



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. EMBASSY RANGOON

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Yangon, Myanmar – Leading U.S. technology companies – Cisco, Google, HP, Microsoft and Qualcomm Incorporated -- initiated a U.S.-Myanmar Information Communications Technology (ICT) Council in collaboration with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

The Council is an industry-led initiative to maximize the ways in which technology can support Myanmar's national development. The Council will help advance policies and programs in cooperation with a broad range of relevant stakeholders in civil society, the national ICT industry and government. As Myanmar continues its transition, the accumulated experience and world-class products and management of U.S. firms can serve as a critical resource to help the country advance a national development agenda that provides a foundation for peace, stability and inclusive growth well into the future.

Ambassador Derek Mitchell and the founding members discussed the importance of utilizing technology to help the country achieve broader national aims such as improved health and education outcomes, and more equal access to opportunities for citizens nationwide. The Council members also discussed key priorities over the upcoming year, focusing on the ICT enabling environment, capacity building and infrastructure development.

“Technology hits at the country’s priorities for becoming a modern democratic society, including civic empowerment, job creation, and reaching into rural areas. If the Council can use ICT to bring unity and equity, they will contribute to the future of Myanmar,” said U.S. Ambassador Derek Mitchell.

The U.S.-Myanmar ICT Council is one part of broader efforts by leading U.S. technology companies such as **Cisco, Google, HP, Microsoft and Qualcomm to support the development of Myanmar’s technology sector and society more broadly.**

The U.S. Embassy has long standing relationships with major global technology companies that have track records of advancing development outcomes while aligning with core business interests. The companies bring deep expertise, leading-edge technology, and extensive experience in strengthening governance and transparency, advancing education and fostering entrepreneurship and economic growth.

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