

Offshore operations and Environmental Impact Assessment: Lessons Learned from Seismic IEEs, and Next Steps

July 11, 2016

Naypyidaw, Hilton

In August 2014, MCRB hosted a government-business dialogue on environmental and social impacts of shooting seismic offshore¹ which brought together 10 operators, and government department including MOECF, MOGE, DICA, Fisheries and regional government (GAD). Subsequently MCRB facilitated the provision of follow up comments² by a number of oil and gas companies on the draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Procedures with the intention of supporting the Government of Myanmar in bringing the Procedures into line with international standards. These issues, and the interface with Myanmar Investment Commission procedures have also been raised in the Natural Resources Working Group of the Myanmar Business Forum³. Many operators have since then undertaken Initial Environmental Examinations or EIAs and submitted them to government.⁴

Adoption of the [EIA Procedures](#) on 29 December 2015 (MOECF Notification 616) has brought greater clarity to some of the issues raised in the August 2014 workshop, and many operators have since undertaken and submitted IEEs and EIAs. However some issues remain unclear. MCRB proposes a follow-up one day multistakeholder workshop with the following objectives:

- To raise awareness of the stages of the offshore exploration and development process amongst non-business stakeholders
- Share experiences and lessons from offshore IEE/EIAs conducted in 2014/2015, and gather lessons learned [especially in terms of interaction with stakeholders, time framework, dead-lines, coordination]
- Facilitate intra-government coordination (MOE/MOGE, MOECF (now MONREC), MIC, Regional ECDs) and clarify roles and next steps according to procedures (audits, ECCs).
- Identify possible solutions to remaining issues including the process for feedback following submission to government; issuance of Environmental Compliance Certificates;
- Discuss EIA requirements for future drilling operations;
- Discuss pragmatic solutions for approving Environmental Management Plans and granting Environment Compliance Certificates to existing offshore installations.

The discussion will be in English on a Chatham House Rule basis. A report of the event will be published on MCRB's website, as with the previous meeting.

¹ <http://www.myanmar-responsiblebusiness.org/news/mcrb-hosts-government-business-dialogue.html>

² <http://www.myanmar-responsiblebusiness.org/pdf/2014-09-29-Final-Comments-ESIA-Offshore-Oil-and-Gas.pdf>

³ Myanmar Business Forum is a platform for dialogue between the private sector and government. Its goal is improve the business environment by promoting regulatory reforms. The MBF has been established between the Government of Myanmar and the UMFCCI, with the support of the IFC, a member of the World Bank Group. The goal of the MBF is to help to develop a favourable business environment that can attract domestic and foreign investment and support sustainable economic development for Myanmar. See <http://www.myanmarbusinessforum.org/en/natural-resources/>

⁴ See 'A survey of the state of disclosure of EIAs in Myanmar's oil and gas sector', MCRB, March 2016 for further background.

Agenda:

9 am – 9.15 am	Registration
9.15– 9.45 am	<p>Welcome and introductions (Chair: Vicky Bowman, MCRB) Recap of 2014 meeting and this meeting’s objectives (Daniel Clery, Woodside) Update on implementation of the EIA process and remaining challenges (U Sa Aung Thu, MONREC)</p>
9.45 – 11.00 am	<p>The 2015/2016 seismic campaign and the IEE process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations by oil and gas companies on the IEE/EIA process and lessons learned’ by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jon Rytter Hasle (Statoil) - Agnes McLavery (Shell and BG) • Government and civil society perspectives and discussion (MONREC, MOGE, MOE, MATA) • Discussion and Q&A
11.00 – 11.15 am	Coffee break
11.15 – 12.30 pm	Continued discussion of lessons learned from seismic acquisition, social and environmental issues, and recommendations
12.30 – 1.30 pm	Lunch
1.30 – 3 pm	<p>Next steps for offshore operations including exploratory drilling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by oil and gas companies on exploratory drilling, possible activities, timelines and procedures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laurinda Shaw (Woodside) • Discussion
3 pm – 3.15 pm	Tea break
3.15pm -4.30 pm	<p>Existing offshore installations and Article 8 of the EIA Procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by oil and gas companies on EIA process and challenges for existing facilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Daw Swe Swe Win (TOTAL) • Discussion
4.30pm	Wrap up and Next steps (Vicky Bowman, MCRB)