



Myanmar EITI Annual Activity Report

July 2015 -- June 2016

Message of the Chairman of the MEITI-MSG

First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the MSG members for their active participation throughout the process to delivering the functions of EITI implementation in Myanmar in order to improve fiscal transparency and accountability, and the revenue management system.

As an EITI candidate country, Myanmar has published its first Myanmar EITI report which revealed findings related to the extractive sectors, especially revenue from the mining, oil and gas sector. Even though the first report could not cover the whole sector's revenue, it was the first and significant achievement in such atmosphere where aforementioned information had been never shared to the public. In fact, it was the step to move forward to having transparency and accountability in the extractive sectors.

Implementation of EITI is a continuous process. As the standards require, we remain committed to perform the tasks as planned in our country's EITI work plan. This report highlights the efforts of our MSG and coordination team in achieving important priorities under the work plan. Currently, we have started drafting the 2nd MEITI report with the selection of Independent Administrators to reconcile the Government's revenue and the extractive industries' payment. No matter what challenges and difficulties prevailing, we sincerely believe that Myanmar EITI-MSG will be able to submit the report to international EITI within the stipulated time.

U Maung Maung Win
Interim-Chairman

1. General Assessment of Annual Performance

After Myanmar's application was approved and accepted as an EITI candidate country, it has prepared and submitted the First Country EITI report on the reconciliation of the Government's revenue and the extractive industries' payments. The table below illustrates the process which MEITI undertook to deliver the first Myanmar EITI report.

Implementation Process	
Steps Implemented	Status
Select Independent Administrator and decide the scope of the report	The technical sub-committee, with the support of International EITI, selected Moore Steven Team as the independent administrator.
Develop reporting template and collect data	Developed and explained the template to relevant stakeholders through a workshop
Finalize draft report and receive feedback and recommendations from MSG and each constituency group	Data collection process was completed on time with the support of various government departments' representatives and selected private companies. The drafted report was finalized after incorporating feedback from all stakeholders and MSG in December 2015.
Finalize and submit First Myanmar EITI report to International EITI	First Myanmar EITI report was submitted to International EITI in January 2016.

Launch of the Inaugural MEITI Report and Preparation for Broader Dissemination

The implementation of EITI and fulfilling the EITI requirements is a continuous process. The MEITI team launched the report with other stakeholder representatives in Yangon during mid-March 2016. The MSG representatives participated actively in the launch of the report, as well as panel sessions where they responded to questions from the audience, leading to greater clarity and understanding of the report. However, the implementation process faces uncertainty and challenges given the political transition, and that slowed down the implementation process stipulated by the work plan. Other challenges include the shortage of budget, and the team is still awaiting the approval of the grant contract. The MSG sub-committee members are trying to maintain and define various possible ways to disseminate the report to the public through the media. At the same time, the coordination team is engaging with two regions where subnational coordination units are actively involved, to advocate and share information with new administrators and relevant key personnel to enhance the understanding of implementing EITI. Subnational units will also be assuming responsibilities such as disseminating information and recommendations from the report and initiating public discourse on the report.

Preparation for 2nd MEITI Report

It is the candidate country's obligation to meet the EITI standards and Myanmar has to submit its 2nd EITI report by January 2017. The preparation for the 2nd report is one of the key activities under this year's work plan. While waiting to sign the agreement for grant during the political

transition in April 2016, the MEITI coordination team moved forward through facilitating and coordinating with MSG representatives, especially subcommittee members, World Bank, and International EITI Secretariat office in preparing and developing the Terms of Reference (TOR) for IA and budget forecasting for procurement. It is still an ongoing process while MEITI is awaiting the Government's commitment to fill the structural gaps of Leading authority- champion and MSG and sign the agreement as early in third quarter of 2016.

MEITI National Secretariat

The MEITI Coordination Team of CESD is currently the Secretariat, coordinating the implementation and information sharing amongst the MSG and constituency groups. Currently, it is handing over the function to the EITI unit under the Budget Department of Ministry of Finance (MOF). Both teams worked together in managing activities under the work plan during the period covered by this report. While the MOF team managed the MDTF fund of \$290,000/-, it also worked on procurement and logistic for various events under the work plan in collaboration with MEITI Coordination team of CESD. Due to the difficulties in recruiting staff for the Secretariat team and the time needed to build required competency for key staff members of the MOF secretariat team, the handing over process has been longer than expected. Thus, it was extended to June 2016. Under such a situation, the combined team could manage and deliver the actions planned under the work plan up to December 2015 timely and tried to share human resource for managing those activities and preparation of first EITI report to be finished by timely by the end of December 2016. on the teams also organized regular team meetings among the MOF EITI Unit team, MEITI Coordination Team of CESD and World Bank up till February 2016. However, after facing uncertainties due to the political change and its impact on various Ministries' functions, the meetings could not be conducted as usual. Therefore, both teams tried to maintain the momentum by organizing low cost subcommittee meetings. The Coordination Team also organized workshops on beneficial ownership, EITI implementation, and contract negotiation and transparency, with the respective support of partners – NRGi, Mongolia EITI, and GIZ. The Coordination team of CESD and the MOF secretariat discussed and prepared for the handover of administrative documents by the end of June 2016. As the coordination team of CESD depleted their own funds for managing day-to-day EITI coordination function, the CESD Team has committed to contribute their time on a voluntary basis as the MOF secretariat team still needs support for coordination and delivering the actions under the work plan

Regular MSG Meetings

There were a total of four MSG meetings during the reporting period. Through these MSG meetings, participants discussed on scoping study recommendation to be used for making decision for not only scope for first EITI report but also for the process implementation of preparation for first EITI report in working with Independent Administrator to deliver the actions and develop the report in timely. Even though the final product may not be as comprehensive as it is ideally expected, the commitment and support from the MSG and the Chairperson has enabled both members of the private and public sector to contribute the best possible information and data on revenue administration in the data template stipulated by the MSG. During the meetings, decisions were also made such that the budget and funds were use and managed effectively, particularly in the field of capacity building for various constituency groups. CSO representatives also actively participated and gave their feedback and inputs throughout the process of preparation for the first Myanmar EITI report. With the commitment and overwhelming support stemming from each constituency group, Myanmar achieved its milestone of implementing EITI by submitting its first EITI report timely. The MSG also discussed and delivered the subsequent steps of releasing the EITI report to the wider public, and tried conducting outreach and communication activities to initiate public dialogue under the work plan of 2016 when they faced challenges stemming from the handover process and the committee change due to the outcomes of the 2015 election..

Regular MSG Sub-Committee Meetings

From July 2015 to June 2016, there were more than 25 sub-committee meetings. The sub-committees are namely, Outreach and Communication sub-committee, Work plan and Governance sub-committee, and Technical sub-committee. Individual sub-committees effectively and actively discussed the relevant issues carried out their respective roles and responsibilities such that decisions can be made efficiently at MSG meetings and activities can be prioritized and implemented according to the work plan. Working alongside one another has helped to build rapport and relationships that are extremely useful in facilitating cooperation between the constituency groups and consensus decision making. As there are numerous challenges for Myanmar to overcome in order to improve transparency and accountability, the MSG tries to manage the time constraint and existing limitations revolving the legal framework and , and promote and build better coordination and relationships among the three stakeholder groups. Such efforts were only possible given the open and flexible environment facilitated by the sub-committee meetings.

Outreach, Communications and Capacity-Development

Under this reporting period, the Sub-National Coordination Units (SNCU) was also initiated and started to implement as pilot project in Mandalay region where many gold mining projects are located, and Magway region where many small, medium and some major oil production projects are located. During the initial stage, the SNCU seems to be functioning well, but due to the representatives' lack of understanding at the regional level, the functions were not carried out as quickly as expected. After key decision makers are changed after the November election in 2015, the CSO representatives who are selected as representatives for their respective regional sub-national coordination unit team tried to continue organizing meetings among SNCU members till today. For example, Magway SNCU group invited the National Coordination team representatives to present to the new Chief Minister of the region to help him understand the objectives of the SNCU and how it is related with the National MSG TOR, the work plan, and the existing problems and conflicts in their respective region's extractive sector. And they also continuous in action of review and replace the three constituency groups representative with more committed and giving time for SNCU too. Mandalay SNCU is also trying to do the same and help the new Chief Minister of the region to better understand the role of SNCU through sharing the first EITI report and other relevant EITI documents and information with the new administrators. Individual constituency group's capacity building was conducted through organizing specific trainings for Government, Private and CSOs using the findings from the training need assessment which was conducted by International EITI consultant during mid-2015. The topics covered under the capacity building trainings are: (1) Understanding EITI in broader context and the Importance of Reporting, (2) Facilitating and Communicating with Different Stakeholders, and (3) Basic Natural Resource Governance from the perspective of EITI.

The SNCU also disseminated the first Myanmar EITI report broadly to other stakeholders from the three constituency groups and media to enhance their understanding on the report's findings and recommendations that are to be implemented in the future as a continuous reform process. It also had the chance to share the EITI report with all Members of Parliament from Yangon Division and seek their actions to take on the recommended reform actions. The coordination team also followed up with the decision of the sub-committee to engage with the media. As it was discussed in May 2016, the coordination team hopes to share the first EITI report's recommendations and finding with the public through platforms such as radio or TV programs, news outlet such as MRTV in August 2016.

In order to continuously engage the International EITI, the MSG representatives and coordination team members, including the National Coordinator, participated in several International events organized by International EITI in collaboration with Philippines EITI, NRGI, and GIZ Mongolia, to enhance relationships and networks with regional countries that have implemented the EITI and possess relevant experiences to be applied in the context of Myanmar. Myanmar consequently also enjoys opportunities to learn from other countries' experiences and thus, be

able to be better unleash the potential and manage existing risks through dialogue in these platforms. Participants in these events also had the chance to gain a deeper understanding of the EITI report, the reforms required, and the updated standards, which then can be communicated to respective constituency group members through the MSG meetings.

Long-Term Funding for EITI

The implementation of EITI is a continuous action for the country and it needs to have enough budget to implement activities under its work plan for the next three years for Myanmar to reach the level of a compliant country. It has discussed with development partners like DFID, DFAD, EU, and the World Bank, and it has also prepared the budget forecast by reflecting its work plan for the subsequent three years which was agreed by Development Partners, supported through the World Bank. Although MEITI prepared and did up the budget plan by the end of November 2015, the political change affected the plan as political appointments and leadership structure were affected by the transition, causing delay in the signing of the agreement between MOF and WB. This is still awaiting the Cabinet's decision. As such, the implementation process of EITI in Myanmar to deliver the prioritised activities under the work plan since March 2016 was also delayed. Under such circumstances, the coordination team has been trying to maintain some functions such as organize workshops on beneficial ownership and contract negotiation and transparency with the budgetary support from NREGI and GIZ Mongolia for Myanmar MSG representatives and Mongolia EITI representatives. Thus, the coordination team and the MSG are trying to maintain the momentum by incurring minimal cost while it waits for the signing of agreement between the government and the World Bank.

MEITI MSG and Civil Society's Concerns

Additional Inputs from CSOs:

Successes:

1. Sub-committee meetings are conducted regularly and effectively even when the national level MSG meeting has stopped.
2. Similarly, Sub-National Coordination Units meetings in MDY and Magway are conducted regularly while the government members have not been officially appointed.
3. Civil society has built good relationship with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. They have organized and participated in mining monitoring trip together with CSO, regional and local governments, Department of Mines, and the private sector in January 2016. They are also planning to conduct a similar trip again in June-July 2016 in the Sagaing region.
4. CSO representatives - MSG-MEITI has organized a press conference regarding its position and stance on the first Myanmar EITI report in January 2016.
5. Due to the formation of Sub National Coordination Units in the Mandalay region, the situation of illegal mining has slightly improved as there is a better monitoring process and local responsive mechanism by three constituencies, and the SNCU members.
6. CSO has facilitated community research in Lapadaung copper mine and advocated Members of Parliament, regional government and the media to respond to the findings in June 2016.
7. CSO conducted an advocacy meeting with Members of Parliament in Natural Resources Committees in Ahmyothar and Phythu Hluttaw, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, and regional governments in May 2016, highlighting the importance of implementing EITI recommendations to enhance transparency and accountability in natural resources governance in Myanmar.

Challenges:

1. There were no capacity development activities for MEITI-MSG apart from the workshop on beneficial ownership which was held in May 2016.
2. Although regular SNCU meetings were held at the regional level, there is a need for the SNCU to be more functional so that they can effectively respond to local issues and improve resources management in the regions.
3. CSO has submitted its recommendations (13 in total) upon the final draft version of Myanmar EITI report in the 12th MSG meeting which was held in Dec 2015; however, the first Myanmar EITI report has not covered and reflected them in their entirety.
4. MEITI-MSG has yet to conduct public debates in the regions regarding the first Myanmar EITI report, and has only launched the report in March 2016.
5. MDTF fund has been delayed because it has yet to receive the government's official approval to implement MEITI activities according to the work plan. This is because there exists much bureaucratic red tapes between MEITI Secretariat team from CESD (Former MDRI) and the MOPF.
6. CSO has changed its representatives in November and December internally. Myanmar Alliance of Transparency and Accountability (MATA) and CSO representatives have informed MEITI Secretariat with an official change of appointment letter; however, MEITI-Secretariat has yet to recognize the changes and they are still using the old CSO representatives' names meetings, workshops or training invitations. Thus, the CSO-MSG representative feels that they have been discriminated against amongst other constituencies within the MEITI-MSG.
7. The official announcement to continue implementing the Myanmar EITI process has not been released yet. Therefore, there exists uncertainty in the continuation of MEITI implementation process.

Recommendations to Improve Engagement and the Implementation of EITI in Myanmar from the Perspective of Relevant Constituencies

First Myanmar EITI report is highly incomplete. However, the recommendations are strong. Nevertheless, there is little discussion on how to implement these recommendations amongst the MEITI-MSG members. CSO is also mainly concerned that the MEITI-MSG will produce the second Myanmar EITI report based on the weak points of the first report as mentioned below,

- Approximately 50 percent of public money from oil, gas and mining are kept by state-owned economic enterprises (SEEs) in off-budget's "Other Accounts."
- It is necessary to disseminate the information regarding the list of active oil, gas, gemstones and mineral licenses updated as of March 2014 so that these information can be publicly available.
- The value of jade production and revenue generation should be disclosed as only 54 percent of the gemstone companies in the emporium,— a small fraction of the total industry -- was covered in the first Myanmar EITI report.
- The revenues from the extractive industry should be reported on a project-by-project basis so that public can understand the sources of resource revenues and their respective owners, to monitor their performance in managing the projects in accordance with the standards.
- Licensing procedures and allocation criteria has to be disclosed according to the EITI requirements to improve transparency and accountability.
- Data on beneficial ownership has to be disclosed according to revised EITI standard in 2016.

- Contracts and licenses' terms should be disclosed despite the EITI guidelines 'encourage' disclosure. The lack of transparency and disclosure reduces stakeholders' ability to monitor and enforce companies' financial, operational and social obligation.

Thus, CSO urged all MEITI-MSG to place emphasis on implementing the above-mentioned points to improve the transparency mechanism for better natural resources governance in Myanmar.

As a first step to implement Myanmar first EITI report's recommendations, the CSO would like the MEITI-Secretariat to follow up the decision stemming from the Outreach and Communication, Governance and Work plan sub-committee meeting, which was held on 3rd June:

1. As an advocacy group of the MEITI-MSG, one representative from MEITI-MSG will meet with EITI-related ministries in July 2016 to discuss what the ministries are doing regarding the recommendations. This is to better understand the challenges, strengths, and opportunities to move forward with the recommendations on revenue management to enhance resource governance in Myanmar.
2. In order to meaningfully implement the EITI process in Myanmar, CSO would like to recommend that more capacity building opportunities be offered on top of workshops and trainings. This entails offering all MEITI-MSG members (3 constituencies) opportunities to act as the facilitator in the meetings, discussions, workshops, etc. According to the consensus decision making practices within MSG members of EITI process, it is required that 3 constituencies have a sense of equal participation and non-discrimination without any impeding information sharing.
3. Although MEITI communication strategy has been drafted since late 2015, there is no major attempt to implement this strategy. The strategy entails outreach activities to raise public awareness on Myanmar's EITI implementation process. Moreover, the communication mechanism is not properly worked out when the information is shared internally or externally.
4. Myanmar EITI-MSG is required to agree and develop the strategy vs work plan in accordance with Myanmar's context to implement the MEITI process effectively and efficiently.
5. Finally, CSO would like to recommend developing an action plan to carry out the implementation of the first Myanmar EITI report's recommendations by MEITI-MSG.

Additional Input from Governments:
(Still waiting while they are confusing and not clear their role)

Additional Input from Privates:
(Still waiting while they are preparing)

2. Assessment of performance against targets and activities set out in the workplan

The MSG discussed and reviewed the Work plan's objectives and activities after the MSG workshop for 2014-2015 Annual Activity Progress Report. It was revised with more clarification on the activities but it did not change the context of the work plan with the inputs of MSG member by the end of February 2016.

The following is an assessment of progress against the activities in the Work plan, from July 2015 (when the Work plan was agreed by the MSG) until June 2016.

Objective 1: Contribute to broader reform for resource governance

Number	Activity	Status	Time in WP	Remark/ Summary of Progress from July 2014-July 2015
1.2.1	Carry out legal study to build on recommendations of legal review and the scope of the study	Not achieved	Mid 2017	This was discussed by the MSG at the time when the Work plan was finalized in April 2014, and was briefly discussed again at the MSG workshop in July 2015. It will be carried forward in the revised Work plan as an activity for the subsequent year.
1.2.2	Prepare for drafting of the EITI bill including consultation with legislators and other key stakeholders	Not achieved	Early 2017	This was discussed by the MSG at the time the Work plan was agreed to in April 2014 and was briefly discussed again by the MSG at the MSG workshop in July 2015. It will be included as an activity in the revised Work plan, based on the findings of the legal study.
1.2.3	Government EITI Coordination 1. Establish inter-departmental EITI working group under each key EITI-related ministry (EITI Special Units) 2. Review and strengthen existing governmental EITI coordination mechanism	Partially achieved / Ongoing	Mid 2014 and onward	Some ministries, e.g. Ministry of Mines, established an inter-departmental EITI working group. However, the Ministry of Energy, MOECAAF and GAD have indicated that they may set up a working group. Ministry of Finance have not yet done so, but have established the EITI National Secretariat unit. However, the process is awaiting with the guidance and commitment of the new Government. The renewal of

				commitment by the new Government can reduce the delay and confusion within the MSG structure, as it is currently fraught with uncertainty due to the change in government representatives.
1.2.4	MEITI Coordination Office/ Secretariat transition to Ministry of Finance (MDRI-MEITI team to work with Leading Authority to agree and implement step-by-step plan)	Partially achieved / Ongoing	Mid 2016	<p>A plan was agreed with the Government EITI Leading Authority that the MDRI-CESD MEITI Coordination Office would slowly hand over responsibility of the National Secretariat function to a designated team in the Ministry of Finance. This could not be implemented as planned in the late 2015. Due to not having enough staff members and the turnover of the department head, the plan of the handover process was pushed back to early 2016, and then the end of June 2016.</p> <p>The CESD MEITI Coordination Office continues to work as closely as possible with this team, although the handover process is completed in June 2016. It is therefore expected that the CESD team will need to continue to work with the team in the Ministry of Finance for the foreseeable future.</p>
1.2.5	Identify and plan the support required for the government (central and regional offices) to understand and calculate: 1. regional/local extractive industries' contribution to national economy and 2. production and export volumes and pricing	Not achieved	Mid 2014-2015	<p>The Independent Administrator's Terms of Reference included an assessment of these requirements. It is anticipated that the Independent Administrator will make recommendations for improving and strengthening the government's management and collation of such data moving forward.</p> <p>This activity is therefore carried over into next year's Work plan.</p>
1.2.6	Establish a centralised government register of licenses which covers both the national and sub-national levels	Not achieved	Mid 2016-2019	This activity has been included in the Work plan by the MSG with the caveat that it is not strictly or normally an EITI issue, but that it was included to ensure alignment with EITI Requirement 3.9.

				Discussions about establishing a minerals cadastre are now in place with MOM. This activity will therefore remain in the Work plan for 2016-2017, and there will also be a workshop at the end of 2015/early 2016 to identify and decide on the best options for Myanmar.
1.2.7	Carry out review of the illegal and artisanal and small scale mining (ASM) sector to understand potential contribution to national economy and estimation of production data	Not achieved	Late 2014	This activity was included in Moore Stephens TOR, and will therefore be carried forwards into next year based on the Independent Administrator's recommendations.
1.2.8	Carry out review of the jade and gemstone sectors for other potential inclusion in scope of second MEITI report (If not effectively covered and/or included in scoping study and first EITI report)	Achieved	Early 2016	<p>In December 2014, the MSG agreed that the scope of the study would only include formal government data on jade and gemstones from the Gems Emporium. As such, the entire jade and gemstone sectors will not be wholly covered in the study or in the first MEITI report.</p> <p>There have been some discussion in the MSG regarding the options for producing this report and some preliminary data has been gathered. The MSG decided in June 2015 that the review should be carried out after the scoping study has been completed.</p>
1.2.9	Government (including SOE) needs to identify its level of ownership in the sector	In progress	Mid 2014-2017	<p>There has been initial discussion during the government's working committee meetings, especially on the available data for the scoping study's preparation. There exists a need for continuous discussion amongst key stakeholders.</p> <p>This was also included in the Independent Administrator's TORs and will be carried forward based on their recommendations</p>

				accordingly.
1.2.10	Government to review availability of EITI-related data among SOEs for disclosure in EITI report	In progress	Mid 2014-2016	<p>There has been initial discussion during the government working committee meetings, especially on the available data for the scoping study's preparation. There exists a need for continuous discussion amongst key stakeholders.</p> <p>This was also included in the Independent Administrator's TORs and will be carried forward based on their recommendations accordingly.</p>
1.2.11	Government to review extractive industry-related sub-national practices, payments and revenues	Partially achieved / on going	Mid 2014-2015	<p>This was discussed in the MSG sub-committee and a representative of the Internal Revenue Department offered to organise a workshop to review extractive industry-related practices at the subnational level. It was organized in late 2015.</p> <p>This was included in the Independent Administrator's TORs and will be carried forward based on their recommendations accordingly.</p>
1.2.12	Carry out a study to map and identify levels of beneficial ownership in the extractive sectors in Myanmar (If not effectively covered and/or included in scoping study)	Under discussion	End 2016	<p>The MSG discussed this when agreeing to include it in the Work plan in April 2014.</p> <p>In March, a government representative from the Myanmar Investment Commission participated in a beneficial ownership workshop organised by the EITI International Secretariat in the UK.</p> <p>The issue of beneficial ownership was discussed briefly at the MSG workshop in July 2015. The oil and gas companies present indicated that they would not have a problem making their beneficial owners public and for this to be included on a public</p>

				<p>register in Myanmar. It was noted that the mining company representatives were less comfortable with this suggestion.</p> <p>The Independent Administrator's TOR for the scoping study requires them to propose a definition of beneficial ownership consistent with EITI requirement 3.11.d, and a mechanism for reporting and disclosure in accordance with EITI Requirements 3.11.a-b.</p>
1.2.13	<p>1. Government to agree procedure for disclosure of information related to the allocation of licenses</p> <p>2. Disclose information about bidding process including list of applicants and the bid criteria (2013-2014) in line with EITI 2013 Standard Requirement 3.10</p>	In Progress	Late 2014-2015	<p>This activity, which focuses on MOGE and the disclosure of some data about the 2013-2014 bidding process, was briefly discussed in one or two MSG meetings and in some sub-committee meetings.</p> <p>The information was provided to the Independent Administrator for inclusion in their report.</p>
1.2.14	MSG members will explore the methodology and the extent of contract disclosure and social expenditures	In Progress	2014-2015	<p>Contract disclosure and social expenditures have been briefly discussed a few times, although not formally at a regular MSG meeting.</p> <p>At the MSG workshop in July 2015, there was some discussion about contract disclosure.</p> <p>The Independent Administrator's TOR covers both of these issues in line with EITI Requirements 3.12 (b) and 4.1 (b). It is therefore expected that the MSG will address these issues more substantially once the Independent Administrator has completed their work.</p>

Objective 2: Create enabling environment for EITI

Activity	Activity	Status	Time in	Remarks/Summary of Progress during 2014-2015
----------	----------	--------	---------	--

Number			WP	
2.1.1	1. Carry out Training Needs Assessment for MSG and key stakeholders 2. Design training plan, training manual materials etc. to include training of trainers (TOT)	Achieved	Mid 2015	The draft training plan has been produced and the accompanying report was finalised and approved in early September.
2.2.1	Two or 3 training activities per year depending on training needs identified/training plan - for MSG members	Achieved/ongoing	End 2015-2019	Several training activities were offered/delivered to MSG members throughout the year (although these took place before the training needs assessment had been carried out).
2.2.2	MSG Study Tour & Exchange visit to Mongolia	Achieved	Late 2014	A group of MSG representatives was invited to Mongolia in November 2014 by GIZ to participate in a conference and meet Mongolian EITI representatives to share, learn and discuss EITI implementation.
2.2.3	MSG Study Tour & Exchange visit to the Philippines	Achieved	Mid-late 2014	This took place later than originally anticipated, but was a very valuable experience for the MSG participants.
2.2.4	Government training and capacity development (as requested by government) 1. Basic natural resource governance training to EITI related (Union) ministries 2. Basic natural resource governance and EITI training to regional governments (especially from resource rich states and regions) 3. Advance Natural Resource Governance and Reporting Practice Training to MEITI Government, Working Group and Working Group/Focal Group from Each EITI Related	Achieved/Ongoing	Mid 2014-Onwards	A range of EITI related training has been offered to key government ministries, including: - Introduction to EITI o Ministry of Mines o Various other ministries including GAD and some parliamentarians - Natural Resource Governance o Ministry of Mines - Preparation for EITI Reporting o Ministry of Finance o Various government departments

	Government Agencies 4. Fiscal regime in EI related training 5. International accounting standard and project financing and evaluation training			
2.2.5	Civil Society Organisation (CSOs) training and capacity development <u>Training activities to be developed as per Training Needs Assessment</u>	Achieved / Ongoing	Mid 2014-2016	A number of CSO training activities took place during the year are including – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to EITI • TOT for EITI Awareness • Natural Resource Governance • Contract Transparency In particular, NRGi is working closely with Myanmar CSOs to support them and build capacity to participate effectively in the EITI process.
2.2.6	Private Sector training and capacity development <u>Training activities to be developed as per Training Needs Assessment</u>	Achieved/Ongoing	Mid 2014-2016	Prioritised training for the private sector will focus on supporting the reporting companies with the reporting process. However, some local level companies have participated in events related to outreach and raising awareness, especially in Mandalay and Magway where the two subnational coordination units have been established. There are plans to to organize two trainings for Private Sector with MFMA in Yangon and Mandalay by December 2015.
2.3.1	Legal Review	Achieved	Late 2013-2014	A legal consultant (Baker & McKenzie) was contracted by the World Bank in 2013 to carry out the legal review. The final report was produced in 2014.
2.3.2	Political Economy Study (Pre-scoping Study)	Achieved	By mid 2014	Adam Smith International: ‘Institutional and Regulatory Assessment of the Extractive Industries in Myanmar’ was

finalised and published in 2015.

Objective 3: Prepare and facilitate the process for implementing EITI

Number	Activity	Status	Time in WP	Remarks/ Summary of Progress during 2014-2015
3.1.1	Prepare and secure World Bank Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) funding until end 2015	Achieved		A USD 290,000 grant to the Ministry of Finance from the World Bank-managed EITI MDTF provides funding until the end of 2015. This is complemented by Bank-executed activities, including financing of a technical adviser, a communications consultant, and a public financial management consultant, and the financing of the Scoping Study. The Bank-executed activities are also financed by the EITI MDTF.
3.1.2	Prepare and Secure DFID and/or alternative development partner for short-medium-long term funding	In progress		In principle agreement has been reached with the World Bank to provide a grant from Myanmar Partnership MDTF, with funding from DFID and perhaps DFAT. Grant development is underway.
3.1.3	Prepare and secure government contribution to EITI	Under discussion	Onward	Some preliminary discussion has been held with the government on the potential financial contribution to EITI.
3.1.4	Prepare and secure core funding for MEITI Coordination Office	Achieved		Given the need for ongoing MDRI MEITI team support to the EITI process and the Ministry of Finance, funding is being factored in to the revised 2016 – 2019 Work plan.
3.2.1	Hold MSG Meeting every two months	Achieved / Ongoing	Candidate Onward	MSG meetings have been held regularly approximately every 2 months.

3.2.2	Establish MSG Sub-Committees, Taskforces, Supporting Committees or Monitoring Committees as necessary and hold Meetings accordingly	Achieved / Ongoing	Candidate Onward	In July 2014 the MSG agreed to establish 3 sub-committees to support its work and with the mandate to work in more detail on key areas, on behalf of the MSG. The 3 sub-committees are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work plan and Governance • Technical and Reporting • Communications and Outreach The 3 sub-committees have met regularly during the year.
3.2.3	Procure reconciler firm to carry out detailed scoping study and prepare first MEITI report	Achieved / Ongoing	After MEITI Candidacy Application Approved	The Independent Administrator was procured in June 2015. The MSG established a ‘Selection Committee’ to oversee and lead the selection process.
3.2.4	Scoping Study	Achieved	Early 2015	This activity was delayed to mid-late 2015.
3.2.5	1. MSG to agree scope and definition of materiality threshold for the first report based on the results of the scoping study 2. Reconciler to develop reporting templates with MSG in line with agreed scope 3. MSG to approve the reporting templates	Achieved	Based on scoping study, early 2015	This activity was delayed slightly. It is anticipated that the scoping study will be finalised in October 2015. The MSG has agreed on the scope and reporting templates accordingly.
3.2.6	Training on EITI reporting and templates for all Reporting Entities	Achieved	After scope agreed (2015)	This was carried out by Moore Stephens, the Independent Administrator after the scope of the first report has been agreed.
3.2.7	Preparation and Production of MEITI report	Achieved	Jan 2016	Moore Stephens produced the first MEITI report. This began in October 2015.
3.2.8	Approve and Launch Of MEITI Report by	Achieved	After	Once the draft report was finalised, and the MSG and key

	MSG	-Ongoing	completion of MEITI Report	stakeholders have had the opportunity to give any feedback, the MSG formally approved the report. Once the final version had been approved it was officially launched.
3.3.1	Prepare for the 2nd Report including procurement of Reconciler and possible second scoping study	Under process	Early 2016-End 2016	The MSG will make a decision on this during 2016.
3.3.2	Production of 2nd MEITI Report	Under discussion	2016-2017	This will take place during 2016 (possibly 2017).
3.4.1	Engage in validation, review and approval of validation report	Under discussion	By January 2017	Validation must take place by January 2017 (2.5 years after candidate status granted).

Objective 4: Increase the accessibility of data (Communication and Information Sharing)

Number	Activity	Status	Time in WP	Remarks/ Summary of Progress during 2014-2015
4.1	Widespread communication and dissemination of MEITI report, ensuring contribution to public debate including e.g.: - Press Release - (Media) Including TV, Radio, Print, events and activities	Ongoing	Early 2016-late 2106	It has been taking place once the EITI report is published and in line with the Communications Strategy.
4.2.1	MEITI Website (regular updating and maintenance)	Ongoing	2014 and Ongoing	A new Communications Officer was appointed in June 2015. The website is also now being revised and improved. It has been handed over to the MOF team by April 2015 and one staff who is assigned to undertake the role of

				communications.
4.2.2	MEITI Secretariat to establish online and physical 'library' of EITI related information for EITI stakeholders (where the information is not publicly available, it should be approved by MSG)	Ongoing	Late 2014 - Onwards	The MEITI office are collating numerous relevant and insightful documents/reports etc. which will be available for downloading from the MEITI website (in both Myanmar and English languages). This will also be covered in the Communications Strategy.
4.2.3	Develop MEITI communications plan/strategy	Achieved	Late 2015	This activity was slightly delayed but was produced by the end of 2015.
4.2.4	Implement communications plan/strategy including e.g. information, education and communication materials, outreach events, workshops, seminars etc.	Ongoing	Late 2014 - Onwards	In line with the MEITI Communications Strategy, a range of communications and outreach events and activities will held each year, including e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National EITI conference - Annual MSG workshop - Subnational coordination unit events - Outreach events and workshops
4.2.5	Possible Outreach Events to include: 1. Seminars and workshops (approx. 15) 2. National EITI Conference	Ongoing	2014-2016	Various outreach events were held during the year as follow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 seminars with EITI introduction of regional level • 8 trainings and workshops with Media and Government
4.2.6	Outreach events for each constituency group	Partially Achieved /Ongoing	Mid 2014-2016	Outreach events were held primarily for CSOs and government stakeholders during the year.
4.2.7	MSG to discuss and agree options for establishing regional CSO-government EITI	Partially Achieved	Late 2014	This activity became the MSG agreement, in December 2014, to establish the 'pilot' 4 subnational coordination

	support groups - options for establishing groups followed up	d	Onward	units. The agreed 4 states and regions were: Mandalay, Magway, Shan and Rakhine. By July 2015, two of these-- Mandalay and Magway -- had been successfully established. It is intended that the remaining 2 will be established as per the MSG decision later this year.
4.3.1	MSG to establish internal monitoring and evaluation mechanism e.g. MSG Monitoring and Evaluation Sub-Committee	Not achieved	Late 2016 Onwards	The following activities all contribute to ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the EITI process: - CSOs as non-reporting entities, play monitoring and oversight role - The Annual Activity Report process - Regular Workplan and Governance Sub-Committee meetings i.e. the governance, institutions etc. of the EITI process. - The Validation process (for Myanmar this will begin by January 2017). Whether additional monitoring is still needed can be discussed by the MSG.
4.3.2	Post MEITI First Report Activities - - Evaluate and review first report process - Follow up MEITI Report recommendations - Carry out any research/ studies as necessary including CSO study using participatory action research methodology and PAME	2016	2016 Onwards	Not applicable during this year
4.3.3	1. Carry out review of government financial data management system needs for effective EITI implementation (Consultant) 2. Consultant to develop the system based on the needs identified, and provide training	Under process	2015-2016	This activity will be carried based on the IA's recommendations in the first MEITI report.

	accordingly			
4.3.4	MSG to review and revise the Workplan	Achieved	March 2015	<p>This was one of the key objectives of the MSG workshop in Pyin Oo Lwin in July 2015.</p> <p>The MSG Workplan and Governance Sub-Committee has met a few times to discuss the Workplan and budget. In particular, after the MSG workshop in July, there have been several meetings to review and revise the Workplan in time for the MSG's approval in September.</p>
4.3.5	MSG to review annual progress (Workplan), produce annual activity/progress report and send to International Secretariat	Partially Achieved	February 2016- July 2016	<p>The main objective of the MSG Workshop in Pyin Oo Lwin in July 2015 was to review annual progress against the Work plan and prepare for the Annual Activity Report. However, as this was not possible, the process of preparing the Annual Activity Report was slightly delayed.</p>

3. Assessment of performance against EITI requirements

During the course of the year (from July 2015 to June 2016), the MSG had 4 meetings, and there were meetings of each sub-committee at least once in between MSG meetings.

In preparation for the Independent Administrator's TORs for 2nd EITI report, which was substantially discussed by the MSG Technical and Reporting Sub-Committee, the committee ensured that each of the EITI Requirements would be covered in the scope of the IA's work. Even though this is the second year of EITI implementation for Myanmar, progress in meeting specific requirements in the Standard has been limited given the time constraint and the changing Government structure. Thus, the second report would have its scope extended and additional sections. However, while the first report is completed timely and contains useful recommendations, it is difficult to hold regular meetings to enforce the implementation of reform measures due to the impact of political change and its consequent structural change in the Government's Ministries.

Even though the EITI Requirements per se were not formally discussed in MSG meetings in 2016, they are all included in the Work plan and also in the Independent Administrator's TOR. The MSG will be able to discuss them more systematically during and after the Independent Administrator has designated their tasks for the second report.

Beneficial ownership (3.11)

Even the workshop on Understanding Beneficial Ownership was organized in early June, there is still the need for continuous discussion on of the definition of BO by Myanmar EITI. This component in the work plan is delayed and will be postponed to late 2016.

Contracts (3.12)

Due to the uncertainties within the MSG caused by the changes in political appointments within the Ministries, the component of contract transparency could not move forward as planned. It was also difficult to build a broader understanding on existing practices and cover topics under the contract despite the drafts by both parties in the public and private sectors. are following the same legal framework.

4. Overview of the Multi-Stakeholder Group's Responses to the Recommendations from Reconciliation and Validation, if applicable

Under the process of preparation by MSG sub-committee, it has been decided that separate meetings with respective Government departments' key staff members will be conducted to allow them to have an understanding on the report's recommendations and how they can be integrated in their existing development and reform plans. Due to the political change, Myanmar administrative structure are also relatively fluid given that some ministries are merging and Ministerial appointments are filled with new members. Advocacy on the report's recommendation and the implementation will be prioritized in the next six months of 2016.

5. Any specific strengths or weaknesses identified in the EITI process

Strengths

Coordination

Under the reporting period, coordination among three constituency groups is continuously improved and having dialogue for better improvement of policy reform and issue management between Government and CSOs representatives like having meeting with Mining for some issues related mining in region. Participation of sub committee members is functioning well even there was some changes in focal for sub com member from the side of Government and CSOs, was not impact in the coordination for moving forward the action. It was also organized regular internal team meeting among CESD coordination team, MOF secretariat Team and WB focal persons monthly until early 2016. It's also build the effective dialogue and making decision for delivering the activities under work plan and prioritise activity in line with requirements and time frame.

Debate and Adaptation to Context

As a continuous action of developing the TOR for IA and the preparation plan for the first EITI report, debates on the scope, reporting template, including the number of companies based on their revenue payment to Government took place and the follow sectors are decided by scoping study:

- Oil and Gas
- Mining (including jade and gemstones but only formal government's Gem Emporium data)

Even though the MSG agreed that a separate feasibility study to determine the inclusion of the hydropower sector into the EITI process should also be carried out in time for the second MEITI report in its first annual progress report, the dialogue at sub-committee meetings also pushed for the inclusion of the fishery sector.

While the MSG mechanism is slowed down, it is still maintaining dialogue and discussion through sub-committee meetings to discuss the preparation of the IA's TOR.

Increased Dialogue

In terms of increasing engagement with stakeholders, the MEITI process led to civil society representatives entering into a regular, open dialogue and relationship with key ministries. For example, as a result of discussions in the MSG, CSOs and Ministry of Mines representatives are now meeting on a regular basis.

It is also set up mechanism of having regular dialogue and meeting among three stakeholders representatives at two pilot regions where SNCU set up as pilot.

Outreach, Inclusion and Capacity Development

There were considerable efforts to build awareness and capacity of MEITI stakeholders throughout the year. This includes numerous training sessions for all key stakeholder groups, including some not directly involved in the MEITI process such as the media and parliamentarians.

There were also numerous outreach events at the subnational level in several states and regions. Most of them were organised collaboratively by MATA and CESD MEITI Coordination Office to raise awareness in communities. At times, MATA CSO coalition and some government support are involved.

It was also organized trainings related technical knowledge building for three stakeholders and some skill required for constituency groups to do better coordination and delivering the action effectively in facilitative approach by the late 2015 in collaborate with NRG and with some external International experts for facilitation and communication skill. By the end of 2015, some trainings were organized for the three types of stakeholders in terms of technical knowledge build up, and constituency groups were also offered opportunities to develop coordination, communication, and facilitation skills. These were conducted in collaboration with NRG and various external international experts.

Positive Reflections

The first Multi Donor Trust Fund for implementing EITI in Myanmar was depleted by the end of 2015 and due to the delay of signing the grant agreement caused by the political change, MSG members have been trying to maintain the momentum and contribute their time on low-cost deliverables while attempting to find the collective solution to meet the EITI requirements and standards. to support better reform of the accountability and transparency practice and mechanism in Myanmar under the critical change of political situation when Government representatives are unclear for their role and participation in EITI.

Weaknesses

Myanmar tried to implement EITI and overcome some challenges to improve coordination among the three groups who lack trust in one another. After the first EITI report has been developed, Myanmar is preparing for the second report to be submitted timely in early 2017 while ensuring to carry out the recommendations from the first report.

Limitation

- *Build a balanced tripartite understanding and confidence towards the building of a developed nation while ensuring good governance and transparency;*
- *Regular verbal communication between different interest groups is necessary to improve more strategic communication through the MEITI communication channel.*
- *Have expectation of being a member of MSG, become a member after overcoming obstacles, need to gain benefits for the general public;*
- *Mixed results: While there is some improvement, there were unpleasant occurrences at the ground level., Some examples are the Lapadaung case in Sagaing Region ,Pin Pat Mining in Shan State, Ta Gaung Taung Nikle Mining in Sagaing Region, etc.*
- *Establish good relations with the government, companies, and CSO. However, CSO still*

feels that there is a difference between champion and MSG member in reality.

- *There are many challenges ahead in the action plan and the work plan for the next year to agree upon consensus practices.*
- *After political change takes place, new leaders are trying to manage and improve various sectors. As they place more focus on building peace, EITI was less prioritized.*
- *The change in leadership and ministerial appointments made existing MSG structure uncertain as Government representatives are unclear of their participation and state of involvement.*

Poor Data Quality

It was covered under the recommendation from the first EITI report. Ideal data collection could not be implemented as the key practitioners involved with the data management do not have a clear understanding on the importance ensuring good data quality. It could not link and collaborate between development of quality data in Ministry with the support of other development agency, have being implementing process and EITI data quality requirement.

Institutional Culture and Paradigm Shift

After the 2015 November election, the change in the country's authority and resulting bureaucratic change often hamper progress in EITI implementation. This ranges from simple meeting requests (which often require various levels of authorisation, approval and procedure), to disclosing agreed data/information for the purpose of EITI reporting (which, in this first year of reporting, has presented a significant challenge).

As the government reforms slowly continue, and people become increasingly familiar with the EITI process over time, we hope that these constraints will be reduced and the systems involved will improve. Therefore, the transition to greater transparency and open operating environment – in line with the spirit of EITI – is likely to necessitate a major paradigm shift that will probably need more time.

Institutionalisation

The National Secretariat in the Ministry of Finance was supposed to be firmly established during the course of the year, with the aim of being fully functional by the end of 2015. However, due to various challenges during the year, the MDRI-CESD MEITI Coordination Office team continues to play the lead role of the National Secretariat function, with some part-time participation from the MOF EITI team. The MDRI-CESD MEITI Coordination Office team has made clear the importance of assigning full time MOF staff to EITI activities. The aim is to have a fully functioning MEITI National Secretariat team based in the Ministry of Finance who effectively supports the MSG as required.

In practice, it was difficult to collaborate between two teams as the CESD MEITI is based in Yangon while the MOF EITI is based in Nay Pyi Taw., The difference in locations also delayed the hand over process and thus, it was extended to the end of June 2016.

Expectations

Human rights-related concerns and grievances have been brought into EITI MSG discussions repeatedly during the year, even though EITI as a process is not equipped or intended to capture these issues. It is therefore very clear that there is a strong need in Myanmar for other fora in which human rights-related issues and concerns can be properly addressed. This could include, for example, corporate grievance mechanisms, a credible and responsive human rights commission, and the general strengthening and implementation of the Rule of Law.

5. Total Costs of Implementation

Costs for implementation were divided during 2014-2015 as follows:

	Executing Agency	Beneficiary	Budget
DFID Accountable Grant ‘for Strategic Coordination of EITI in Myanmar’	CESD	Effective EITI implementation for the benefit of the people and government of Myanmar	July 2014 - February 2016: USD 331,318 Extension up to June 2016- USD
DFID Externally Funded Output (EFO)	World Bank	Overall support for effective EITI implementation	May 2013 – May 2015: USD 599,600
World Bank Global EITI Multi Donor Trust Fund (Global EITI MDTF)	Ministry of Finance MEITI Secretariat / World Bank	MEITI Work plan implementation	2014- December 2015: USD 290,000 plus Bank-executed technical assistance
World Bank Myanmar Partnership Multi Donor Trust Fund (MP-MDTF)	<i>Ministry of Finance MEITI Secretariat / World Bank</i>	<i>MEITI Work plan implementation</i>	<i>From January 2016 until 2019 (4 years? subject to MSG decision) - USD 3.5 million (approx. to fund entire Workplan) (under the process of signing agreement)</i>

5. Any Additional Comments

6. Has this Activity Report been Discussed Beyond the MSG?

Due to the limitation of a lack of budget, the coordination team has provided a general timeframe for individual constituency group representative to collect various information in order to prepare the annual report. At the same time, the coordination team prepared the draft annual report which is shared with MSG representatives for their inputs and recommendation, hoping to receive the inputs and concerns by 24th June. However, there was not enough time for each constituency group representatives to respond and Government representatives are not sure of their own involvement in the MSG. The representatives from the private sector is also concerned about the MSG structure and has been relatively slow in responding to the coordination team. Therefore, the coordination team is trying to submit this draft report to the International EITI and trying to get each constituency group's recommendation and contribution in the meantime.

After drafted the report to be shared to International EITI on 3rd July 2016, MEITI secretariat team continue to contribute this draft report among MSG and request their feedback and comments on it by giving time until by the 2nd week of August 2016. And then accepted no reply and comments from MSG, mean they all are agreed on it and then finalized this report to be shared to International EITI and share to wider public through MEITI Web site.

7. Details of Membership of the MSG During the Period

(including details of the number of meetings held and attendance record)

Please see table in Annex 1

Approved by MSG:

-

Date:

-

Annex 1: List of MSG members, and attendance at MSG meetings

No	Name	Organization	MSG Meetings in 2015/2016				Remark
			Tenth	Eleventh	Twelfth	Thirteen	
1	Chair	MoF		√		√	
2	Vice-Chair	MoE	√				
Government Representatives							
1	U Tin Myint	GAD/MoHA				√	Become MSG Representative on 12 th MSG Meeting
2	Dr Nyi Nyi Kyaw	MoECAF	√	√		√	
3	U Myo Mynt Oo	MOGE					
4	U Win Htein	MoM	√		√	√	
5	U Min Htut	MoF					
6	Daw Khin Aye Swe	AGO	√	√	√		
Government Alternates							
7	U Ye Naing	GAD/MoHA	√	√	√		
8	Thura U Htin Kyaw Moe	MoF	√	√	√	√	
9	U Kyaw Thet	MoM		√	√		
10	U Than Htay Aung	MOGE	√	√	√	√	
11	U Nanda Win Aung	MoECAF	√	√	√	√	
Private Sector Representatives							
1	Mr Xiaver Preel	Total E & P Myanmar					
2	Mr Terence J. Howe	MPRL E & P Myanmar					
3	Mr Li Hongyuan	CNMC Nickel Co. Ltd.	√		√	√	
4	Mr Chen Kah Seong	PC Hong Kong			√	√	
5	Mr Song Huai Yin	Goldpetrol Joint Operation Company Inc.				√	
6	U Aye Lwin	MFMA			√	√	
Private Sector Alternates							
7	Mr Bertrand Brun	Total E & P Myanmar	√	√	√	√	
8	U Andy Tin Win	PC Hong Kong	√	√	√	√	
9	U Aye Thwin	Goldpetrol Joint	√	√	√	√	

No	Name	Organization	MSG Meetings in 2015/2016				Remark
			Tenth	Eleventh	Twelfth	Thirteen	
		Operation Company Inc.					
10	Daw Kyisin H Aung	MPRL E & P Myanmar	√	√			
11	U Khin Maung Han	MFMA	√	√	√	√	
Civil Society Representatives							
1	U ALEX	KESAN					
2	U Win Myo Thu	Eco/Dev				√	
3	Dr Kyaw Thu	Paung Ku	√	√	√	√	
4	U Ye Thein Oo		√	√	√	√	Become MSG Representative on 12 th MSG Meeting
5	Daw Su Hlaign Myint	GBP (Sagaing)		√	√	√	Become MSG Representative on 12 th MSG Meeting
6	U Khaing Kaung San	Wun Lat Development Foundation	√	√	√	√	
7	U Mung Dan	TANK (Kachin)				√	Become MSG Representative on 13 th MSG Meeting
8	U Thant Zin	DDA		√		√	
9	Moe Moe Tun	Green Trust (Pyin Oo Lwin)	√	√	√	√	
Civil Society Alternates							
10	U Moe	Myo Sat Thit (Shan)				√	
11	U Naing Lin Htun	Pyoe Khin Thit (Ayeyarwaddy)		√		√	
12	U Andrew	CNRWG (Chin)					
13	U Saw Me Bway Doh Htun	Hoo Phoo Kapaw (Kayin)			√	√	
14	U Myo Myint Oo	Green Network (Magway)	√	√		√	
15	U Zaw Lwin	Public Network (Bago)	√		√	√	

Background Information of MATA

Myanmar Alliance for Transparency and Accountability (MATA) is a nation-wide network, consisting of over 400 local civil society groups, think tank groups and interested individuals. Since its inception in 2012, it has worked on advocating improved management of natural resource sectors, including greater public involvement in natural resource management. MATA is the representative coalition from which the nine civil society members on the MEITI MSG are derived. MATA was established in early 2013, growing out of the civil society organizations engaged on EITI and broader resource governance related issues. Prior to the current reform process, initiated in 2011, Myanmar had very strict limitations on the freedom of speech and freedom of assembly, offering very little space for discussion or public debate on natural resource issues. In this context MATA has come together in a timely fashion in order to coordinate and provide a representative structure for CSO engagement in EITI, and engage on other resource related issues, including the FLEGT initiative. However, MATA and its CSO members are all engaged in a steep learning curve, given the very recent nature of their ability to legal organize, conduct debate, engage with media, and hold discussions with Government. Most of the new initiatives and new comers are started engaging with MATA as a member.

MATA's structure includes 14 regional working groups, which are spreading across the country. There is a National Coordination Office in Yangon, plus a regional office in Mandalay. MATA has plans as well to open offices in each of the 14 states and regions. The MATA National Coordination Office serves as the secretariat for CSO participation in the Myanmar EITI MSG. This includes convening CSO meetings, generating meeting minutes, distribution of EITI related information, including minutes and results of MSG and sub-committee meetings, and coordinating technical inputs to EITI related matters.

MATA's Mission

- To advocate for transparency and accountability by government, elected representatives, companies, donors and civil society.
- To promote the freedom of public participation in, and scrutiny of, Myanmar's legal frameworks and guidelines relating to resources.

MATA's Objectives

- Advocate for transparency and accountability in the management of natural resources by Government, private sector and civil society organizations.
- Raise awareness of the importance of transparency through education and training sessions
- Build partnerships with INGO, NGO, Government, CSOs and other stakeholders.
- Strengthen the capacity of CSO and communities to improve Natural Resources Governance.
- Increase freedom of information, monitoring mechanisms and the accessibility of data.
- Promote the freedom of CSO participation in Myanmar.