Annex-6: Community Participation Planning Framework

1. Introduction

This Community Participation Planning Framework (CPPF) has been prepared for Component B of the World Bank funded Power System Efficiency and Resilience Project. Since details of sub-projects will be only identified during project implementation, specific project impacts cannot be identified until then.

This document is considered a living document and shall be modified and updated in line with the changing situation or scope of the activities. Consultations and detailed Ethnic Peoples Plans (EPP) will be developed in case it is necessary, in close consultation with stakeholders and the World Bank. Clearance of future EPPs by the World Bank will be necessary.

High voltage equipment and related low voltage equipment will be installed in existing substations. Mainly, power transformers, current transformers, shunt capacitors and reactors, switch gears, and control and protection systems. In addition, the component will finance ‘no-regret’ measures to increase resilience of transmission system against natural disasters. These will include anchoring power transformers on the base foundation to reduce damages during earthquakes and procuring mobile substations to increase the response capability against natural disasters. Finally, capacity building through consultancy services to DPTSC on project-related activities will be implemented during project implementation.

The Project is expected to have generally positive social benefits. It is expected that the sub-projects will not impact in any way to the Ethnic Peoples. This CPPF has been prepared as part of the ESMF for Component B to avoid potentially adverse effects on the Ethnic Peoples’ communities and make sure that the project is designed in a way that the Ethnic Peoples receive social and economic benefits that are culturally appropriate and gender and intergenerationally inclusive.

Based in the Myanmar’s context, this CPPF will use the term “ethnic people” as an equivalent to the term “indigenous people” used by the WB.

Following WB’s OP 4.10, the term “Indigenous Peoples” (“Ethnic Peoples” in the context of Myanmar) is used in a generic sense in this CPPF to refer to a distinct, vulnerable, social and cultural group possessing the following characteristics in varying degrees:

(a) self-identification as members of a distinct ethnic cultural group and recognition of this identity by others;
(b) collective attachment to geographically distinct habitats or ancestral territories in the project area and to the natural resources in these habitats and territories;

(c) customary cultural, economic, social, or political institutions that are separate from those of the dominant society and culture; and

(d) an Ethnic language, often different from the official language of the country or region.

Although this project is not excepted to negatively impact any Ethnic Peoples, some of the substation improvements may be located in areas where there are IPs living or working. Because of that, OP 4.10 is triggered on a precautionary basis, mainly to ensure that they are meaningfully consulted.

This CPPF will apply only for those sub-projects which there is presence of Ethnic Peoples near the funded sub-projects. Meaningful consultations will apply in all the cases there there are Ethnic Peoples near the sub-projects. However, an Ethnic Peoples Plan (EPP) in line World Bank’s OP 4.10 para 12 and Annex B, including a brief Social Assessment. The Plan should be prepared when Ethnic Peoples are present in the project area not only when there an negative impact, but to also ensure benefits and mitigation measures are culturally appropriate.

2. Overview of Ethnic Peoples in Myanmar

Myanmar is one of the most culturally diverse countries in the region, and ethnicity is a complex, contested and politically sensitive issue. Myanmar’s ethnic minorities make up an estimated 30-40% of the population, and ethnic states occupy some 57% of the total land area along most of the country’s international borders.

The numerical breakdown for each ethnic group in Myanmar is not known but an estimation of non-Bamar ethnic nationalities are estimated at 30%-40% of the population and the seven ethnic states occupy 57% of the total land area. These States are named after the largest ethnic group in them (Rakhine, Chin, Kachin, Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon). However, there are also many ethnic minority groups without named States, including the Pa’O, Wa, Naga and Palaung as well as a number of other smaller ethnic groups.

There are dozens of dialects and over 130 languages within the main linguistic groupings. However, some ethnic minorities, particularly younger people in urban areas, may not speak a minority language. Moreover, many people are increasingly of mixed ethnic heritage and are likely to speak Burmese as their first language.
3. Relevant Legal Framework

According to Chapter 1, clause 22 of the 2008 Constitution of Myanmar, the Union Government of Myanmar is committed to assisting in developing and improving the education, health, language, literature, arts, and culture of Myanmar’s “national races.” It is stated, that the “Union shall assist:

- to develop language, literature, fine arts and culture of the National races;
- to promote solidarity, mutual amity and respect and mutual assistance among the National races; and
- to promote socio-economic development including education, health, economy, transport and communication, [and] so forth, of less-developed National races.”

The Ethnic Rights Protection Law (The Comprising of Pyi Thu Hluttaw and Amotha Hluttaw (Pyi daung su Hluttaw) Law No.8, 2015), 24th February 2015. This law provides definitions of ethnic groups, Ministry, Union minister, Ministry of State or Region, State or Region minister, roles and responsibilities of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs in ethnic affairs which means to promote sustainable socio-economic development that is including language, literature, fine arts, culture, customs and traditions of the national races, religious, historical heritages, peace and the included opportunities in 2008 Constitution of Myanmar. The constitution provides equal rights to the various ethnic groups included in the national races and a number of laws and regulations aim to preserve their cultures and traditions. This includes the establishment of the University for the Development of the National Races of the Union which was promulgated in 1991 to, among other things, preserve and understand the culture, customs and traditions of the national races of the Union, and strengthen the Union spirit in the national races of the Union while residing in a friendly atmosphere and pursuing education at the University. However, the list of recognized ethnic groups has not been updated since 1982.

Since independence, there have been recurring conflicts between the Government and a number of ethnic armed groups over a range of issues, including relating to greater autonomy, recognition of cultural rights, and governance of natural resources. The Government’s peace initiative, launched in 2011, has seen the conclusion or renewal of a number of ceasefire agreements with some ethnic armed groups, although conflict continues in several areas, including in Kachin State, northern Shan State, and Rakhine State. Following a number of bilateral ceasefire agreements between the Government and ethnic armed groups, some ethnic groups have been
granted authority over political and economic affairs in their areas, which in some cases are sizeable. Social and other public services were developed by ethnic authorities, often with support from NGOs, and are still operating in several areas. Under the current government, a free media is developing, and ethnic parties and associations are politically active. CSOs also play an active role.

4. Key issues and application of the CPPF

**Free, Prior and Informed Consultation:** Participation is a process through which stakeholders influence and share control over development initiatives and the decisions and resources which affect them. The decision to participate is the start of the whole participatory process in the project cycle. Participation is an active and continuous process of interaction among the key stakeholders, including the communities directly affected (whether positively or adversely), national agencies and line ministries, the project consultants, civil society and international donor agencies. Participation as a generic term usually encompasses two distinct dimensions: information exchange (i.e., dissemination and consultation) and varying forms of joint decision-making (i.e., collaboration or participation).

**Meaningful consultation prior and during project implementation:** The MoEE will adopt full consultation and stakeholder participation for all its sub-project financed under Component B. During project screening (sub-project selection process), ethnic groups living/working near the sub-project area will be meaningfully consulted about benefits and potential impacts. At least two public consultation meetings will be conducted. The proposed sub-project, expected sub-project impacts and mitigation measures will be presented during the first meeting. Then, the second public consultation meeting will be conducted to determine whether there is support for the project activities and potential mitigation plans, if needed.

Prior to consultations, MoEE will send notice to the affected ethnic communities informing their leaders that they will be visited by the respective focal person and local authorities and that consultation will be conducted to seek support of the project intervention and to determine potential adverse impacts as well as possible support from the project in order to address the potential impact. The notice will request that the communities shall invite to the meeting representatives of farmers, women association and village leaders and/or others as necessary. During the consultation, the community leaders and other participants will present their views with regards to the proposed activities.

During the consultation, detailed procedures would be determined on a village-by-village basis to determine the potential impact and possible support for the proposed sub-component. Further,
a conflict resolution system, through established grievance mechanism, would be defined to ensure reflection of voices of the affected people (particularly for land acquisition, which would also need to be in line with the RPF if necessary). If a beneficiary community includes ethnic minority communities that do not belong to the majority ethnic group of the community, their representatives will be included in the conflict resolution mechanisms. This will ensure cultural appropriateness, and community involvement particularly of the ethnic groups in decision-making processes.

In the process, free, prior and informed consultations will be undertaken in a language spoken by, and location convenient to, potentially affected ethnic peoples. The views of ethnic peoples are to be taken into account during implementation of the sub-project, while respecting their current practices, beliefs and cultural preferences. The outcome of the consultations will be documented into the periodical reports and submitted to the World Bank for review.

**Cases where an Ethnic Plan for a proposed sub-project is required:** An Ethnic Peoples Plan (EPP) in line with WB’s OP 4.10 para 12 and Annex B, including a brief Social Assessment, will be developed only for those proposed sub-projects which -during the environmental and social screening process- it is assessed that ethnic peoples (following WB’s criteria to define IPs) are present in the project area. Consultations with and participation of ethnic peoples, their leaders and local government officials will be an integral part of the overall EPP and the brief Social Assessment, which should be prepared along with other required project reports.

**5. Technical guidelines for consultations with ethnic groups**

Consultations will be designed to help to ensure that ethnic peoples are well informed, consulted and mobilized in case the live/work close to one of the proposed sub-projects. Their participation will not only make project activities more sustainable but also provide benefits with more certainty, or protect them from any potential adverse impacts of the sub-projects to be financed by the project.

All target areas that have ethnic people communities and are candidates for sub-project support will be visited (at the time of first consultation with communities) by the Project team including social safeguard focal person and relevant local authorities, including personnel with appropriate social science training or experience. Prior to the visit, the Project will send notice to the communities informing their leaders that they will be visited by the respective focal person and local authorities and that consultation will be conducted to seek support of the project intervention and to determine potential adverse risks of causing any negative impact to ethnic people’s
communities who have collective attachment to lands as well as possible support from the project in order to address the potential impact. The notice will request that the communities shall invite to the meeting representatives of farmers, women association and village leaders, or others as appropriate. During the visit, the community leaders and other participants will present their views with regards to the proposed activities.

The MoEE will identify and utilize the existing community grievance mechanism to take into account specific cultural attributes as well as traditional-cultural mechanisms for raising and resolving issues— to ensure that the concerns of different ethnic groups are received and addressed during project preparation, implementation and beyond project completion. To achieve this, projects would (a) identify and determine culturally acceptable ways to address grievances from significantly different ethnic groups within affected communities, including different ethnic or cultural groups within the project-affected area; (b) understand cultural attributes, customs, and traditions that may influence or impede their ability to express their grievances, including differences in the roles and responsibilities of subgroups (especially women) and cultural sensitivities and taboos; and (c) agree on the best way to access grievance mechanisms, taking into consideration the ways communities express and deal with grievances.

At this visit, the Project focal person or relevant official with social expertise will undertake a screening for Ethnic peoples with the help of Ethnic people leaders and local authorities. The screening will check for the following:

- Names of ethnic groups in the affected villages/commune;
- Total number of ethnic groups in the affected villages/commune;
- Percentage of ethnic people in affected villages/communes; and
- Number and percentage of ethnic households within a described zone of influence of the proposed sub-project. (The zone of influence should include all areas in which investments-related benefits and adverse impacts are likely to be relevant.)

Once target areas have been selected by the MoEE through screening process and Ethnic peoples are identified for any of the syb-projects, a brief social assessment will be conducted to take note of the potential impacts on the local ethnic communities. Free, prior and informed consultations will be carried out for each of the beneficiary/affected communities/villages and the respective communes, ascertaining their broad community support and determining the potential impacts and possible support under the proposed sub-project.
On the basis of the brief social assessment and in consultation with the affected Ethnic Peoples' communities, the Project will prepare an Ethnic Peoples Plan (EPP), in line with WB's para 12 and Annex B, that sets out the measures through which the MoEE will ensure that the potential adverse effects of the sub-project on Ethnic Peoples are avoided, minimized, mitigated, or compensated for. The EPP will be prepared in a flexible and pragmatic manner and its level of detail varies depending on the specific project and the nature of effects to be addressed. The borrower integrates the EPP into the project design. When Ethnic Peoples are the sole or the overwhelming majority of direct project beneficiaries, the elements of an EPP should be included in the overall project design, and a separate EPP is not required.

The EPP includes the following elements, as needed:

- A summary of the information about (a) legal and institutional framework applicable to Ethnic Peoples and (b) baseline information on the demographic, social, cultural, and political characteristics of the affected Ethnic Peoples' communities, the land and territories that they have traditionally owned or customarily used or occupied, and the natural resources on which they depend.
- A summary of the social assessment.
- A summary of results of the free, prior, and informed consultation with the affected Ethnic Peoples' communities that was carried out during project preparation and that led to broad community support for the project.
- A framework for ensuring free, prior, and informed consultation with the affected Ethnic Peoples' communities during project implementation.
- An action plan of measures to ensure that the Ethnic Peoples receive social and economic benefits that are culturally appropriate, including, if necessary, measures to enhance the capacity of the project implementing agencies.
- When potential adverse effects on Ethnic Peoples are identified, an appropriate action plan of measures to avoid, minimize, mitigate, or compensate for these adverse effects.
- The cost estimates and financing plan for the EPP.
- Accessible procedures appropriate to the project to address grievances by the affected Ethnic Peoples' communities arising from project implementation. When designing the grievance procedures, the borrower takes into account the availability of judicial recourse and customary dispute settlement mechanisms among the Ethnic Peoples.
• Mechanisms and benchmarks appropriate to the project for monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on the implementation of the EPP. The monitoring and evaluation mechanisms should include arrangements for the free, prior, and informed consultation with the affected Ethnic Peoples' communities.

To prepare EPP the information below is required:

• The basic census, socio-economic data and inventory of affected assets
• Household ownership of economic and productive assets
• Annual income from primary and secondary employment opportunities
• Economic information of community (e.g. brief information on economic and natural resources, production and livelihood systems, tenure systems)
• Social information of community (e.g. description of kinship, value system, types of social organizations of formal and informal groups)
• Potential impact of proposed project activities on basic social services (e.g. water supply, clinics and schools)
• Potential impact of project activities on the social and economic livelihood.

6. Institutional arrangement of implementation of the CPPF

The CPPF implementation will follow the Project Implementation arrangement, described in chapter 6 of this ESMF. The responsibility of preparation and implementation of the required consultations with Ethnic Peoples and EPPs is with DPTSC. They will review the documents to ensure compliance the contents of this CPPF. Thereafter, the consultation reports with Ethnic Groups and EPPs will be forwarded to the World Bank for review and clearance.

DPTSC will be also responsible for ensuring close coordination with line agencies at National and State levels during subproject preparation.

7. Monitoring and reporting

Public consultations with affected Ethnic Groups will a relevant way to monitor compliance when applying the agreements reached at the EPPs. This project will therefore seek to strengthen the
self-monitoring and problem resolution capacity of local communities, including but not limited to ethnic communities. Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) will be carried out during implementation to allow affected population to assess project effects and identify measures to broaden positive benefits and address negative impacts. This will take the form of regular (quarterly/monthly) meetings between the community, the contractor and DPTSC department facilitated by the safeguards consultant or focal points. Also, whether conflicts involving ethnic groups have occurred and been resolved in compliance with this document will be monitored and reported by project focal person/social safeguards consultant.

The PIU through its safeguards focal persons will conduct regular internal monitoring and evaluation of the consultations with Ethnic Groups and EPPs including review of monthly progress report submitted by site engineer.

8. Budgeting of preparation, implementation and monitoring of the CPPF and EPP

Budget for implementing CPPF and potential EPPs will be part of the Project budget. It uses to cover costs of project staff allowances and consultants to prepare compliance reports including supervising and monitoring reports, data collection, and preparation of EPP etc. Below is a rough budget estimate for CPPF implementation.

Assuming that EPP will require project staff input of 10 days per target area, 5 days of consultant input 5 days of transport. Lump sum amount will be used for data collection and other expanses. Total budget for implementing this CPPF is estimated at US$5,000.

For the preparation, implementation and monitoring of the EPPs, a lump sum estimate for each of them is US$7,500, since it will require recurrent field visits and support during consultations with the Ethnic Groups.
Power System Energy Efficiency Improvement Project  
Component B: Improving Reliability of Transmission Infrastructure  
Report on Public Consultations Meeting on Communities Participation Planning Framework

Meeting Place  
Meeting Room (Room 2218, First Floor, Royal Center Pyae Road Yangon)

Meeting Date  
28th January 2020

Objective  
The main two objectives of this consultation workshop were:
- Present and discuss the project (Power System Energy Efficiency Improvement Project), and Component B (Improving Reliability of Transmission Infrastructure) to relevant Ethnic CSO/NGO, and
- Present, discuss and meaningfully consult the Component B’s Communities Participation Planning Framework

Planning  
- Sending the invitation letter two weeks in advance of the consultation meeting;
- Organizing meaningful consultation with relevant Ethnic CSO/NGO. Some of them came from different states and regions of the country;
- Presenting the project description and project’s ESMF;
- Using an interactive method;
- Reporting the discussion points.
Meeting Attendance

A total of 28 participants from CSO / NGO attended, including 12 women, making up 43% of female participation. Women also participated in discussions. The participant’s list is shown in Table (1). Seven officials from DTPSC attended.

Table (1) Participants’ Attendance list

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>M/F</th>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Daw Aye San</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Mittamon /Myanmar Consortium for Disaster Risk Reduction MCDRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Daw San Yin Tint</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Compass Community Development Organization/Myanmar Consortium for Disaster Risk Reduction MCDRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Daw War War Lin Htun</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Friendly Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>U San Hla</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Myanmar Professional Social Workers Association (MPSWA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>U Maung Maung Oo</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Sein Yaung So-Activities Mandalay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>U Maung Maung Lwin</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Sein Yaung So-Activities Mandalay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Daw Thida San</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>United Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Daw Sandi So Oo</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>United Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>U Saw Junip</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Kayin CSO Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>U Man Than Zaw Lin /Man Thein Zaw</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Kayin CSO Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>U Cin Khen Pau</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Agency for Basic Community Development (ABC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>U Aung Din</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>MEET</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>U San Htay</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Mon CSO network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>U Kaung Myat Thu</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Mon CSO network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>U Than Win</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Green Ramar Development Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Daw J Dau Nan.</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Yaung Chi Thit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Daw Nang Keing Ngin</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Women Economic Development Association of South Shan State (WEDESS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Daw Myo Wint Wint Han</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Women Economic Development Association of South Shan State (WEDESS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>U Aung Myint</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Renewable Energy Association Myanmar (REAM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Daw Sane Sane</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Renewable Energy Association Myanmar (REAM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>U Pyae Phyo Hein</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>CDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Daw Khin Khin Swe</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Yadanar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Daw Soe Soe Oo</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Action for Dignity Development (ADD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Leon Aung THEIK</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>THIKE Law Firm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>U Naing Lin Oo</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>GOLD Myanmar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>U Nyi (Bawdwin)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Green Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Daw Pyae Pyae Thant</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>HBS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>U Aung Min</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>MNGO Coordination</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discussion points of Consultation Meeting

Abbreviation: Q – question, A - Answer, C- comment

Q: Will this framework focus on 66 kV or higher voltages?
A: Since this project is focusing on already existing systems, more likely 230kV or 130kV lines will be involved.

Q: Will this project focus on building new stations or improving the existing stations?
A: The plan is to improve the existing stations, and it does not involve establishing new power stations.

Q: Shan government just established a set of laws, and one of them promotes the generation of renewable energy. It allows producers to sell the power from renewable sources to the National grid. I would like to understand the specification or requirements for this.
A: This is out of scope from this discussion. The regional law is supposed to set in line with the national law.

Q: I would like to highlight this example: in Magway a grid was constructed. However, I was informed that the network needed to wait for additional two years to be operational.
A: We would need to know the exact reason behind this. This project is not linked to that project.
Q: In the future, would you encourage and allow self-develop/community electricity provider (possibly with solar or renewable energy)? Eg. Shan State Parliament has approved the Electricity Law, which would enable local businesses to produce Renewable Energy, which would be allowed to be sold in connection with the Government's power grid since Similar laws could be drafted in other states and regions as well, whether MOEE has plan for any preparations to comply with the Electricity Law of States and regions.

A: This will depend on different ministries and regional authorities. However, from our side, we do promote and encourage solar power generation.

Q: It is pleasure to thank you for conducting public consultations with CSO/NGO for this project funded by the World Bank. Instead of having these consultation sessions as a requirement from World Bank guidelines, the Government needs to do this sort of consultations for other projects as well. It is suggested that not to translate "Timeyinthar Lu Myo Su Nge" for "Ethnic People". This translation makes the ethnic people feel unpleasant. It is better to translate as "Timeyinthar Lu Myo Su".

The concerned state and region authorities should take steps to change the laws in consultation with relevant ethnic groups, NGO and CSO.

A: The Ministry also does consultation sessions for their own projects. For this one, we followed the World Bank's guidelines.

Q: Different organizations are using different guidelines. It is better to have a National Guideline that can be applied for any projects, rather than having different types of guidelines such as ADB, World Bank, AFD's Guideline, etc. Instead of using different guidelines, won't it be easier and better to use one specific guideline for your department?

A: When we are using the government budget, then we will use our own guidelines. However, if we are working with our development partners, then we are also using the partner's guidelines. No matter what guidelines we are using, the objective is to carry out the plan that was laid out by the national Government.

Q: The guidelines set out are very good, but they are not followed correctly. Due to the lack of accountability and transparency, there are many problems during project implementation. Each region and state have its own policy framework. It is understandable that investments should focus on long-term development. We agree that this project is necessary for the country, but one concern is that the implementing departments and funded agencies like World Bank and ADB are not doing too well when applying their guidelines in practice, especially on resettlement (the participant present a case of an ADB-funded project).

A: It is explained that if there is land acquisition in this project, it will follow the Safeguard policy of the World Bank for compensation. However, this project is not expecting to involve any resettlement as its focus is on improving the current electrical systems. Though, all the facts will be taken into consideration for future projects.
Q: It is suggested, on behalf of Karen CSO Network, that when state government implement development projects in Kayin state, it is important to take into account the peace process.
A: Agree that the peace process will need to be considered in projects where project locations are in a conflict area.

Q: Since this is a loan, this is directly concerning all the citizens. No matter who carries out the plan or who gives the loan, this project concerns all the citizens since the country will have to pay back the loan. Also, this involves two parts: generation and distribution. How the project's activities on production and distribution will overlap?
A: This project will be $240 million for upgrading the Ywama plant and $60 million for upgrading the distribution facility. Although the Government is aware of the difficulties of implementing loan projects, the state and regional governments are engaged to work together with the meaningful participation of beneficiaries at the local level.

Q: Regarding the electricity efficiency, REAM and other experienced people discussed with relevant departments several times. Moreover, Rangoon Electrical Department has also been advised many times what to do to improve electricity efficiency. In Yangon, underground power transmission pipelines are reliable for 15 years, but they remain in use for nearly 60 years. Maintenance and improvements in power transmission networks is important to improve power efficiency.

Myanmar have its own law on EIA, and it states that public participation is needed when implementing development projects. What is it going to be done to ensure public participation for this project?
A: At the community consultations, the project description needs to be clearly explained to the public, and the assessments must be able to understand the main social issues at community level. In Myanmar, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are being implemented. This project reduces carbon emissions, so it also needs to be linked with the existing NDCs. Although the Government and the people are aware of the difficulties to implement a loan project, the state and regional Government have agreed to work together consulting meaningfully the people at local level.

C: Many women work are business owners; thus, in places like Shan State, power shortages cause troubles to their business, including the production of tea leaf value-added products, hotels, and so on. Thus, this project will have advantages that would improve businesses in Shan State.

Q: As this project is very beneficial to the country's development, it is appreciated. Will the electricity bill increase again because of all these plans and loans? If there is a plan to increase the unit cost, the public's economic situation will be worsened.
A: This project is not expected to increase the electricity bill.

Q: We need to build trust. The Government doesn’t trust the public, and the public doesn’t trust the Government either. For trust building, you need to have maximum participation, maximum transparency. The public should be allowed to check the meters regarding the collecting meter bills.
A: We tried to reach out as many people as possible.

Q: There are two types of efficiency: technical efficiency and administrative efficiency. Corruption also includes ignoring to read the meter of some houses or cheating (no paying the electricity bill). Please, don’t charge more to the user who is already paying their electricity bills.
A: Technical efficiency needs to be improved as much as possible. We need to reduce electricity losses as much as possible, especially the line losses. There is a Government plan to distribute a standardized electricity bill for all the users. This will help to improve administrative efficiency.

Q: For the Grievance Mechanism: Who will receipt the complaints? Who will handle the cases? Will the Government or World Bank be handling the complaints?
A: The project’s Grievance Mechanism will be available at the project sites. Depending on each case, the Government (technical or political) or World Bank will handle it.

Q: When developing site-specific Plans: Who will report and take into consideration all the discussed points? Sometimes regional authorities abuse their authority, and they do not inform the public. Often, they only inform the public something positive happens. The GRM was not organized as discussed by local and civil society organizations but was organized with the people of the Union Government concerned. The current GRM systems in projects are not considering the problems of the bottom population; thus, this system is not effective at the township level. It is questionable how CSOs should be involved in project implementation without transparency and accountability. Before project preparation, a survey should be undertaken carefully by consultants who understand the local situation. When designing a project, all contextual aspects at the local level need to be taken into account.
A: The Government is going to do it, and the World Bank will have to monitor compliance. When subprojects are decided, all aspects relevant to the social and environmental context need to be considered. Before project preparation, an assessment will need to be carried out carefully, considering the specifics of each local situation. If there is not a good understanding of the local matters, then there are going to be problems when implementing the projects.

C: During the scouting or surveying for the potential project sites, please gather local insights as much as possible and form a committee with local CSOs.
Q: How will this project benefit the rural population?
A: Since the generation and distribution will be improved, it will also benefit the rural population. Improving, maintaining, and upgrading the existing electric system is the main goal of this project.

Q: Improve the national grid is very important. I want to request MOEE to apply a holistic approach to the national grid line and to be transparent with the public. Sometimes locals have no idea why or what has been carrying out in their region because of communication breakdown. Especially in conflict areas, project activities need to be transparent with residents.
A: Thanks for the suggestion which will be reported.

Documented photos

Official of DPTSC explained project information
Co-chair of Women Economic Development Association of South Shan State discussed
Component B: Improving Resilience and Capacity of the Power Network

Founder and Executive of Central Committee of Renewable Energy Association Myanmar (REAM) discussed

Participant of Kayin CSO Network discussed

Participant of Kayin CSO Network discussed

Participant of Myanmar Green Network discussed
Findings and Suggestions

- Participants agreed with the proposed project, component and the Communities Participation Planning Framework;
- Participants showed high levels of interest, and they discussed very actively;
- They appreciated the opportunity to have such a discussion;
- They were able to consider not only technical but also management aspects;
- They suggested to amend the translation of the term "Ethnic people" to Myanmar language;
- They discussed potential challenges of project implementation on the ground;
- They suggested how to overcome the challenges, especially engaging Ethnic groups: improving transparency and communication with the local stakeholders, getting a good knowledge of the subproject's local context, and considering sensitive areas like the ones under conflict.