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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.

 DVB TV		DVB RADIO	
Sunday	7.15 pm	Saturday	Evenings
Monday	1.15 am / 7.15 am / 1.15 pm	Sunday	Mornings
Wednesday	8.45 pm	DVB ONLINE	
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.

DVB DEBATE



Welcome to DVB Debate,
Myanmar's 1st open debate program.

This week's debate question is:

Who benefits from the Tourism Flood?

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

This week's topic is TOURISM

Historical context:

Tourism first came to Myanmar during the colonial period and saw its peak in the 1920s when the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company was reportedly carrying up to 9 million passengers a year. Since independence in 1948, the country's tourism sector did not see any development, and the Military Government's closed-door policy following the coup d'état in 1962 saw visitor numbers drop dramatically. After a second coup in 1988 the new regime set tourism high on their development agenda for the 1990s. However, evidence of human rights violations meant the push for an increase in tourism had little success. In 1996 Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy (NLD) called for a tourism boycott of Burma. Tourism development has been explicitly linked with human rights abuses, including displacement and forced labour, and visiting the country was viewed by some as legitimizing the actions of the regime. Tourism revenues were also thought to go directly to generals with little benefit to local communities. However, following elections in November 2010, the NLD announced that the tourism boycott should be lifted. Since then drastic political reforms have seen the country open up and thousands of tourists have begun entering the country every day.

Facts & figures:

- For the first time in its history, Myanmar received over 2 million international visitors in 2013 with a growth rate of 93% compared to the previous year. (Ministry of Hotels and Tourism).
- The Tourism Master Plan has set a target of 3.01 million international visitors in 2015 and 7.48 million in 2020.
- Tourism is now the 5th largest source of foreign direct investment in Burma, which, according to government statistics, amounts to nearly 2 billion dollars divided between 51 projects.
- According to the new 'open skies' policy, from 2015, ASEAN member states will be able to visit Myanmar without a visa. (Ministry of Hotels and Tourism).

- Although Myanmar received the second lowest share of arrivals in ASEAN during 2012 (1.2%), annual growth was the highest in the region at 29.7%
- The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism trains and certifies about 150 tour guides per year
- Myanmar currently allows 100% foreign ownership of hotels rated at three or more stars.
- The European Council on Tourism and Trade will hand Burma the "World Best Tourist Destination Award" for 2014

Points of view:

"The main thing is we need tourists to stay for longer periods and to visit many destinations. And also we have to try to get them to spend more money. This will benefit the country."

(HE U Htay Aung, Myanmar Minister of Hotels and Tourism)

"Foreign tourists frequently visit Monywa..... We the locals don't know where the money from tourism goes".

(A resident of Nyaung Bin Gyi Village in Monywa)

'tourism should not be pushed into a direction where this sector becomes the prime foreign currency earner, as has been done with nearby countries'

(Aung San Su Kyi)

The tourism industry development will help the economic and social development of Myanmar at the same time. The strategic planning projects for tourism is the beginning of the strong journey. Tourism industry will be a pillar of Myanmar economy. It can create the job opportunities for the poor.

(Stephen Geroage, Vice president of Asia Development Bank)

Information links:

www.tourismconcern.org.uk/burma.html

www.myanmar-tourism.org

www.tourismtransparency.org

www.tourismmyanmar.org

www.umtinet.org

www.myanmar.travel

www.ecoburma.com

www.responsibletravel.com/copy/burma-boycott