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## AUTHORS



**Charles Magdelaine**  
Counsel

Energy and Infrastructure Team

Charles is a lawyer qualified to practice in Paris educated in France, the United States and China. He has extensive experience in the documentation, financing and negotiation of infrastructure projects. Charles has drafted concession agreements for various industries and has a specific knowledge of transportation projects. In Myanmar, he is currently assisting IFC on the Yangon expressway project.



**Theo Millet**  
Legal Associate

Energy and Infrastructure Team

Theo is a Legal Associate in our Energy and Infrastructure team. Theo has advised sponsors, lenders and EPC contractors with regards to their infrastructure projects in Thailand, Cambodia and Myanmar. Theo is notably advising Adventure Myanmar, a local company for the development of an USD 80m mixed-use development and Kajima on a USD 400m mixed-use development project.

## NEW BATCH OF PROJECTS FED INTO THE PROJECT BANK

As Myanmar is experiencing a new wave of local COVID-19 transmissions and the outbreak is continuing to disrupt Myanmar's economy and business operations, the government has just added 71 new projects to the Project Bank, for a grand total of 129 projects that are now officially endorsed and prioritized by the Myanmar government. Additional data regarding the first 59 projects have also been updated.

If much like the first one, the second batch of projects includes a good mix of power, roads & bridges, agriculture, and other national and regional policies projects, this new bundle also comes with a number of surprises.

### Solar makes it to the Project Bank

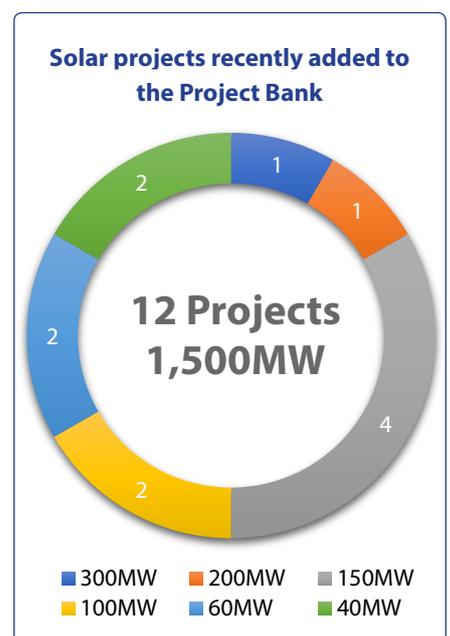
While the first batch of 58 projects included a number of hydropower projects (notably the sizable 671MW Shweli 3 project) and even a 23MW gas-fired power plant located in Myanaung, it did not include any other power projects based on other renewable energy sources.

That was before the Myanmar Government decided to go full steam ahead on solar power, this year releasing the long-awaited 1,060MW solartender at a rather controversial time. While everybody is impatiently waiting for the winning bidders to be announced, the government seems keen to continue pushing solar energy, as it recently added 12 projects amounting to 1,500MW worth of solar energy in the Project Bank.

### Highlights of this note

- ▶ Solar makes it to the Project Bank
- ▶ Wind and waste – to – energy also make it to the Project Bank
- ▶ Where is coal?
- ▶ More projects soon to be added

Large-scale solar projects recently added range from 40 MW to 300MW as seen below:



Surprising additions to the Project Bank are the two 150MW solar projects developed by ACO Convalt in Nabuaing Township and Wundwin Township, Mandalay region. These projects have apparently been struggling with securing financing; the inclusion in the Project Bank could indicate that the situation has evolved and the projects are moving forward.

Also to be noted are two singular 40MW hybrid hydropower/solar projects, located in Phyu and Shwe Kyin Townships, Bago Region. It remains unclear whether the solar component of these projects will be designed as ground-mounted or floating; the latter option would be a first in Myanmar.

Some of the solar projects added to the Project Bank form part of the 1,060 MW solar tender. As such, solar projects to be developed in Sagaing, Magway, Chauk and Mandalay region have all been added to the Project Bank while the ones to be developed in Yangon and Ayeyarwady regions are still missing.

### Wind and waste – to – energy also make it to the Project Bank

Another unexpected addition to the Project Bank is the 30MW Chaungtha Wind Power Project, one of the rare wind projects in the country, which has been inactive for a while. This addition to the Project Bank could mean that the project is still alive even though officials have recently declared that they had not heard from China Three Gorges Corporation, the Chinese developers “[since early 2017.](#)”

Also to be noted is the addition to the Project Bank of a rare waste-to-energy power plant located in Mudon township, Mon state, which will produce energy from municipal solid waste and byproducts of the agricultural industry.

### Where is coal?

On 16 August 2019, the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy (the “MOEE”), U Tun Naing, re-affirmed the MOEE’s support for the coal sector, declaring that “Myanmar will continue to operate and construct coal power plants,” referencing the Energy Master Plan, according to which coal was supposed to amount to 34% of Myanmar’s energy mix by 2030.

If the Project Bank now includes a number of hydropower, gas-fired, solar, wind, and waste-to-energy power projects, none of the 129 projects relates to coal energy, which may indicate that the government has decided to definitively depart from including coal as a significant component of its energy mix.

Below is a snapshot of the power projects already included in the Project Bank and their relating energy type:

Energy type	Number of power projects included the Project Bank	Total MW
Gas-to-power	3	373
Hydropower (new)	5	913
Hydropower (renovation)	2	N/A
Solar	12	1,500
Wind	1	30
Waste-to-energy	1	TBD
Coal	0	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2,816</b>

### More projects soon to be added

Following this second batch, the list of projects administered by the (soon to be implemented?) PPP Center is now expected to be updated on a quarterly basis.

It should be noted that sponsors – or hopeful sponsors – cannot request directly their inclusion in the Project Bank to the Ministry of Planning, Finance, and Industry; they need to contact the relevant implementing agency for this purpose.

The launch of the Project Bank is expected to trigger the issuance of other regulations that have been long awaited by infrastructure developers, such as regulations on the issuance of government guarantees as well as details on mandated tender requirements for solicited and unsolicited proposals.

*For further details, feel free to contact us directly.*

## CONTACT

### YANGON

Level 10, Unit 01-05, Junction City Office Tower,  
Corner of Bogyoke Aung San Road and 27<sup>th</sup> Street,  
Pabedan Township  
T +951 9253752~756  
F: +951 9253758

### NAY PYI TAW

Nilar #2, Business Center, Park Royal Hotel Nay Pyi Taw,  
Jade Villa no. 13/14 Hotel Zone,  
Dekhina Thiri Township  
T: +95 678 106089  
F: +95 678 108 092