



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. EMBASSY RANGOON

110 University Avenue, Kamayut Township, Rangoon, Burma

Burma and the ASEAN Economic Community

March 21-22, 2013

Zabu Thiri Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw

Government officials, Members of Parliament, and private sector participants are joining with officials from several other ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat for a workshop on the ASEAN Economic Community in Nay Pyi Taw March 21-22, 2013. The event is supported by the U.S. Government and designed to increase understanding of the ASEAN Economic Community's (AEC) benefits, identify priority areas of focus, and highlight ways for the country to take advantage of regional economic integration.

The workshop is bringing together around 70 participants from the government and the private sector. The sessions are also focusing on the upcoming Chairmanship of the ASEAN Economic Ministers in 2014.

The event features speakers from the ASEAN Secretariat and senior economic officials from past ASEAN chairs Cambodia, Singapore and Vietnam. Speakers from regional research institutions and international organizations, such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, are sharing their perspectives on this historic opportunity.

“The ASEAN Economic Community presents the best opportunity for the ASEAN Member States to compete intensively for markets outside the region, while presenting a more favorable environment to encourage domestic and foreign investment at home,” said U.S. Ambassador Derek J. Mitchell at the opening of the event. “The AEC will enable ASEAN firms to gain economies of scale that would be impossible in a single country in the region and make better use of regional value chains.”

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