

## Thilawa SEZ Phase 1

### 1<sup>st</sup> Multi Stakeholder Advisory Group (MSAG)

Park Royal Hotel, Yangon, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015, 2pm

#### Participants:

##### Members

- ✓ Vicky Bowman, Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business (MCRB) (Chair)
- ✓ Than Aung, Secretary, Thilawa SEZ Management Committee (TSEZMC)
- ✓ Ei Ei Khaing, Community Relations Officer, MJTD
- ✓ Aye Khain Win, Project Affected People at Thilawa SEZ Phase 1 and 2
- ✓ Myat Hlaing, Thilawa Social Development Group (TSDG)
- ✓ U Sandawara, Mediator, Income Restoration Programme
- ✓ Jessica Spanton, Earth Rights International (ERI)
- ✓ Robert Barclay/Myat Thandar Ko, International Alert
- ✓ Kyaw Myint, **Senior Program Officer**, Paung Ku
- ✓ Junko Kikuchi, Zaw La, HTAR AYE ZAN, JICA Expert Team
- ✓ **Tin Maung Than**, IRPISC (Thanlyin Immigration Dept)
- ✓ Hnin Wut Yee, MCRB

##### Observers

- ✓ Min Ta La Nyan, Ball Asia Pacific Co.
- ✓ Leon de Riedmatten/Sophia Naing, Peace Nexus
- ✓ Angela Reeman, Reeman Consulting

1. After introductions, and an explanation of the English/Myanmar translation arrangements, the Chair explained the objectives of MSAG:
  - To create a broad dialogue between relevant key stakeholders of the TSEZ Phase I project
  - To identify and assess potential issues, concerns and complaints from PAPs about TSEZ Phase 1 project
  - To monitor implementation of resettlement and income restoration activities to ensure that they fulfil obligations set out by relevant Myanmar and international commitments.
  - To promote and facilitate improved outcomes for PAPs of TSEZ Phase 1
  - To promote good international practice in stakeholder engagement including disseminating information to generate a better understanding of TSEZ Phase 1 project
  - To identify lessons learned from TSEZ Phase I project to inform planning and implementation of the Phase 2 project

She noted that the Chair of the SEZ Management Committee had approved the formation of the Group and its draft ToRs. She explained that according to the agenda, the Group would hear updates on activities by members of the group, and discuss any urgent issues. It was not intended to discuss Phase 2 issues at this stage. However it was intended to help prevent similar problems recurring in Phase 2 as had occurred in Phase 1. She underlined the experimental nature of the group.

In response to questions from PAP representatives, she explained that the meeting was advisory, providing advice to the Chair of the SEZ MC. It was not a decision-making body.

### **Report from the SEZ Management Committee**

2. Dr Than Aung, from the Special Economic Zone Management Committee gave an overview of recent developments at the SEZ including the payments of income support to Phase 1 PAPs, and the baseline assessment of Phase 2. A further consultation meeting is due to be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May for the Phase 2 development, and discussions on the Phase 2 resettlement plan might begin June/July. There was a short discussion regarding the differences between lists of PAPs for Phase 2 between TSDG and the SEZ management committee.

### **Grievance Mechanisms**

3. ERI presented the rationale for a “Community-Driven Operational Grievance Mechanism (OGM)”, based on international experienced of company driven mechanisms. Phase 1 PAP members had attended scoping workshops to explain the concept, undertaking role plays, and received a cartoon leaflet. There would be another workshop at the last week of May with PAPs at the relocation site; Zaw La (JICA Expert Team) and Hnin Wut Yee (MCRB) would be invited as observers. The aim was for the community to identify who and how should be involved to obtain legitimate outcomes. ERI indicated that they hoped to have a grievance mechanism designed by the communities by September for discussion with company stakeholders.
4. In view of the need for community grievances to be addressed in advance of the presentation of a community-driven mechanism being in place, the Chair invited Zaw La (JICA Expert Team) to explain how he has been currently trying to solve any problems/complaints arising from PAPs. Angela Reeman, Resettlement Specialist presented a diagram of the current process, and highlighted that further work needed to be done to identify weaknesses / areas for strengthening to ensure the focus would be on resolution of grievances for PAPs. The Chair noted that this was a shared aim of ERI’s community-driven process and the JICA Expert team and that these two efforts should be coordinated and not duplicatory, should work closely with MJTD and Government and should aim to result in a legitimate and well-functioning grievance process being in place as soon as possible which would be able to embrace all affected communities, not just Phase 1 PAPs, and all companies.

### **Income Restoration Programme (IRP)**

5. U Sanda Wara updated the Group on issues relating to the IRP: He has been working with U Thein Zaw, a microfinance programmes (MFP) expert to develop guidelines for the MFP at TSEZ Phase 1 that the TSEZMC and JICA Expert Team are trying to implement for PAPs at the relocation site of Phase I to obtain access to credit to start their own small business. However, he said that after the

initial consultation with Phase 1 PAPs about the MFP, his view was that most PAPs are not interested in starting a business but simply want to borrow money from the MFP. He (and TDSG) noted the growing dependency of PAPs on external assistance. He therefore intended to change the strategy of MFP with U Thein Zaw, and take more time to sensitize people a 'sustainable livelihoods' and 'self-dependency', and also believed that this needed to be done early for the 1,000 Phase 2 households.

6. He also highlighted the psychological needs resulting from the resettlement, including depression and an unhealthy dependency and loss of self-reliance, and asked for expert support to address this.
7. On debt, some households with debt have already cleared or reduced their debt owing to the Social Welfare Support Program being implemented by TSEZMC/JICA Expert Team. Some use the money for food and healthcare needs. However, 10 households still have remaining debt, and 1 person would lose her home. He requested the Group consider how to decrease debt for these PAPs whilst also increasing their opportunities to increase their income, including through job opportunities and skills training.
8. Ball Asia Pacific Co., Ltd explained the background to their interest in the IRP. He described how they had recruited PAPs at their work site in TSEZ and made use of JICA's bulletin board. TSDG and U Sandawara asked Ball to consider how more jobs could be found for PAPs to work in the TSEZ area. Some issues were also raised about the payment of wages, and attitudes of sub-contractors. Ball said that they will consider these issues and also check with the other companies that are going to invest in the TSEZ area. Daw Ei Ei Khaing from MJTD also discussed about the issue of PAPs for working in the TSEZ.
9. JICA Expert Team explained the plan for vocational training for PAPs who are interested in working in SEZ and elsewhere, including further vocational training and 'job-readiness' training in June, in recognition of the difficulties PAPs face in entering the mainstream labour market.

### **Terms of Reference for the MSAG**

10. In view of the lack of time for discussion of the draft ToRs (circulated at the meeting in English and Burmese), the Chair suggested that these could be discussed at the next meeting once participants had had a chance to consider them. The aim would be to have a further meeting in August which would include a report back on the progress with the community designed grievance mechanism.

The meeting closed at 17.15

MSAG Secretariat, 22 May 2015