

Myanmar Business Trip Report

I visited Myanmar from March 10-16, 2014, and made a presentation at a seminar titled “Information Service for ASEAN’s Exporters” which was held at the second largest city in Myanmar, Mandalay.

“Information Service for ASEAN’s Exporters”

The seminar was held at the hotel in Mandalay, which was participated by around 70 people.



During the seminar, I mainly talked about the regulation of food import/ export, preparation for export, and some important tips on transportation of goods to Japan. Many participants were taking notes and listened attentively to the seminar. International business is not common in inland Mandalay area where domestic business is the main business field; thus, most of the participants seem to have limited experience in specific details regarding the exporting procedures. My fellow seminar speaker Mr. Sato from S&B brought Japanese food samples that were very popular with the participants, especially among women.

Visit Local Companies

I also visited some local companies in Mandalay and Yangon. A peanuts oil company in Yangon was one of the most impressive among the companies I have visited. Most of the manufacturing process is automated, and they have a big market share in the country. The company also produces containers (pet bottles made of polyethylene) by themselves, which is not a common production scene in Japan.



Transportation System in Myanmar

Unfortunately, I had no chance to visit port and airport areas at this time. The highways connecting the city and the countryside are paved and the road condition was not so bad. Also traffic jams in the central area of Yangon was not that bad as well.

Many used Japanese cars are often seen in Myanmar. These Japanese cars are kept in use with the same condition as it were in Japan. The Japanese company logo or signs on the car and the Japanese version of car navigation are still in place in many of these cars. The price of gas is about 100 yen per liter. It is relatively expensive compared with their living standard and salaries. In addition, regular route delivery, door-to-door delivery service, and refrigerator truck are rarely seen in Myanmar.



The driving manner is very good and I have even witnessed people giving the right of way to each other in the traffic intersection. Diligence and honesty of Myanmar people reflected on their road manner as well.

Although the infrastructure is not in perfect condition yet, construction of new hotels and shopping malls are increasing and cities are also vibrant. In the future, I predict that the logistic system will be improved and diversified along with increasing number of foreign investment and companies.