COMMON PRINCIPLES OF ACTION

We work together for present and future generations, in line with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

We believe that everyone’s responsibility lies in empowering everyone.

We encourage positive actions and work for concrete solutions.

We believe in partnerships between all actors and cooperation beyond our differences.

We use and develop innovation (incl. social innovation) and new technologies to serve the common good.

We aim at promoting inclusive approaches to poverty-reduction and sustainable development, fostering the empowerment of all individuals and organizations

We work to ensure that everyone has the means to act locally and globally.

We encourage responsible and sustainable consumption and production.

We act to preserve and protect the planet, our common home.

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# WORKSHOPS' AND PLENARY'S MINUTES

## CONVERGENCES MYANMAR FORUM

**ZERO** EXCLUSION  
CARBON  
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8:30 • 9:00  
PLENARY CONFERENCE

### OPENING SESSION

## STRENGTHENING COOPERATION TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN MYANMAR

### SPEAKERS



**H.E. OLIVIER RICHARD**  
Ambassador of France to Myanmar

Olivier Richard, a career diplomat, was appointed Ambassador of France to Myanmar in September 2015. He previously held numerous positions within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development and other departments, notably including that of Country Director of the French Development Agency in Niger (2002-2004) and in China (2004-2007), Director of Resources and Network at the Directorate-General for Foreign Affairs (2007-2010), Ambassador of France to Zambia and Malawi (2010-2011) and Director of the French Office in Taipei (2011-2015).



**U MAUNG MAUNG SOE**  
Mayor of Yangon and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee

Maung Maung Soe is the mayor of Myanmar's largest city, Yangon. He was concurrently appointed as mayor and chairman of the Yangon City Development Committee on 5 April 2016. He is a retired professor at the Yangon Institute of Economics. Maung Maung Soe was born on 15 May 1951. He earned a Bachelor of Economics degree at the then Yangon Institute of Economics in 1973.



**DAW NAW PANN THINZAR MYO**  
Minister of Kayin Ethnic Affairs, Yangon Region Government

The Yangon Region Government is the cabinet administrating the Yangon Region. The cabinet is led by Chief Minister, Phyo Min Thein. The Yangon Region consists of 4 districts and 44 townships, out of which the city of Yangon now encompasses 33 townships. Today, compared to other regions, the Yangon Region is the most developed in the country.



**EMILIE POISSON**  
Executive Director, Convergences

Emilie Poisson joined Convergences as Executive Director in March 2016. Convergences is the first platform of reflection in Europe gathering public, private, solidarity, academic and media actors around a common objective: building a "Zero exclusion, Zero carbon, Zero poverty" world. Before joining Convergences Emilie had been working for eight years on the field with ACTED, the second French humanitarian organization, serving in several countries in Africa, and notably as Regional Director for Africa, in charge of external relations and advocacy.

### MODERATOR

## COOPERATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

# HOW IS THE PRIVATE SECTOR TAKING PART IN THE

The workshop, led by panelists representing the private as well as the non-profit sector, discussed challenges in developing a vibrant Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) sector in Myanmar. Open discussion amongst the panelists and the audience highlighted the issue of having extremes in the country where businesses can often be characterized either as huge conglomerates or as small scale independent enterprises. The attendees debated various reasons for limited growth opportunities for SMEs of which limited financing opportunities and lack of capacity within SMEs stood out. Development of the financial sector and a supporting ecosystem for SMEs in Myanmar emerged as potential solutions to tackle these challenges.

The session also touched upon the responsible role business can play to counter challenges faced in Myanmar in terms of workers' human rights violations. The panelists urged the private sector in Myanmar to try and make sure to work with stakeholders who respect these rights. Thus a representative from Telenor Myanmar explained how the company acted on the field to make sure to eliminate child labor from its supply chain. The panelists also spoke of the constructive role private sector can play towards skill building, human development and generating employment. The illustration from ACTED's vocational training initiative developed in collaboration with Schneider Electric and Myanmar Engineering Society (MES) emerged as a success story in this realm. Finally, cooperation between big urban businesses, non-profits and small rural businesses was seen by the attendees as an opportunity to improve the value chain and generate greater shared value for all involved actors. A panelist from GERES, a non-profit organization, described how they are working with a network of local entrepreneurs in rural areas to distribute clean and affordable cook stoves for rural women. The opportunities and challenges of including rural business in the value chains of other sectors were also debated. Members of the audience also stressed the importance of infrastructure development and standardization laws (to ensure quality control) to allow SMEs to grow and compete in the globalizing economy.

*by Saad Khalid, Master of Public Administration - 2017 Degree Candidate, Columbia University*

### ILLUSTRATIONS



**KELSEY CROWLEY**  
Country Representative, ACTED  
**BUILDING SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING IN MYANMAR**



**DAMIEN MOTTEAU**  
Total Access To Solar Coordinator, Total  
**AWANGO BY TOTAL: A SOCIAL BUSINESS TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO ENERGY TO LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES**

### MODERATOR



**KEN TUN**  
Chief Executive Officer, Parami Group

### SPEAKERS



**DIETER BILLEN**  
Principal and Head, Roland Berger Myanmar



**ROMAIN CRES**  
Head of programme and private sector engagement advisor, GERES



**MI MI MYO WIN**  
Society Programmes Manager, British Council



**PATRICIA CURRAN**  
Senior Vice President and Head of Education, Telenor Myanmar

## COUNTRY'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ?

KEY CHALLENGES	POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS	EXAMPLES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business sector in Myanmar either represented by large conglomerates or very small scale enterprises: not many medium enterprises</li> <li>• Lack of capacities of local SMEs/ producers</li> <li>• Labor exploitation / human rights violations in the work place</li> <li>• Lack of trust between big corporations and small rural SMEs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop financial support schemes for rural SMEs</li> <li>• Local private sector to develop partnerships with responsible international companies</li> <li>• Enforce transparency policies for the private: incentives VS penalties</li> <li>• Increase awareness and knowledge of sustainability in the private sector</li> <li>• Include more rural businesses in the value chain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vocational training programs by ACTED and Schneider Electric</li> <li>• GERES cook stove project, working closely with local SMEs</li> <li>• Telenor digital literacy programme</li> </ul>



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## DIGITAL INNOVATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT

# HOW TO UTILIZE DIGITAL INNOVATIONS TOWARDS THE

During this Workshop, the participants discussed how digital innovations can contribute to inclusive and sustainable development.

The first challenge raised was the lack of information. As the situation is rapidly changing in the country, information sharing is crucial for all stakeholders including planners and beneficiaries. Thanks to the mobile revolution, more people now have access to information through smartphones. For example, Impact Terra developed an application which allows rural farmers to receive the price of seeds and fertilizers as well as risks of epidemic for the crops. The mobile technology also changed the direction of the information flow. In addition to receiving information, people can also send messages to planners. Thus U Report is a platform where youth from all backgrounds can give their voice through answering surveys, which are then analysed by U-Report volunteers and results are sent to the government.

However, even though applications and platforms do exist, they might not be used by the targeted people. To address this challenge, panelists primarily raised the necessity of developing a human centered design. I Women, an online platform where women share the stories and learn legal issues in local languages, was thus co-developed with the targeted women by teaching them basic web programming. This extreme case of the participatory approach made the application sustainable beyond the project timeframe.

As for Open Development Myanmar, led by Phandeevar, it tries to solve the problem by introducing lean development method for its application. Impact Terra incorporates feedback mechanism using mock-up with screenshots of the application to collect the opinion of the users at the early stage of the development process.

To conclude, the success of programmes using digital technology relies heavily on its flexibility and adjustment to meet its beneficiaries' needs.

*By Gakuto Han, Master of International Affairs 2017 Degree Candidate, Columbia University*

## ILLUSTRATIONS



### ELEONORA GATTI

iWomen app coordinator - Civil Society and Media, UNDP Myanmar

**THE IWOMEN-INSPIRING WOMEN APP:  
CONNECTING AND EMPOWERING MYANMAR  
WOMEN**



### DAVID MADDEN

Founder & CEO, Phandeevar

**PHANDEEVAR / OPEN DEVELOPMENT MEKONG**

## SPEAKERS



### KYAW SI THU HTUN

Content Group Member, U-Report



### MICHAEL FLORIAN

Senior Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist, Pact Myanmar



### ERWIN SIKMA

Founder & CEO, Impact Terra



### DR. ZAW OO

Executive Director, Center for Economic and Social Development (CESD)

## COUNTRY'S INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

KEY CHALLENGES	POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS	EXAMPLES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of reliable data</li> <li>• Inequalities in terms of access to mobiles and internet, according to gender, location, socioeconomic background, etc.</li> <li>• Difficult communication with the government, especially for the youth</li> <li>• Lack of incentives and deficient immigration system preventing investment from foreign companies in Myanmar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having a human-centered design, developing apps according to the needs of the end-users</li> <li>• Including a feedback mechanism within the project development</li> <li>• Working directly with the end-users</li> <li>• Connecting with all actors: local organizations, policy-makers, etc..</li> <li>• Developing infrastructure to improve access to mobiles and internet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I Women App, by UNDP Myanmar, with a Human Centered Design and developed with the end-users, women from rural areas</li> <li>• Open Development Myanmar, which aims at gathering reliable data and works to make the supply meet the demand in data</li> <li>• U-Report, run by young volunteers and working at sensibilising the youth, and getting youth's voice being heard by the government</li> <li>• Impact Terra, an app providing information to rural farmers and integrating a feedback mechanism</li> <li>• Mobile health clinics with push notification and telemedicine, as run by Pact Myanmar in several rural areas</li> <li>• Smart Myanmar, promoting sustainable consumption and production of garments "Made in Myanmar", providing information and training to local actors</li> </ul>



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## INCLUSIVE EMPLOYMENT

# ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT: HOW TO INCLUDE

During this plenary session, a panel of women leaders from social enterprises and the non-profit sector extensively discussed challenges and opportunities towards bringing the socially and economically marginalized communities into the workforce.

As the panelists and audience bounced ideas, effective information dissemination to the marginalized sections of society emerged as a significant challenge for projects focusing on social and economic inclusion. Many potential solutions based on the idea of leveraging the power of local networks were discussed. Establishing partnerships with local governments to reach out to the right audience/ potential beneficiaries came up as a promising opportunity to develop such networks. Moreover, publishing advertisements and publicity material in sign language was also identified as a means to make information accessible to the deaf community. The Handicap International representative in the panel illustrated well the challenges linked with access to employment for disabled citizens. As the discussion progressed, resource mobilization in the face of multiple national priorities was also brought up as a serious challenge for the community committed to work towards socio economic inclusion. The panelists agreed that raising public awareness will be a precursor to ensuring sustained resources for projects aimed at socioeconomic inclusion. Reforming the public education system to produce skilled labor was also stressed throughout the session.

Inspired from Yangon Bakehouse, the brainchild of one of the panelists, the power of social enterprise to foster inclusion was also discussed. Yangon Bakehouse's business model relies on investing 50 % of its profits into training marginalized women leading to an opportunity to work for Yangon Bakehouse. The panel explored the possibility of similar training-based apprentice programs in other areas in the private sector. Moreover, the idea of partnership between wealthy and internationally recognized business schools and social entrepreneurship initiatives was mentioned with the example of a school of social entrepreneurship in Indonesia partnering with HEC business schools in France. Legal frameworks for encouraging the private sector to hire the socio economically marginalized were proposed. A panelist from ActionAid presented the Crafts Producers' Network program, a project aimed at building effective coalition between rural craftswomen, urban businesses and other actors to create shared value. Given the recent hike of tourism in Myanmar, the panel also debated opportunities such as community-based tourism initiatives to create sustainable livelihoods for rural communities.

*by Saad Khalid, Master of Public Administration - 2017 Degree Candidate, Columbia University*

### ILLUSTRATION



**VINCENT JHUNIEL TATEL**  
Social Entrepreneur, FreeBirds

### MODERATOR



**NAY LIN SOE**  
Founder and Counsellor, Myanmar Independent Living Initiative (MILI)

### SPEAKERS



**THEERI KAY THI**  
Deputy General Manager, Yangon Bakehouse



**DAW MAY SABE PHYU**  
Director, Gender Equality Network (GEN)



**MAY THINZAR KYAW SOE**  
Programme Coordinator, Craft Producer Network (CPN), Socio-Economic Development Network (SEDN) ActionAid Myanmar



**CARLA VITANTONIO**  
Regional Director, Handicap International Myanmar/ Thailand

## MARGINALISED POPULATIONS?

KEY CHALLENGES	POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS	EXAMPLES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to information regarding employment is difficult for any people</li> <li>• Marginalized populations are still largely excluded from job and economic opportunities</li> <li>• Behaviors of companies and recruiters towards marginalized population are very reluctant</li> <li>• The marginalized populations are not well educated so that it is a barrier to access to employment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal framework and supportive policies developed and strengthened to ensure inclusive employment of marginalized people</li> <li>• Develop awareness with private sector to hire marginalized workers</li> <li>• Community-based tourism as a tool for inclusion of marginalized population in the workplace</li> <li>• Support the efforts of existing structures working actively for marginalized population's rights</li> <li>• Enhance access to information for marginalized population, for example by having sign language announcements for people with hearing impairment</li> <li>• Develop cooperation between the private sector and the government to implement more inclusive access to employment policies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yangon Bakehouse inclusive employment policy</li> <li>• Action Aid handicraft business development program for marginalized women</li> <li>• Public-private education partnership (between HEC and Indonesian school of social entrepreneurship)</li> </ul>



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## URBAN PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE CITY

# PLANNING TOMORROW'S YANGON: FINDING THE

This workshop addressed the challenge of rapid urbanization, and how to limit its pressure on nature, culture and people's daily lives to have a green environment and efficient urban transportation in Yangon.

Regarding the major concern of heavy traffic jam, a potential solution rests on public transportation including future train ways, bus rapid transit and river transportation. The importance of having a master plan was also pointed out. For city planning in general, Yangon City Development Committee introduced their initiative on zoning and regulation to conserve heritage sites and green areas in the city.

Beyond this, urban development is fundamentally about inhabitants' life style and greater effort is required to include their perspective in urban planning. In its rehabilitation of the national library, the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) focuses not only on the building's restoration but also on how people can use it for their activities. Yangon Heritage Trust uses SMS to reach out to the people to encourage them thinking about the culture they want for the future Yangon.

Developing inhabitants' ownership and considering how to promote mindset's change through urban planning then demands further consideration. The Flyover Art Project gives us a hint here. This project is improving areas under expressways to allow friends to meet, play football, dance and do diverse activities. The striking feature of the project is to see how people actually manage the space by themselves, cleaning the trash, sharing the space with other groups and finding their best way to enjoy the place. The project manager pointed out that providing basic tools, the space, garbage boxes and water and power outlets is all what is required to then have people appropriate the space and improve it themselves. This is a further example on how ownership and including people in development projects will lead to sustainable urban development.

*By Gakuto Han, Master of International Affairs 2017 Degree Candidate, Columbia University*

### ILLUSTRATION



**ALEX AUNG KHANT**  
Project Manager for the Flyover Art Project, Institut Français de Birmanie  
**FLYOVER ART PROJECT: GIVING BACK YANGON TO THE PEOPLE**



**PROF. DR. KHIN MAUNG LWIN**  
Advisor, National Water Resources Committee, Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

### SPEAKERS



**JEAN-MARC BRÛLÉ**  
Chief Executive Officer, Green Lotus Foundation



**U TOE AUNG**  
Director, Urban Planning Division, Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC)



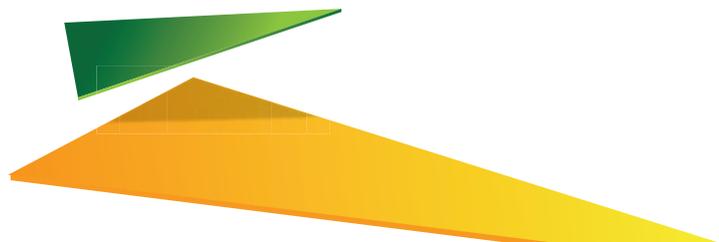
**DAW MOE MOE LWIN**  
Director and Vice Chairwoman, Yangon Heritage Trust



**MARK PETROVIC**  
Managing Director & Architectural Design Director, Archetype Myanmar Ltd



**GHISLAIN RIEB**  
Head of Yangon Office, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Myanmar Country Office



## TOOLS TOWARDS A GREEN AND CONNECTED CITY

KEY CHALLENGES	POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS	EXAMPLES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heavy traffic</li> <li>• Lack of access to “green” areas</li> <li>• Exclusion of youth in the public space</li> <li>• Need for more sense of conservation and preservation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a Master Plan for the city, inclusive of the population and economic needs</li> <li>• Engaging the public in the decision making process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flyover project from the French Institute</li> <li>• City train</li> <li>• Special lanes for public transportation</li> <li>• River transportation</li> </ul>



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## FINANCIAL INCLUSION

# HOW TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SERVICES FOR THE

Over this workshop discussion, all speakers and the audience acknowledged the difficulty of reaching the poorest to financially include them. For instance, while Wave Money works to take the role of ‘enabler’ and ‘facilitator’ to financially include the poorest, Mr. Haley indicated that they are currently not serving the bottom 10%. Moreover, it is quite accepted today that microcredit alone is not enough, and a more holistic and integrated approach is needed in order to reach the poorest. Thus Anna Brown explained that Entrepreneurs du monde (EdM) already uses a holistic approach to serve its clients by providing not only microcredit to its clients but by also focusing on on business development. Challenges in this process towards achieving a holistic approach are the lack of information, organisational constraints, to change the mind-set of the poorest and to balance social performance with financial sustainability.

BRAC’s so-called ‘graduation model’ introduced by Lewis Temple proposes such a holistic method developed to target specifically the ultra-poor and lift them out of extreme poverty into sustainable livelihoods. While impact evaluations already demonstrated a great effectiveness of the model across countries, it has its own challenges, being a very costly programme, which would require being included into government’s policies to be sustainable.

In general, proposed solutions to overcome these challenges are to focus more on an integrated approach (training, support, development), to cooperate with and implement digital financial services for efficiency purposes and to develop centralised databases to share information and knowledge. All parties showed a great willingness and commitment throughout the session to cooperate more toward a more financial inclusive Myanmar society.

*by Sten te Vogt, BRAC Myanmar*

### ILLUSTRATION



**LEWIS TEMPLE**  
Chief Executive Officer, BRAC UK  
**BRAC’S ULTRA-POOR GRADUATION APPROACH: A SOLUTION TO FINANCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE VERY POOREST?**



**SAVOEUNG CHANN**  
Chief Executive Officer, Proximity Finance

### SPEAKERS



**ANNA BROWN**  
Myanmar Country Coordinator, Entrepreneurs du Monde



**GONZALO GONZALEZ**  
Chief Executive Officer, DAWN Myanmar



**U KO KO MAUNG**  
Director, Financial Regulatory Department, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Myanmar



**STEVEN HALEY**  
Product Manager, Wave Money



**JASON MEIKLE**  
Deputy Director, Pact Global Microfinance Fund (PGMF)

### CO-ORGANISED BY



## POOREST AND MOST MARGINALISED PEOPLE?

KEY CHALLENGES	POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS	EXAMPLES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficult access to the poorest, who are often based in rural remote areas</li> <li>• Financially and socially difficult to include the poorest : costly programmes, which might not be accepted by the beneficiaries themselves</li> <li>• Lack of information and knowledge-sharing</li> <li>• Organisational constraints</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopting a holistic approach to provide financial services going beyond microcredit</li> <li>• Providing training, capacity building, business development support, etc.</li> <li>• Developing a centralised database, working as a platform to gather information from clients/creditors</li> <li>• Making financial services acceptable to the poorest</li> <li>• Developing digital financial services and/or deferral services through other organisations to cut costs and make cash delivery more efficient</li> <li>• Including financial services provision into government's policies</li> <li>• Developing cooperation between MFIs and commercial banks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BRAC's graduation model, which targets specifically the ultra-poor through a holistic and sequenced approach, consisting of a client selection stage, an asset transfer, weekly stipends, savings, training, health care and social integration. This is a 24-month programme, which demonstrated high success, but also requires high upfront investment, with low return on investment in the short term.</li> </ul>



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## RESTITUTION AND CLOSING SESSION

# STRENGTHENING COOPERATION TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN MYANMAR

### MODERATOR



**EMILIE POISSON**  
Executive Director, Convergences

Emilie Poisson joined Convergences as Executive Director in March 2016. Convergences is the first platform of reflection in Europe gathering public, private, solidarity, academic and media actors around a common objective: building a “Zero exclusion, Zero carbon, Zero poverty” world. Before joining Convergences Emilie had been working for eight years on the field with ACTED, the second French humanitarian organization, serving in several countries in Africa, and notably as Regional Director for Africa, in charge of external relations and advocacy.

### OPENING SPEECH



**ANTONIO MELOTO**  
Founder and Chairman, Gawad Kalinga & Chairman, GK Enchanted Farm

Tony Meloto is the founder of Gawad Kalinga, a movement that builds integrated, holistic and sustainable communities in slum areas and remote rural communities with a vision to end poverty for 5 million Filipino families by 2024. Described as a radical optimist, Tony is now building an inclusive platform for global partnerships, particularly in Europe, attracting an average of 250 interns every year since 2012. Tony was awarded Filipino of the Year in 2006 and received the Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship in 2012, among other honours. He published a book in 2006, *The Builder of dreams*, and is regularly invited to international conferences.

### RESTITUTION

#### WORKSHOP 1



**KEN TUN**  
Chief Executive Officer, Parami Group

#### WORKSHOP 2



**DR. ZAW OO**  
Executive Director, Center for Economic and Social Development (CESD)

#### INCLUSIVE EMPLOYMENT DEBATE



**NAY LIN SOE**  
Founder and Counsellor, Myanmar Independent Living Initiative (MILI)

#### WORKSHOP 3



**PROF. DR. KHIN MAUNG LWIN**  
Advisor, National Water Resources Committee, Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

#### WORKSHOP 4



**SAVOEUNG CHANN**  
Chief Executive Officer, Proximity Finance

### CLOSING SPEECH



**FREDERIC ROUSSEL**  
Co-founder & Director of Development, ACTED & President, Convergences

After graduating from Sciences Po Paris, Frédéric Roussel started supporting conflict-affected populations of Afghanistan in 1987, before contributing to ACTED's creation in 1993. As Director of Development, he currently leads the development of ACTED's interventions, working in a wide variety of emergency and development contexts. Seeing the impact of ACTED's microfinance programmes as of 1997, he was inspired in 2005 to create a private microfinance network, the OXUS Group. In parallel, he launched Convergences in 2008, a platform which he chairs as President since May 2015.

# CARBON COMPENSATION

## A CARBON NEUTRAL FORUM



Thanks to its partnership with EcoAct, the Convergences Myanmar Forum will be carbon neutral. As a global actor in climate mitigation, EcoAct will measure and offset the CO2 emissions of the Forum by supporting a low carbon and certified project.

## THE CARBON COMPENSATION PROJECT

# HydroLogic



### Problem:

In Cambodia, around 2 million people in rural areas lack access to drinkable water and suffer from water-related diseases. Two thirds of the Cambodian families have to boil water, in order to drink it. Therefore, they often use biomass fuels for this, such as wood or charcoal, with a negative impact of nearby natural resources and GHG emissions.

### Solution:

Covering 13 of the 25 provinces in the country, the « Hydrologic » project provides local families with a locally built water filter, providing access to water while protecting forests.

### Results:

+ 95 000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e avoided each year.

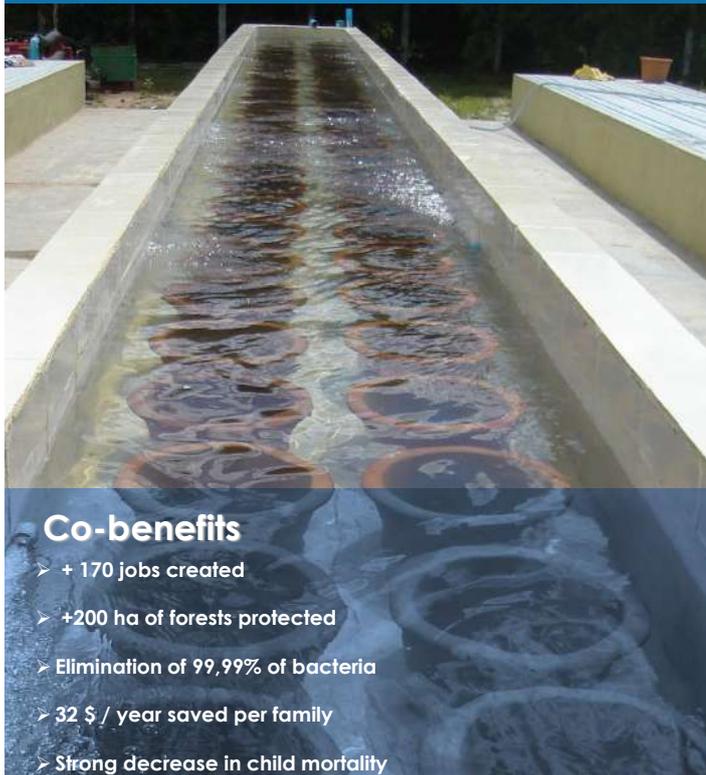
### Several awards:

- Impact Business Award (2011)
- Ashden awards for avoided deforestation (2012)
- Energy Globe Award (2013)



Fight deforestation and provide clean water

- Cambodia -



### Co-benefits

- > + 170 jobs created
- > +200 ha of forests protected
- > Elimination of 99,99% of bacteria
- > 32 \$ / year saved per family
- > Strong decrease in child mortality



**Gold Standard**  
Climate Security & Sustainable Development



### Main impacts:

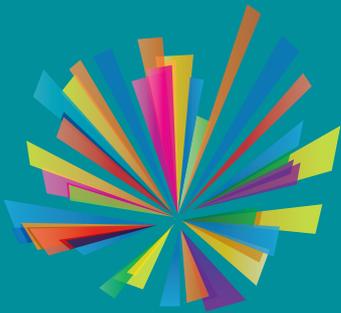
- Economic..... €
- Social.....
- Environmental.....

### For more information:

[contact@eco-act.com](mailto:contact@eco-act.com) // + 33 (0)1 83 64 08 70



**Ecoscore** is a unique multi-criteria methodology conceived by EcoAct to evaluate the added value of project for the financing partners.



# ZERO EXCLUSION CARBON POVERTY

CONVERGENCES Myanmar Forum 1<sup>st</sup> international edition - 10 March 2017  
Rose Garden Hotel - Yangon - Myanmar

[www.convergences.org](http://www.convergences.org)



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## SPECIAL THANKS



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