Environmental and Social Issues in Hydropower Development of Myanmar

A Private Sector View
Experience of Private Sector

- Still some gaps between Myanmar guidelines and international standards
- Private companies in Myanmar are committed to take environmental and social aspects into account, but lack the experience of Environmental and Social Assessments
- Private sector need a lot of support of International Organizations.
Need of ESIA Consultant

- Necessary to reach international standards, BUT
- Some may not understand the local situation and concerns of local communication.
- May not understand the Government procedures and regulations
Time constraint

- Normally (12-24) Months from signing MOU with Government for Feasibility Study
- In some cases, this period is too short which could lead to rushed decisions
- When concerns arise from the public, the time frame might be too short to integrate concerns into the study and finish in time
Media & Civil Society Organization

- Media support is one of the key success factors to implement good Hydropower Projects.
- We need more engaging with Media and CSO to explain the detailed process of ESIA study transparently.
Stakeholder Engagement

- The private sector needs more experience on how to develop a good Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- There is a general understanding gap from the public towards hydropower projects
  - It takes time to overcome and create the same understanding level with the communities and stakeholders
    - e.g. Communities worry that drilling investigations will result in water quality change
      - Concern that after dam construction there will be less water for irrigation and social use.
Other issues

- The greatest portion of hydropower potential lie within remote area and some gray zones
- Even projects in parts without active fighting experience constraints to detailed environmental assessment (e.g. presence of landmines and other security issues)
Conclusion

- Private Sector need support of International Organizations in order to reach International Standard adapted to Local situation.
- Private Sector need more proactive approach to engagement with Government and Non Government Stakeholders.
Thank You