

Monthly Business Brief, September 2025

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Economy

China, ASEAN to boost trade and economic ties

An inauguration ceremony of the 22nd China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) and the China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit took place at the Nanning International Convention Centre in Nanning on 17 September. Prime Minister U Nyo Saw delivered a speech on the occasion. Present at the ceremony were Mr Han Zheng, Vice-President of the People's Republic of China, Vice-Presidents, Deputy Prime Ministers and Ministers from ASEAN member states, delegation leaders of Sri Lanka and Ethiopia, which are special dialogue partners for 2025, officials, the Myanmar Ambassador to China and the Myanmar Consul-General in Nanning, departmental heads, officials and Chinese businesspeople. At the ceremony, Secretary of CPC Committee of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Mr Chen Gang, the Deputy China, ASEAN to boost trade and economic ties The China-ASEAN Expo aims to drive sustainable growth and foster mutual benefits for long-term regional development. Minister for Commerce and the Chairman of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) gave speeches while the Chinese Vice-President delivered an opening address. Organizing expos of this kind helps deepen the strategic partnership between China and ASEAN member states, while also serving as an important platform for cooperation in trade, investment, and tourism. As a result, it has contributed to the further development of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area.

Through the China-ASEAN Expo, it is believed that cooperation in trade, economy, and industry between China and ASEAN countries will be strengthened, while also promoting long-term sustainable development and mutual benefits in the region. Myanmar places particular emphasis on close cooperation with regional partners in the fields of trade, economy, and investment. In Myanmar, entrepreneurs have begun applying AI technology in certain sectors. At this year's Expo, Myanmar will showcase a total of 120 booths, featuring rice, various pulses and beans, maize, sesame, food products, technology exhibitions including Safe Health AI, handicrafts, gemstones and jewellery, as well as exhibits highlighting Myanmar's attractive cities. The 22nd China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) and the China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit were inaugurated.

Finance

Kyat Shows Volatility Amid CBM Interventions; Gold and Fuel Prices Fluctuate

The kyat hovered around K4,180 per US dollar at the end of September, reflecting continued depreciation pressure. The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) intervened throughout the month, selling millions of US dollars, yuan, and baht to stabilize the exchange rate and support imports of essential goods. CBM injected US dollars over 100 million alongside yuan and baht, into the edible oil, fuel, and CMP sectors.

Gold prices remained unstable throughout the month, closing at 7.9 million kyats per tinkle for buying and 8 million kyats for selling. Domestic fuel prices showed stable in September.

Wave Money warns of AI-fake transfer receipts

Customers should be aware of fake money transfer receipts AI tools, said Wave Money. Scams are using fake transaction screenshots, it warned. "Scammers use fake transfer re-ceipts with the help of AI tools and don't believe in such transaction receipts and screenshots at all," it said. Customers should check their transaction history every time they re-ceive a money transfer to know whether it is a real transfer or not, and it is the best method to avoid scams and protect their money. If there is any doubt of money fraud, customers can report to the re-spective banks or mobile money service centres. If customers encoun-ter any threat of a money scam, Wave Money urges them to call its Call Centre number 09 790009000 or dial 900 for Atom phone numbers.

Trade

Myanmar rice export exceeds 1M ton in Apr-Aug

Rice and broken rice exports of Myanmar hit over one mil-lion tonnes in April-August of the current financial year 2025- 2026, bagging US\$355 million, according to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF). Rice exports mainly depend on sea trade, while only small volumes were exported to neighbouring countries via border points.

The federation aims to achieve three million tonnes of rice exports in the current FY. Myanmar bagged over \$1.129 billion from 2.48 mil-lion tonnes of rice and broken rice exports in the financial year 2024-2025 (1 April-31 March).

Ministry of Commerce is working together with the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association, Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, Myanmar Industries Association, Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association, Myanmar Fisheries Products Processors and Exporters Association to meet monthly export targets and facilitate exports.

Myanmar aims for US\$1.5B in pulses exports for 2025-26FY

Myanmar's pulses export is targeted to exceed 1.8 million tonnes in the current financial year 2025-2026, generating income of US\$1.5 billion, according to Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association. Myanmar delivered 2.14 million tonnes of various pulses to international markets in the previous financial year 2024-2025, bagging \$1.82 million. At present, sluggish foreign demand has resulted in a downward trajectory. Myanmar mainly exports black gram, green gram and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Of them, black gram and pigeon peas are primarily shipped to India, while green gram is exported to China and Europe. India has a growing demand and consumption requirements for black gram and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2021, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black grams and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from the 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses' annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are also entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that yearly quota. The Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association stated that black grams, which India primarily purchases, are commonly found only in Myanmar, whereas pigeon peas, green gram and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia.

Investment

Ooredoo Myanmar to rebrand as U9 from 20 Sept

Ooredoo Myanmar has rebranded as U9 on 20 September. Vibrant new U9 brand identity will emerge across retail stores, offices, and digital platforms with seamless transitions. "This rebrand marks a significant milestone for our company and for the industry," said Daw Caroline Yin Yin Htay, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of U9. While

our name is changing, our customers can expect the same reliable services they trust, with even more exciting experiences to come, she added. Customers will be able to download the new U9 App on the Apple App Store and Google Play. They can log in using their existing credentials from the current Ooredoo Myanmar app. On 31 May 2024, Ooredoo South East Asia Holding of Qatar sold its interest in Ooredoo Myanmar Limited and Nine Communications Pte Ltd of Singapore bought this business with US \$ 576 million.

Energy

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Modular Type Refinery will operate half million ton of crude oil a year

Ministry of Energy has planned to start modular type refinery in No 1 Thanlyin Refinery that will operate 500,000 ton of crude oil a year at the end of 2025. Another new refinery is planned to operate 300,000 ton of crude oil in 2028. These projects will support domestic fuel demand.