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**DVB Debate** is produced by DVB Multimedia Group Ltd. Co. The debate is recorded every Saturday morning in Yangon with a live audience, which is invited to join the discussion as well.

 <b>DVB TV</b>		<b>DVB RADIO</b>	
Sunday	7.15 pm	Saturday	Evenings
Monday	1.15 am / 7.15 am / 1.15 pm	Sunday	Mornings
Wednesday	8.45 pm	<b>DVB ONLINE</b>	
Thursday	2.45 am / 8.45 am / 2.45 pm	dvbdebate.com	24/7
Friday	8.45 pm	facebook.com/ dvb.debate	
Saturday	2.45 am / 8.45 am / 2.45 pm	twitter @dvbdebate	

DVB Debate aims to contribute to a new culture of open debate, in which anyone can participate and agree to disagree, in order to exchange ideas, create better mutual understanding and find solutions for societal issues to improve the future of Myanmar.

The team invites fellow media and debating clubs to join this initiative for open debate. A weekly press release, press picture and cartoon are available shortly after the recording. DVB Debate also has a modest budget to support local debating initiatives.

For any inquiries, remarks or questions, please call 01292743 (office hours), leave a comment on facebook.com/dvb.debate or email [debate@dvb.no](mailto:debate@dvb.no).

# DVB DEBATE



Welcome to DVB Debate,  
Myanmar's 1st open debate program.  
This week's debate question is:  
***Raw Timber Export Ban: Will it work?***

If you have any remarks, suggestions or questions,  
please ask a team member,  
call 01292743 (office hours) or email [debate@dvb.no](mailto:debate@dvb.no).

## **This week's topic is RAW TIMBER EXPORT BAN**

### ***Historical context:***

During British colonial times environmentalists estimate that as much as 80 percent of the country was covered by forest. At the time, Burma produced 75% of the world's teak, a highly treasured commodity prized the world over for its strength, durability and beauty. During the colonial period it was valued as a material for building ships, and by 1960 the country's forest coverage has dropped to about 60 percent. Once military rule began in 1962 the forests decreased even more. Crippled by sanctions, chronic economic mismanagement and starved for hard currency, the generals gave logging concessions to crony businessmen to export raw logs in exchange for the cash needed to support their rule. Corruption became endemic, and deforestation accelerated, leaving just 24 percent of the country forested by 2008. Illegal logging is also believed to fund the armed conflict in Burma's border regions. A new law coming into force on April 1 will prohibit the export of all raw timber, but it will not stop firms from processing timber in the country and then exporting it.

### ***Facts & figures:***

- 1,198 Myanmar and 414 foreigners were arrested for the illegal extraction of resources in border areas in the 10 years to 2014. (Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry)
- Burma officially earned more than US \$600 million exporting 864,000 metric tons of timber in the 2010-2011 financial year (Central Statistical Organization).
- The illegal export of logs via the Burma-China land border alone is today valued at more than US\$200 million per year.
- Official export figures for 2000-13 account for only 28 per cent of all recorded international trade in Myanmar logs – suggesting that 72 per cent of log shipments were illicit. (EIA report)

- Nearly 50 percent of the world's remaining natural teak forest is in Burma (East by Southeast)
- Myanmar's Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry will ban exportation of raw Timber as of April 1, 2014.
- According to the MOECA, the forests cover 50.81% of the whole country in 2010 and 47% of the whole country in 2013. 3.81% is reduced within 3 years.

### ***Points of view:***

"I 100% welcome the timber export ban. But, rather than exporting, it is more important not ban cutting trees."

**(U Ohn, Forest Resource Environment Development and Conservation Association).**

"This is an export ban, not a production ban. There are not even enough forests in Myanmar for production. "

**(U Tun Lwin, Weather Expert)**

"Good land and forest governance is also needed in addition to the log export ban in order to achieve positive results."

**(Kevin Woods, Analyst, Forest Trends)**

"The Government's official data on forestry and timber exports reveals endemic illegal logging and timber smuggling – crimes only possible through institutional corruption on a huge scale."

**Faith Doherty, EIA Forest Campaign Leader**

### ***Information links:***

[www.moecaf.gov.mm](http://www.moecaf.gov.mm)

[www.eia-international.org](http://www.eia-international.org)

[www.myanmar-timber.com.mm](http://www.myanmar-timber.com.mm)

[www.myanmar-timber-products.com](http://www.myanmar-timber-products.com)

[www.mernmyanmar.org](http://www.mernmyanmar.org)

[www.banca-env.org](http://www.banca-env.org)