

HYDROPOWER DEVELOPERS' WORKING GROUP

March, 2016
Yangon, Myanmar

The following brief outlines the key objectives, structures, roles and responsibilities and approaches of the Hydropower Developers' Working Group (HDWG) in Myanmar. IFC sees the need to form a HDWG to provide space for the private sector to have a platform to share learning, network and improve the hydropower sector in a sustainable manner.

1. Background

2013 In December 2013, IFC launched the Hydropower Developers' Working Group in Lao PDR with the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The HDWG in Lao PDR has about 100 members and is working to solve a number of policy issues in the sector.

2015 IFC's hydro advisory program began working in Myanmar to provide technical support to the government to improve the environmental and social standards of the hydropower sector. A trilateral agreement was signed in September 2015.

Planning meetings to form the Hydropower Developers' Working Group in Myanmar commenced.

2. Objectives of the Hydropower Developers' Working Group

Goal The overarching goal of the group is to contribute to the sustainability of the hydropower sector in Myanmar.

- Specifically, the Hydropower Developers' Working Group aims to:
- 1** Improve environmental and social risk management practices among hydropower companies.
 - 2** Provide a platform for hydropower developers where companies can comment on policies, share knowledge, and improve their management.
 - 3** Provide a platform to raise sector-wide issues to the government of Myanmar.

3. Organization, Structure, Role, and Responsibilities

About

The HDWG is initially set up as a working group of hydropower companies (domestic and foreign owned) operating in Myanmar. It is independently operated with technical and financial support from the International Financial Corporation (IFC).

Role of the Chair

The role of the Chairs is to lead the Working Group by overseeing operations and representing the group at local/international meetings. His/her specific responsibilities include:

- Co-Chair Business Meetings
- Lead and oversee HDWG
- Lead sub-committees on specific topics or delegate responsibility to other members
- Engage in identification of HDWG schedule of activities including Business Meetings and Seminars in consultation with the other Chairs, Members and IFC
- Approve the selection of other positions
- Coordinate and cooperate with regional and international hydropower associations and other organizations
- Mobilize members and other resources for supporting the operation and implementation of the HDWG activities
- Other activities as agreed by members

The Chairs are selected based on interest and representation as agreed by members and voted on at the HDWG Member Forum. The term of the Chairs is one year minimum.

Role of Members

The main responsibility of the members is to actively participate and contribute to business meetings including identifying sector issues, the role of HDWG, seminar topics, and the recruitment of new members.

Role of IFC

The role of IFC is to provide technical and financial support via staff, actively engage in coordination with the HDWG Chairs, facilitate business meetings as needed and liaise with government officials.

4. Operating Principles

- 1 Maintain a high level of independence.
- 2 Enable all hydropower developers, both domestic and foreign, to join.
- 3 Employ an open, transparent process that respects individuals and groups' perspective and contribution.
- 4 Consider the views expressed by the HDWG are not necessarily those of individuals or companies.

5. Indicative Activities

- 1 Identify key issues facing the hydropower sector in Myanmar and determine work plan to address issues.
- 2 Represent the sector-wide issues to relevant government agencies and determine solutions.
- 3 Engage in government-led or other dialogues and consultations on policies formulated in Myanmar to help improve regulations and ensure they are realistic and implementable.
- 4 Share, update and disseminate current development outlooks, market trends, good practices, good development outcomes/impact, and others.
- 5 Build capacity of the private sector through business seminars. Topics could include:
 - Environmental and social risk management
 - Myanmar government policies and regulations (e.g. information disclosure, public involvement, EIA procedures, energy strategies, etc)
 - Technical design guidelines
 - Financing mechanisms
 - Dam safety
 - IFC Performance Standards and other assessment tools
- 6 Convene a platform for engagement among private sector and other actors as deemed necessary (e.g. with consulting firms, CSOs, or research institutions)..

6. Membership Conditions, Application, Selection and Management

All domestic and international hydropower companies who are operating in Myanmar are welcome to become members

A registration form will be provided and members are expected to follow the Terms of Reference and operational guidelines of the HDWG.

Consultant firms (legal, technical and E&S) will be invited on a case-by-case basis to join specific meetings. The group will maintain a list of consultant firms.

7. Benefits of Joining the Hydropower Developers' Working Group

- ✓ Your business operations will be enhanced
- ✓ Your risks will be better understood
- ✓ Your network will be expanded
- ✓ Your capacity on environmental and social standards will be improved
- ✓ Your voice will be heard
- ✓ Your access to information will increase
- ✓ Your influence will be greater collectively