

Myanmar, as the last frontier of Asia, is drawing much attention from all the world. Myanmar is not only playing an important role as a low-cost manufacturing point for the growing market of Southeast Asia but also has potential in becoming foothold to develop a wider market covering its neighbors, China and India. The trade between Myanmar and Japan and the one within ASEAN are expected to grow due to the expansion of Japanese companies' businesses in Myanmar and the scheduled unification of ASEAN.

On the other hand, the country overwhelmingly suffers from the lack of social infrastructures such as transportation network and public utilities. The rapid improvement is strongly needed to realize the economic growth and to help 62M people's lives. It's extremely important for our country to contribute to Myanmar's development in order to achieve the stability of Asia and take advantage of the growth of Myanmar and its neighboring area.

During the economic sanctions days in the past, Myanmar had a strong tie with China. So Chinese companies' business has an advantage to us in the field of infrastructures including port and harbor. Our country is required to make efforts which are more effective than those by the competitor countries and beneficial to ourselves.

Taking the above-mentioned into full consideration, the feature of this month shows you various efforts by both public and private sectors like Thilawa development to find out the right way of promoting their economic growth which will be eventually beneficial to our country's interests. We'd like to review our international cooperation in the port and harbor segment, not only by international yen loan but by our unique and diversified assistance tools (the export of software infrastructure like technical standard, project assistance by the combination between public sector and private one, human resource development by JICA and some other experts).

#### ■ *Special Interview*

My sentiment to Myanmar ● Hideo Watanabe/(interviewer; Masayuki Takada)

#### ■ *International cooperation in the transportation field*

JICA's scheme: "restoration project of inland waterway facilities at Yangon Port", "Research in preparation for port expansion project at Thilawa district of Yangon Port", and "Feasibility study in preparation for nationwide transportation networking

program”.

●Satoshi Wakasugi

Transport technology cooperation between Myanmar and Japan

●Katsuhito Saka

■ *The reality and the future of port and harbor logistics*

The rapid increase of used car import, container handling at Yangon Port, the necessity of constructing multi-purpose piers, and prospect

●Yoshihiko Shiraishi

The inland water transport of Myanmar, core domestic transportation means

●Kazuhisa Iwami

The technology assistance of steel bridge manufacturing and building

●Tetsuo Takahashi

■ *Remarkable projects concerning ports and financing for infrastructure*

The Thilawa development project

●Taketo Makino

Infrastructure projects in Myanmar and business assistance

●Tsuneo Kuroda

Efforts to promote trade insurance use and NEXI's policy against Myanmar

●Eiji Tsukamoto

■ *Myanmar today and their expectation to Japan*

The first returning home in Yangon in the last two years and expectations to Japan by a Myanmar trainee and myself

●Nang Mya Kay Khaing

Notable changes in Myanmar and its target year, 2015

●Kiyotomi Tada