

# Insight!



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MPRL E&P Newsletter

28<sup>th</sup> September 2021



## Executive Spotlight

**Daw Nu Nu Lwin**  
Chief Compliance Officer

*The impact of the global pandemic has changed ways of working. Among many changes, the compliance role itself has implemented new strategies to ensure the flow of management and operations remain intact, efficient, and agile while catering to the needs of the business to better facilitate awareness of the risks.*

*Daw Nu Nu Lwin, Chief Compliance Officer at MPRL E&P, shares her insight with us as she discusses the new challenges and risks she and her department are facing since the start of the pandemic. Despite many barriers and limitations at present, she embraces these new challenges as opportunities to learn and shape future changes as she looks forward to better days ahead.*

The pandemic means a shortage in the workforce due to stay-at-home measures. Work-from-home became one of the pragmatic and safety measures. What are the few common questions you get from the employees after implementing work-from-home protocols as an alternative temporary arrangement?

Since the first roll out of the work-from-home program during the first wave of COVID-19, many of our staff has been feeling anxious and uncertain about their jobs, finances, health, and what the future holds for them. This remote work policy is new to us, both for the employer and employees. During the first wave, we managed to overcome it faster than this time around; the third wave has really affected our operations and took a hard hit on mental health. Some of our employees reside in the high-risk townships which were under the "stay-at-home" or "lock down" zones, and many questions were raised surrounding transportation to and from work, accessibility to the internet and portable computer, the type of leave and health benefits the company will provide to those that are diagnosed with coronavirus, and so on. But the most frequent question we have received so far is the concern about their future employment at MPRL E&P and for many, how long their unpaid leave would be and how soon can they safely return to work.

Page 4 ➤



## Mapping New Gas Targets in Deep Waters by Old Geezer Doc Rock

**Dr. Eloi Dolivo**

In a few days, MPRL E&P will receive a completely reprocessed 3D, or three-dimensional, seismic cube covering the area of Block A-6 deep waters overlying the gas discoveries being developed. Our geologists are now as thrilled as kids on the window of a pastry shop. Will this reprocessed 3D seismic cube show us new gas-filled channels? Will this reprocessed 3D seismic cube be an improvement of the image of the geology of Block A-6, especially below the Watthe Slump that much blurred the image of the rock layering deep below the deep sea bottom?

But what are we talking about? What is seismic for a start? And what are the challenges in converting sound waves into an image showing us gas-filled sandstones in submarine channels deposited by underwater rivers?

From here, I beg for benevolent forgiveness from experts in this complex matter, as I am allowed only some 1,600 words to simplify the explanation of processes that take books and many complex equations to explain.

Page 5 ➤

More Stories

Executive Spotlight

Feature 4 ➤

Mapping New Gas Targets in Deep Waters

Feature 5 ➤

How Agriculture Adapts to Pandemic

Feature 8 ➤

Government-Industry Relations: The Importance of Trust Building

Employee Spotlight 9 ➤

M&AOSB Donates Medical Supplies to Nga Yoke Kaung Hospital

In the Group 15 ➤

Interview with COVID Committee on Emergency Medical Assistance and Vaccination Efforts for Staff

In the Company 20 ➤

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From the Desk of the Editor

Dear Readers,

I was hoping when I write this time around that things would be different and we would be back at the office working normal hours. Little did we realize the severity of the third wave that has hit us like a 'tsunami'. We have lost many that are close to us, many that will be missed having around. On behalf of my team, I would like to extend our heart-felt condolences to the families of those who perished in these extremely difficult times.

The third wave devastated us and as a nation, we suffered. But I do believe that with the recent COVID-19 vaccine roll-out strategy, we would be in a much better place in a few months' time. I would like to encourage everyone, especially those that are vaccine-hesitant to get vaccinated because simply put, the severity is less and vaccines save lives. Over the course of humanity and through scientific evidence, we've seen how vaccines have safely reduced, almost eradicated, infectious diseases like polio and measles. We have witnessed the difference in severity between the unvaccinated and vaccinated. Of course, we have every right to decide what goes into our bodies, but we also have the right to correct information to make an informed decision. We are not getting this on social media, only the experts in medical field can help us with the decision that is best for us based on our circumstances. If you haven't had a chance to read the Note from the Corner Office sent out on August 30 by Chief Operating Officer himself, please take a moment to do so as it contains informative and useful data surrounding COVID-19 and vaccines.

We can overcome these challenging times but we must act collectively and wisely and keep our strength and resilience close to us as we fight this pandemic together. This novel virus is not going away, and subsequent waves are expected. We just have to learn how to live with it by making adjustments and informed decisions, and changing our lifestyle while following COVID-19 safety protocols.

Despite the chaos and trauma that we've experienced during the past few months, I have to say how proud I am to see the strength, compassion, and commitment

from the Myanmar people; the heroes that are scurrying around hunting for medical supplies to help save lives of family, friends, neighbors, and strangers especially in high-risk areas. At MPRL E&P, the COVID Committee has been busy tracking the pandemic, advising on critical interventions and providing vital medical supplies to staff and immediate family members since the start of July. Our medical staff includes a highly diligent doctor, an in-house registered staff nurse as well as on-call nurses who visit residences across the city ensuring the patients are well provided with needed supplies. Further, our M&AOSB has made contributions to those in need in Nga Yoke Kaung Town and to Dana-kuthala Free Funeral Service Association, helping the community where we operate in times like this.

Amidst all this, our CSR Team has made multiple efforts helping the farmers from the surrounding communities in Mann Field to sustain their small businesses. It is unfortunate to see the economic effects on the agricultural sector which is already facing the consequences of global climate change. MPRL E&P's new initiative known as Farmer Field School was introduced early this year to foster the new farming methods while creating a sustainable agro farming culture among the smallholder farmers. This assistance program has brought success to many farmers and we hope to continue with our help and support in the upcoming years. As you flip through the pages, you will find many more interesting contributions from our staff with topics covering the pandemic management from the perspective of our Chief Compliance Officer and the exciting role of being a Government Engagement Manager in Myanmar. On the science front, you will discover the basics of seismic wave written by our one and only Old Geezer Doc Rock offering a good balance of seismic data and knowledge for enjoyable readership.

As I conclude this, on behalf of my team, we wish you to be safe and strong as we overcome this horrible havoc. It is important now than ever to be well-prepared and ready for the upcoming series of unfortunate events and my trust lies wholeheartedly in all of our strong spirits, compassion, and resilience. ■

Sincerely yours,  
Hnin W. Zaw

Supporting Local Communities with Mask Donations during COVID-19

Hnin Wynt Zaw

The newlyweds U Phone Kyaw Moe Myint and Daw Awn Seng support the local communities' fight against the spread of coronavirus with face mask donations worth over MMK 1,190 lakhs. The masks donations (1,488,000 pcs) are being distributed across regions including Yangon, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Ayeyarwady, and Shan State. The charitable contributions are part of their continuous efforts to encourage the local community to help prevent the spread of the outbreak. Remember, help the community to not only connect, serve, and change lives, but save them. "Sometimes the little opportunities that fly at us each day can have the biggest impact." ■



# Your Opinion : How Important is Workplace Diversity?



**Htet Aung Kyaw**  
Junior Engineer  
Field Operations Team

A diverse workplace refers to an organization that employs a workforce comprised of individuals of different gender, religion, race, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and other demographics. Things have changed nowadays; employers are putting diverse work cultures as a priority to strengthen their team success by implementing inclusion initiatives.

In my opinion, having a diverse and multicultural workplace is advantageous to any organization. We are now seeing more globalized and interconnected workplaces and organizations that adopt diversity benefit from a wide range of skillsets from individuals with different backgrounds and cultures.

One of the many benefits of having workplace diversity is the increased morale, productivity and problem-solving skills as a result of a wider talent pool. Success emerges from gathering various information presented by the team from various team members with different professional and cultural backgrounds. I also believe that a diverse workplace increases creativity as different experiences and ways of thinking change the overall

work culture and employees also feel more comfortable being themselves. This, in turn, leads to happier, more productive employees. I also think that diverse organizations set themselves as competitive industry leaders; an employer who accepts and is tolerant of all backgrounds and who treats them fairly are always ahead of the game.

Diversity in the workplace is a huge commitment. As an employee of MPRL E&P, I am proud to say that our company has been successfully promoting a diverse professional environment that provides equal rights and opportunities for all employees, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, and religious beliefs. ■

“  
**Diversity  
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commitment.**  
”



**Yin Thant Aung**  
Executive Secretary  
Office of the Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
and Executive Director

Simply put, diversity refers to differences in racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, geographic, and educational and professional backgrounds. And workplace diversity means having a work environment that cherishes, respects, and accepts each other's differences. This type of work culture also provides equal rights and opportunities for all employees, regardless of gender, color, age, ethnicity, physical ability, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, and so on.

In many countries nowadays, companies strictly comply with Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) regulations to ensure that the workplace provides an equal opportunity to all applicants and employees so that it promotes the inclusion of all while creating a culture free from discrimination, harassment, lawsuits, etc. Employers are responsible for putting such measures into place to overcome employment disadvantages and discrimination.

If companies want to succeed and be competitive, a diverse workplace is crucial as it has many advantages. Here are a few benefits I think are worth mentioning:

(1) Increased creativity and productivity: Having different perspectives

enhances creativity because of different backgrounds and experiences, information, and perspectives, resulting in increased morale, productivity, and innovation.

(2) Better problem-solving and decision-making: Different perspectives create better and unique solutions to problems than a team with similar backgrounds and experiences. In regards to decision-making, diverse groups produce more accurate, efficient, and careful decisions.

(3) Improved cultural awareness: Having different backgrounds and cultures in the workplace allows companies to be aware of cultural differences while recognizing and promoting different values and an inclusive workplace. This work culture develops connections with one another so that employees feel more comfortable when sharing their own perspectives, ideas, and solutions which result in overall success.

I think having workplace diversity is an important asset and it generates a positive reputation for the company. At MPRL E&P, we promote and value this type of diverse workforce while providing an equal opportunity to all people. ■



## Cleanup: Starting with Simple Step in Waste Management Journey

**Pyae Pyae Phy**

It is no doubt that we are facing a growing global waste problem. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), an estimated 11.2 billion tons of solid waste are collected worldwide every year, and the associated risks pose a threat to ecosystems and human health. For instance, poor waste management causes air pollution, water, and soil contamination, ultimately result in short and long-term effects.

Since the earth is our home, all inhabitants including us humans experience the negative impact resulting from improper handling of waste management. As responsible citizens, we have the responsibility to take care of our mother nature because we are the source of the problem. Although it will be a long war against the pollution which results

from urbanization, population growth, and industrialization, we must not give up or take the issue lightly; we must work together to find better solutions, even if it means picking up your own trash and disposing it wisely. There is a well-known Chinese proverb: "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." Great things start with simple beginnings and no matter how ambiguous the task is, how long the journey is, or laborious the work is, a movement is always required to get the ball rolling.

Different organizations across the world have been working together to protect the planet and providing solutions to tackle everyday environmental challenges. Many volunteer groups and environmental heroes have been actively promoting



## From Cover Page

These are all legitimate questions that any employee would ask their employer. As a person in charge of compliance matters at MPRL E&P, we had to make fast regulatory changes, policies, and updates that comply with the local health authorities like the Ministry of Health (MoH) and WHO ensuring all businesses run smoothly while we all work remotely.

**As you know, the pandemic has brought not only tangible effects but also a hidden impact on mental health of employee as we adopt new ways of working. Work-related stress has become more apparent during the current crisis. Could you share their sentiments with us?**

The current health crisis has brought both tangible and intangible effects to many industries, small and large across the nation and globally. There is a huge impact on the mental health of employees as we go through high levels of worry and stress due to potential job losses, health threats, and financial worries. As I have mentioned before, many concerns revolved around job security; and in times like this, it is inevitable. With the ongoing political situation, this is not a pleasant backdrop, and some may experience it harder than others if they already have pre-existing mental health conditions like anxiety. We always encourage our employees to stay healthy and take care of their mental health. The well-being of our employees is important to us and so we make sure everyone stays connected and engaged through video conferences, informal and formal support systems. We also make sure that our employees are in the loop of what is happening at the organizational level by sharing correct information through Heads of Departments from time to time. Timely communication is key at this point and I feel that most employees are worried about missing out on what's happening at work since they are working from home.

As you know, in the offshore context, most work cannot be carried out remotely. On a personal level, there have been stress and worry concerning our operating sites, for instance, Mann Field. What if there is a major outbreak at the site among the employees? How do we assist and manage from afar and with what social distancing measures are appropriate, as in some cases, there simply may not be any way for them to follow these measures when undertaking their tasks? Some projects are operating and they cannot be halted, what if crew change is required? What if we face "force majeure" provisions with our stakeholders and we have to stop our operations? I am sure that these sentiments and questions are raised and shared among our fellow peers across the nation and globally.

**What are some of the most significant developments or changes around the office since the first work-from-home?**

Our workforce has experienced many downturns and we hope to bounce back as we adopt new strategies, regulatory changes, and health guidelines. Operational practices will become more effective and we will see more responsible and much stronger practices overall.

Since the initial phase of the COVID-19 outbreak, we have made many significant changes that have evolved during the course of the pandemic. Our changes are guided by scientific knowledge and

legitimate information from reliable organizations like WHO and MoH. We believe that successful and efficient management of an outbreak requires proper planning, keeping in mind the speed of spread. With the help and support from our Sr. Executive Management and the COVID Committee, we have undertaken these general measures – we have

installed handwashing stations and infrared temperature sensor stations across all our offices and worksite locations, made physical distancing guidelines at the office, in the lifts and ferries, and placed vinyl posters for COVID-19 preventive measures in accordance with MoH. Further, we provide personal protective equipment including cleaning and hygiene supplies, conduct regular disinfection both inside and around the office, and have implemented appropriate regulatory changes relating to safety and security procedures. We also provide hardware, software, and technical support to most of the employees who are working from home.

The latest development during the third wave is the formation of our COVID-19 Emergency Response Team, known as "COVID Committee" to focus on providing medical supplies and other health services to all employees and their immediate families. We are also requiring all our employees to get the vaccination as soon as the opportunity comes up to avoid any potential risks or severity. These developments are changing from time to time based on regulatory and our employees' requirements. *More information about our COVID-19 efforts is provided on page 20.*

**What is keeping your department busy these days?**

Since we have implemented new policies and strategies in the office, our department has been ensuring that these new regulatory changes are effective from the first recognition of the outbreak. We have been continuously checking to see if there are improvements to the response and identifying common trends, practices, and challenges across the MPRL E&P Group of Companies while making improvements for future planning.

One of the main duties which keeps us busy for our department is tracing and finding orders, instructions, notifications, announcements, and health guidelines related to COVID-19 prevention and control measures, that are issued from time to time by various levels such as the national-level central committee on prevention, control, and treatment of COVID-19; union-level organizations; governments and ministries of union, region, state levels, and other related departments. We have to also ensure that these guided documentations from different sources are legitimate and clear as there are some "gray areas" in these issuances, thus correct interpretation and distribution of such documentation is important. Furthermore, we verify the information by working together with relevant sources like the HSE Department and appropriate Heads of Departments (HoDs) as we want to avoid misinformation. These are the



protocols we undertake before they reach the Sr. Executive Management and with their approval, we roll out the implementation plan and COVID-19 documentation to all employees through the respective HoDs.

**How do you handle risk management during an unprecedented crisis? Do you refer to or look at your peers in the same industry? Are there any difficulties or inconveniences that you are currently facing?**

This pandemic definitely has amped up risk management including mitigation and careful planning during this crisis. What we do is that we identify the risks and prioritize them accordingly with different departments, then come up with an action plan and move fast. Communication is important; we keep it going between different teams and stakeholders as we manage current risks and monitor for potential risks. The uncertainty is changing every day and we can't be looking too far out to next year for instance. Generally speaking, certain things will remain the same once the pandemic is over, and others may change. We will just have to wait and see.

Many businesses have suffered one way or another with the number of new risks skyrocketing during the pandemic as it took us all by surprise. For instance, the banking sector has suffered quite a bit, severely impacted both by health and the political environment. We are still facing difficulties when making deposits, transfers (internal and overseas), and withdrawing from our own account to pay our employees. We have been working patiently with the banks, our suppliers and partners on payment terms as some of them are at the operation sites. The risk is quite high in these cases because every day is a new day with the banking sector.

During this difficult time, we refer to health and safety guidelines from MoH which are based on WHO, and also, the guidelines from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population (Ministry of Labour) for issues related to workforce management. Last but not least, we get good guidance and take references from a few local and international organizations in the same industry.

**We've discussed the challenges and risks. Let's conclude this by discussing the future plan and lessons learned. Any last thoughts you would like to share with all of us?**

We are now experiencing the third wave, and seeing quite a lot of challenges that this pandemic has brought. And we expect additional waves since this pandemic is not going to be over any time

From Cover Page

**Seismic is about sound waves**

Light and sound are **waves**, that are reflected and refracted depending on how these waves travel through various media, air, water, or various rocks. Let's have a look at what light shows us.

**Reflection:** Have you ever noticed on the beach that looking underwater looks quite darker than above water? This is because much of the light of the sun is **reflected** by water, and only some of the light of the sun enters into the water; fig. 1 illustrates this phenomenon of **reflection**. Sound can also be reflected to produce **echoes**, such as shouting in deep valleys in mountains, or at a large wall from some distance.

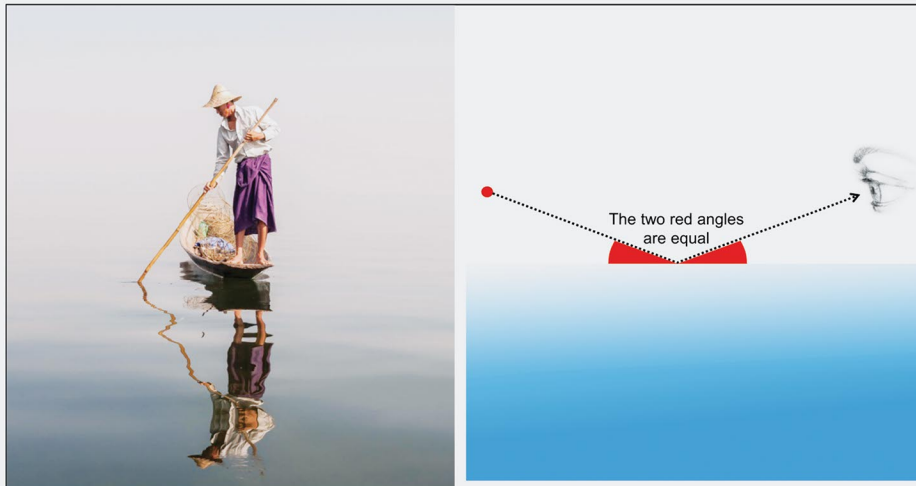


Fig. 1: Reflection of light waves on water

**Refraction:** Have you ever noticed that a chopstick dipped in water appears broken? This is because light travels slightly slower in water than in air, and this difference in speed of light makes the straw appear broken; fig. 2 shows the **refraction** of light between air and water.



Fig. 2: Refraction of light waves from air to water

Fig. 2 and 3 also show that both phenomena of reflection and refraction happen **at the surface** where the light changes its speed, at the surface of the water in these cases.

The very same principle of reflection and refraction that you see in light applies to **sound**. Every physical medium, gas, liquid, and for what interests us, rocks, has its own **density** and therefore transmits sound at different speeds, or **velocities**. As an example, sound needs three seconds to travel through one kilometer of air, but only  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a second in one kilometer of water. Sound is much faster in rocks where it needs  $\frac{1}{2}$  or even  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a second, to travel one kilometer.

Sound does not propagate at the same speed in all rocks, simplified as follows:

- Sound is slower in younger rocks full of water and not yet compacted by overlying rocks;
- Sound is ever faster in older rocks because water is expelled and the rocks become compacted by overlying rocks;
- Sound is slower in layered shales than in more homogeneous sandstones;
- Sound is slower in gas-bearing sandstones than in water-bearing sandstones.

Just like **light** shows reflection and **refraction** at the surfaces where velocities change, the sound

want to see. Where doctors and nurses handle the ultrasound machine to look at babies in the wombs, the **geophysicists** look at acquiring and processing sound waves in rocks into images of the geology of the underground.

**Seismic acquisition**

Fig. 3 shows the seismic acquisition principles in an offshore environment. The sound waves of the series of pops are variously reflected and refracted by the **reflectors**. All operations are managed onboard of a seismic vessel which tows:

- a **seismic airgun** generating sound waves as "pops" and
- a **streamer** which includes "hydrophones", like a phone earpiece, listening and recording the return of the sound waves back to the surface. As the vessel sails ahead, a continuous profile of reflected and refracted sound waves is generated. One streamer is to record single 2D seismic lines; a series of parallel streamers is towed for recording 3D seismic swaths together forming a 3D seismic cube.

**Seismic processing**

Seismic processing, and reprocessing, is the operation that converts these **reflected** and **refracted sound waves** returning from the underground and **measured in time** into an **image in the depth** of the rock layers, the ancient landscapes, and of the events that shaped these landscapes.

The signal recorded in **time** is to be converted into a signal visible in **depth**. The relation between time and depth is the speed of sound in the rocks, the **velocity**.

Remember light and sound are waves, and waves are the data that the geophysicists handle. A wave, whether light or sound, is characterized by a **wavelength** (ask your grandparents who had to look for the proper wavelength to tune their radios), the **amplitude**, and the **frequency** (fig. 4). The job of the geophysicists is to tune the various components of these waves for removing as much noise and enhancing as much signal coming from the surfaces of rocks as possible.

Processing (and reprocessing) consists of manipulating the shape of the seismic sound wave, mainly the wavelength, amplitude, and/or the frequency, along with three main steps:

Step 1. Removing the noise and enhancing the signal (fig. 5A): also called **deconvolution** in geophysical jargon. Like on old records, various noises interfere with the signal we want to listen to. The first steps of processing in enhancing signal and erase noise as much as possible. This step also compensates for the weaker sound wave reaching faraway hydrophones, by enlarging the amplitude of the signal. Noises include, for instance, the noise of the swell, the waves, the engine of the vessel, the noise of the streamers moving through the water, the parasite noise of the gun, the other marine traffic, multiple echoes coming from the sound reflecting on the sea bottom, the so-called multiples, etc.

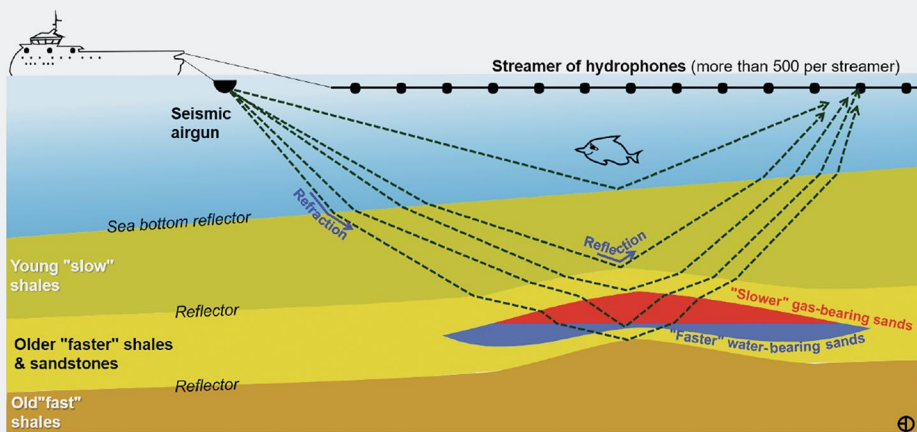
Step 2. **Stacking** together the various signals of the same point (fig. 5B): this is a complex process to compensate the fact that not all reflections from a

will also show reflection and refraction at the surfaces where the speed of sound, or velocity, changes between the various rocks. It is these differing velocities between rocks that allow us to transform sound waves into images of the surfaces between the rocks, or **reflectors**, where the velocity changes.

Seismic acquisition is the operation to **generate and record sound waves** that have traveled through rocks - as well as through water when the seismic campaign is offshore - and come back to the surface after reflection and refraction between the various surfaces of rocks.

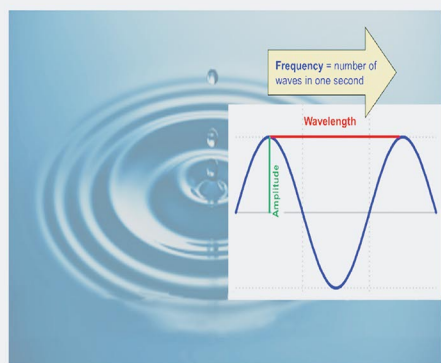
Seismic processing is the operation of **transforming sound waves into images of the layers of rocks** beneath the surface of the ground or of the bottom of the sea.

This is very much similar to the ultrasound technique used to picture babies in the womb of their mothers, only multiplied by about ten thousand times, in terms of instrument and features that we



**Fig. 3: Reflected and refracted sound waves generated during a seismic survey;** note the various ray paths from various reflectors reaching the same hydrophone; only a very limited number of ray paths have been represented here.

reflector - the surface between two different rock layers - arrive at the same time at different receivers along the length of the seismic cable or spread. However, if the velocity at which the sound travels in the various rocks is known, the arrival time difference (move-out) at each seismic trace can be predicted, and the various signals at the various hydrophones stacked at the correct time.



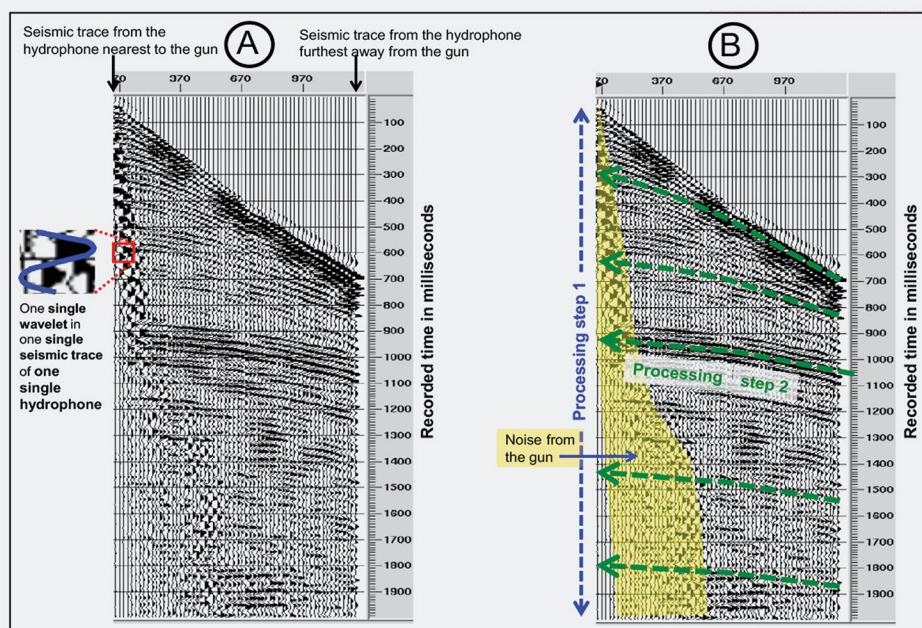
**Fig. 4: Light or sound, the making of a wave: wavelength, amplitude, and frequency**

Step 3. Migration: this operation repositions the signal as coming from right underneath each point of recording the returning signal: this again involves a thorough understanding of the velocity in the rocks and is one of the main challenges of obtaining a correct image of the underground.

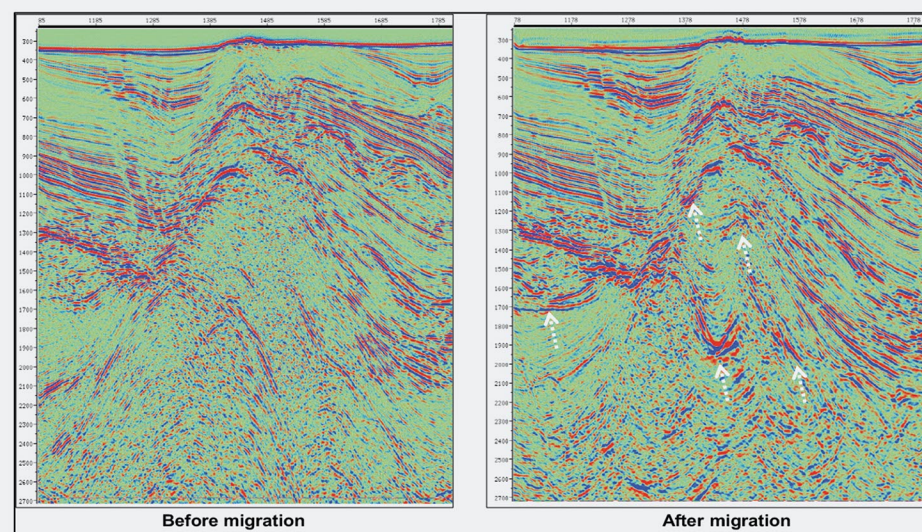
The volume of data: Just mind-boggling: Fig. 5 shows only the record of one-shot with a listening time during two seconds over sixty hydrophones. During the last Block A-6 3D seismic campaign, the seismic acquisition vessel sailed at about 8 kilometers/hour (a mild jogging speed), and the gun produces one shot every 18.75 meters when recording lines, which is a "pop" about every 8 seconds. The 540 hydrophones of each of the 18 streamers were recording in one hour more than four million records like the one shown in fig. 5, and with a listening time of seconds. The recording phase of the acquisition campaign itself totaled nearly 680 hours, resulting therefore in the processing needing to handle 2.8 billion seismic traces, or 2.8 thousand of thousands of thousands of traces, each lasting for ten seconds. Not much surprise that even with supercomputers, we had to wait nearly a year before having our 3D seismic cube reprocessed from scratch.

**Our present imaging challenge**

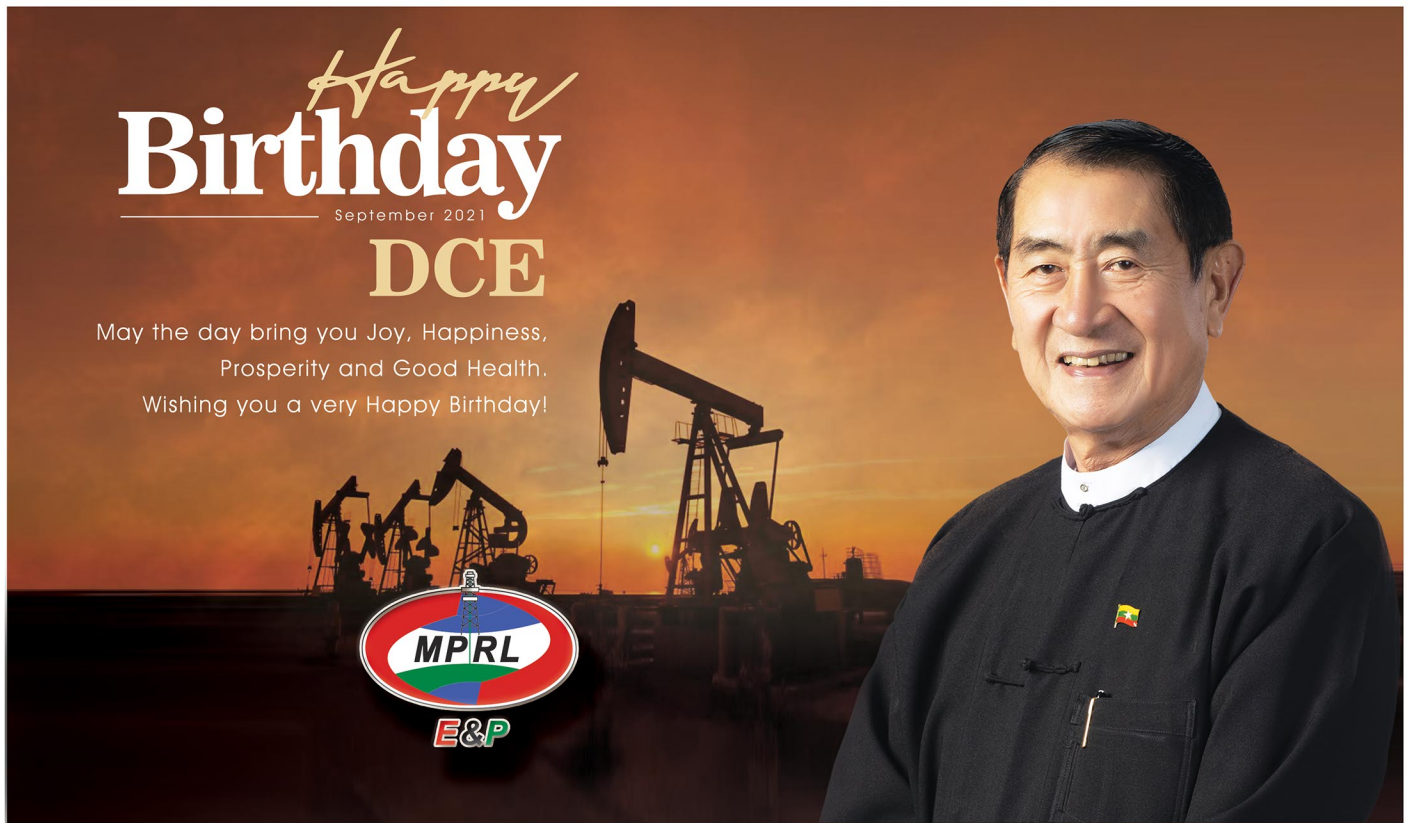
The first 3D seismic cube acquired in 2013 in the deep waters of Block A-6 needed to be reprocessed from scratch, because half of the cube was acquired over a pile of gigantic underwater slumps, together known as the Watthe Slump, in front of the shores from Chaungthar to Gwa. These catastrophic events saw an area four times the surface of metropolitan Yangon, sliding from shallow to deep waters in several episodes, the latest one probably as recently as only 7,000 years ago. That may look like long ago, but is as recent for us geologists as today barely after lunch if you read this paper in the early afternoon. These awesome slumping events were most probably the result of earthquakes caused by the India Continental Plate moving crabwise beneath the Myanmar continental platelets.



**Fig. 5: The simplified steps from raw seismic signal to stacked seismic trace;**(A) One single "pop" of the gun and all the raw signals - or seismic traces - recorded at hydrophones (note that 1) the water column has been removed and (2) the signal has already been amplified at the hydrophones located further away from the gun (B) Processing step 1 in blue: Deconvolution seismic trace by seismic trace to remove noise and sharpen wavelets and Processing step 2 in green: Stacking all seismic traces into one trace



**Fig. 6: Step 3 of processing, migration of the stacked traces at the correct location of the subsurface (hopefully);** the sections are from the shallow water 3D seismic cube of Block A-6 acquired by MPRL E&P in 2010; note how sharper and more detailed is the geological picture on the right after migration as highlighted by a few of the white arrows



From Page 4

soon. However, I am confident that, through our collective efforts of the employees and newly formed COVID Committee, we will be ready to respond to any challenges ahead. We have a system in place now guided by new policies and strategies that allow us to plan for the future and manage the current health crisis. As a transparent and ethical business operator, we will adhere to our company policies and procedures and at the same time, comply with relevant laws and regulations that may change depending on the current landscape.

We have lost some staff and their family members; we have lost friends and relatives that are dear to us. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families. This third wave has taught us the importance of support systems through different

kinds of communication; via phones, video calls, emails, etc. We all are fighting the same virus and we must work together to end this pandemic. I would like to encourage everyone to get vaccinated, both you and your family members so that we can slowly and safely go back to normalcy. We must put selfishness aside and think collectively during times like this, we must think about our surroundings, our friends, families, and colleagues.

Up to this date, our COVID Committee has contributed up to USD \$135,000 within one and half month time since the beginning of the third wave through the provision of oxygen, medical supplies and health services to all our employees and their immediate family members. We are continuing with our efforts to make sure that our employees

and their families are well taken care of, but at the same time, I would like to encourage our staff to take preventive measures seriously. Since this global crisis will not go away overnight and the uncertainty is high, we must work together as a team, think about what we can do for others and share responsibilities, if necessary.

This pandemic has also questioned the power of our resilience, personal and professional, and we get stronger by overcoming these challenges together. Through challenges, I am proud to see the transformation, strength, and meaningful connections that have evolved among our colleagues. And the learnings obtained during this crisis are a result of action, and as long as we bounce back stronger and smarter, we can overcome any challenges that lie ahead of us. We will be prepared. ■

From Page 6

This slump is made of immense blocks, each up to four times the height of the Vantage Tower, and each covering about the area of four to eight football pitches. The rocks that made up these blocks are much older than the mud being deposited at the same time. Much older rocks are more compact, i.e. have much faster velocities. These older faster rocks scattered the seismic ray paths in all directions, instead of letting these ray paths reach the layers below the Watthe Slump.

We could previously already see some promising reflections below the Watthe Slump. This newly reprocessed 3D seismic cube may hopefully allow us geo-nutters to potentially add quite a bit more gas into the promising future of Block A-6. This new gas will allow to extend the production

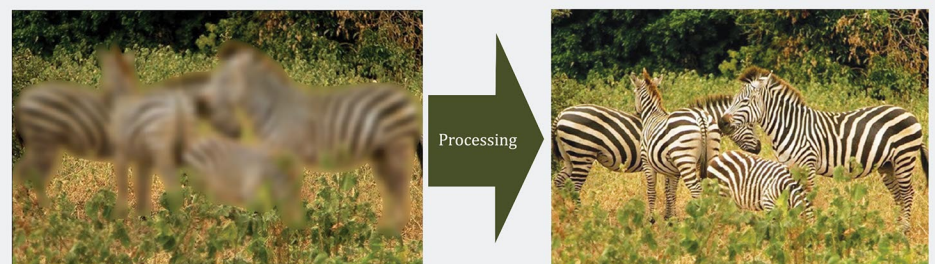


Fig. 7: The game of seismic (re)processing, from fuzzy beasts to furry zebras

beyond the present gas sands being developed, to feed the nation with much needed electrical power.

Meanwhile, why don't you stretch just now, and have a walk to visit the CSR shop at the 9<sup>th</sup> floor and its many delicacies to treat yourself while buying local? ■

# How Agriculture Adapts to Pandemic

**Thal Sandy Tun**

*For many farmers from the surrounding communities in Mann Field, this year is different due to the ongoing pandemic and its impact on agriculture throughout the country.*

The World Bank's latest Myanmar Economic Monitor notes that the agricultural sector will see its activity contract by about 10 percent while the country's economy as a whole is expected to shrink by 18 percent. The prevailing conditions of lower prices for some crops, higher input costs, and limited access to credits could affect the farmers' ability to stay in business. Of course, the country's agricultural sector, which serves as the backbone of the national economy, has long been faced with effects of climate change which include persistent pest problems, labor shortage, and market instability. COVID-19, which was first detected in Myanmar on 23 March 2020, has created additional challenges for smallholder farmers.

During a workshop with smallholder farmers in Mann Field, a discussion was held where they talked about their experiences related to reduced profits as a result of lower prices for their produce such as chickpea, sunflower, and sesame last year, which has negatively affected their ability to repay debt and cover daily living expenses.

With the recent rise in the costs of pesticides, fertilizers, seeds, and fuels at the backdrop of the pandemic and political environment, they are worried that there will not be a robust market demand for their crops when they harvest, making it difficult to ensure there will be a fair amount of return on their investments again.

However, they cannot simply halt growing because the season has finally arrived and farming is their livelihood, many having to rely on credits from organizations and informal lenders except for those farmers with deep pockets.

Making adjustments became a necessity for some farmers as they started reducing their farming activities—they quit the plan to grow sesame using GAP method, for fear of increasing the burden of debts due to escalating input costs and the possibility that there lacks a buyer for their harvest.

On the other hand, other farmers including horticulturalists that grow tomatoes and chilies decided to go against the odds. For these farmers, MPRL E&P's CSR Program has continuously been supporting them with required inputs and facilitating coordination with the East-West Seed Myanmar for necessary technical training and individual counseling to kick off their new growing season successfully.

Saw Eh Hsar Blute Htoo, Senior CSR Officer from MPRL E&P's CSR & Communications Department, explained, "Although we cannot meet the farmers and officials from the Department of Agriculture (Minbu) as frequently as we used to due to the measures currently put into place to control the spread of COVID-19, we have decided to continue supporting farmers in Mann Field with growing sesame, chickpea, sunflower, tomato, and chili by providing seeds, in addition to other inputs through community-based seeds banks."



This year's CSR Program in Mann Field features a new initiative known as Farmer Field School. According to the Senior CSR Officer, the initiative consists of three major components: sunflower seeds production, integrated pest management, and making natural fertilizers. The success of the initiative depends on several important factors such as cooperation, involvement, and a sense of ownership among the farmers as they strive to move from traditional agriculture to a sustainable one. Their willingness to try new techniques, learn from one another, and work together is critical amidst the changing climate and pandemic, the Senior CSR Officer said.

This essentially means remaining resilient in the face of a third wave of the coronavirus which has proven to be more devastating across many communities throughout Myanmar. As a result, a higher level of infection rate in the communities has been observed. In this regard, while we reduce the frequency and number of farmers attending agricultural knowledge-sharing sessions in observance of COVID-19 rules, we work hard to make consulting agricultural technicians for farmers' issues accessible through all available instant voice and messaging channels.

On reflection, under the umbrella of MPRL E&P's CSR Program, the agricultural development assistance for the farming communities in Mann Field began in the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 by loaning quality chickpea seeds to eight smallholder farmers from Lay Eain Tan Village. The initial step was a success; the farmers successfully returned the loaned seeds at the time of harvest and a few farmers from other villages ended up joining the initiative the following fiscal year. Today the seed loaning initiative in the form of seeds banks is managed by Seeds Management Committees in seven villages in Mann Field to store quality chickpea, sunflower, and sesame seeds systematically and distribute them to farmers when the growing season comes, enabling the farmers to secure access to quality seeds at no additional cost.

In the Fiscal Year 2019-2020, the assistance program was extended to cover vegetable growers in Mann Field as we launched a practical horticulture training for the first time to a group of 41 farmers with a dual purpose of introducing modern vegetable growing techniques along with the use of natural fertilizers. Up to now, a total of 19 entrepreneurial farmers have applied modern techniques in farming vegetables with ample success. This is very important as their success story will encourage fellow farmers to willingly test new techniques apart from their traditional ones, ultimately leading to sustainable farming.

All along, the Department of Agriculture (Minbu) and relevant organizations in the agricultural sector have been offering technical and other forms of support. Although agriculture has been hit hard by the pandemic globally, it bears the huge potential to assist economic recovery. Together with our stakeholders, partners, and like-minded organizations along with community involvement and collective effort, no doubt we will survive and get through this hardship. We have to. ■



# Government-Industry Relations: The Importance of Trust Building

## Thal Sandy Tun

Myanmar is one of the developing countries in Southeast Asia with an emerging economy that has gone through a series of economic reforms since 2011. The government has made some significant policy changes to actively attract and further increase foreign and domestic investments, which plays a vital role in strengthening the economy through competition. Like many of us have expected, the process of transition included the introduction of new laws, policies, regulations, and engagement guidelines between various industries and government stakeholders to foster better and more responsible business conduct across different sectors.

Business investors and operators in Myanmar, both local and non-local, need to be careful and precise with the overall speed and magnitude of their engagement strategy when communicating with government stakeholders. The general complexity of the business environment in Myanmar has many facets that only the right engagement will determine the success, value, and sustainability of its operations. Engaging with policymakers and regulators is even more pivotal when the industry is heavily regulated like oil and gas and therefore, proactive, strategic engagement is vital in building trust with key stakeholders in multiple levels of government.



U Thaik Soe, who joined MPRL E&P as Government Engagement Manager two years ago after working across the MPRL E&P Group of Companies since 2012, agreed that government actions can affect businesses profoundly. He further discussed how he takes charge of the company's government engagement protocols and strategy through the MPRL E&P's Government & Public Affairs Department.

For U Thaik Soe, strategic government relations management means the function of managing the organization's overall relationships with government ministries or departments and agencies as well as the legislative branch. It should support

the organization's overall goals and strategies. He stressed that the lines of communication with the government be regular and efficient through sharing of crucial information about new and ongoing projects, including key issues and latest affairs.

Most importantly, the ability to build trusting and lasting relationships with the stakeholders is one of the key ingredients of a successful Engagement Manager as it involves time, patience and longevity of the process. Building a solid relationship with the government and business partners has always been our approach since the beginning and this approach is relevant as ever in the current landscape.

U Thaik Soe further discussed the MPRL E&P's principles around its approach, which includes assessing project needs and decision milestones, developing and updating stakeholder maps constantly, sharing information on long-term project needs and decision milestones with government stakeholders in a transparent and honest manner, and finally addressing concerns and challenges on both sides in a respectful and committed way.

Not every approach is going to be smooth per U Thaik Soe, "There are times when both investors and government stakeholders share the same objective but have different ideas about reaching that objective. In a scenario like this, we would revisit a set of collective objectives and work out together to arrive at the objectives in the most practical manner."

The Government Engagement Manager, who holds a bachelor's degree in science and an MBA from the Yangon University of Economics, adds that active listening plays a key role in building trust and effective stakeholder relationships.

"To build trust, we need to walk in their shoes by listening actively to their perspectives, concerns, and challenges. We must seek to understand before seeking to be understood. By starting correctly, we can quickly begin communicating our approach and objectives in a way that they understand and see where we are coming from and what we are seeking to achieve, which results in creating value for both the business and host country. Through such dynamic two-way constructive engagement, trust is gradually built



## U Thaik Soe

Government Engagement Manager  
Government & Public Affairs Department

and become engrained in search of a collective objective."

He warned that there are some misconceptions among investors; it becomes apparent when they try to impose perspectives from other countries on the Myanmar business landscape. "It is not good or wise to force government stakeholders to only think like investors and not to accommodate their own perspectives and challenges as regulators and policymakers. The investor may be correct in his or her own way but their imposition of foreign values on the local context often slows down the support and communication from government stakeholders and most importantly, deteriorate trust over time. If you are too right, you will be left."

As a government relations practitioner, U Thaik Soe shared how MPRL E&P has set internal policies and procedures in place to address some of the ethical requirements that business representatives have to follow when engaging government stakeholders at different levels.

"MPRL E&P is committed to conducting business in accordance with all applicable laws, rules and regulations, and to the highest ethical standards. As per the internal policies and especially the Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy (ABC Policy) of MPRL E&P, we have to follow the objective of the company to respect prevailing laws in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar by ensuring all company activities are implemented according to all relevant legal requirements and internal policies. It is prohibited for any employee of MPRL E&P to make a payment, whether in money or kind, directly or indirectly, on behalf of MPRL E&P, to any person representing a business, a government department or state institution, if the payment is to be used to obtain improper advantage for MPRL E&P. Furthermore, we honor not only our own ABC Policy but also ABC Policy of our partners which is also important and fully adheres to international standards or requirements."

The Government Engagement Manager proudly concluded that there are no ethical or legal issues for the company, thanks to the strict application of these internal policies and procedures set forth by the company personnel including his department. ■

# Working in the Field of Social Responsibility

**Thal Sandy Tun**

*With her signature Thanakha-tinted face and brisk talking style, Daw Lai Lai Khaing is easily recognized as a dedicated CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) team player working in the oil field, interacting with field operations personnel and community on a daily basis in Mann Field. Let's find out what she is most proud of in her career and how she is working amid the challenging circumstances.*



**Daw Lai Lai Khaing**  
CSR Field Coordinator  
CSR & Communications Department

In the past, Lai Lai Khaing was involved in the education sector and committed her life to nurturing children's education as a government-employed teacher from 1997 to 2001 at a local village school in Ngape Township in Magway Region. After leaving the government service, she worked as a tutor and volunteer to support MPRL E&P's CSR Program. Her initiation began at her hometown, Aye Mya Village in December 2013 by collecting demographic data and creating a village map.

Today she finds herself working tirelessly towards a long-term local community development program as a CSR Field Coordinator at MPRL E&P's Mann Field Project. She considers her strength being a local recruit with the ability to relate and communicate with the community members and understand the local context at a glance.

"I have been working as a full-time field staff since the middle of 2015 and my main responsibility has been facilitating the implementation of the company's CSR initiatives that create a positive impact on the community, advocating for community support and involvement in local development projects, creating partnerships with relevant organizations, conducting research, and reporting. My key interfaces are the 14 villages and their leaders, township officials, MOGE (Mann Field), and MPRL E&P's field personnel."

In regards to continuing CSR initiatives amid the unusual circumstances, Lai Lai Khaing said, "Community infrastructure, waste management program and the Operational Grievance Mechanism (OGM) are still being implemented as planned and we have successfully supported inputs and technical assistance to the first group of farmers to grow chillies and tomatoes in June 2021. I am delighted to say that our assistance for another group of farmers is underway."

As a key advocate for change, Lai Lai Khaing is proud to be helping with establishing a good rapport between the company and project-affected community, "Today both the staff and the community understand CSR is vital for the business as a whole rather than being a stand-alone agenda. The community sees that our presence makes their life much better by enabling them to raise questions or concerns at any time. Every company has its own way of practicing social responsibility and companies these days have more power to influence stakeholders for rewarding reasons than ever before."

What she feels most satisfying is observing a better understanding of the company's approach to identifying, designing, and implementing CSR projects that meet the needs of the community among local stakeholders. "A better understanding of our approach towards CSR among our stakeholders at the local level results in appreciation and improved collaboration while reducing misunderstanding and wasted time. It is important that we continue to share information with our stakeholders regularly through various meetings to strengthen our relationships," said the CSR Field Coordinator.

Lai Lai Khaing also shows a high level of satisfaction with her works on the community waste management initiatives and serving as a mentor for the community volunteers from the 14 surrounding villages.

In her free time, Lai Lai Khaing would check around the community on her motorbike. If she spots trash here and there, she would contact Trash Hero Minbu, which MPRL E&P helped set up four years ago, and organize a clean-up event together. In tandem with awareness-raising activities on proper waste disposal and a regular waste pick-up service led by a Community Volunteer, there is now less trash littering around the

community, the CSR Field Coordinator observes.

As a former Community Volunteer, Lai Lai Khaing has recognized the current Community Volunteers' reservations and weaknesses, which have affected their ability to fully contribute to CSR projects for their respective villages under their roles. She has helped them open up and hone their skills in public speaking and team-working, so they can deliver necessary messages and information to community members in a confident manner with clarity while improving coordination and communication among themselves. She continues to provide a one-on-one mentoring session for the community volunteers whenever opportunities arise.

On the other hand, she explained the onset of the coronavirus pandemic in the country has forced a suspension or reduction in the number of group-related activities with the community such as agricultural knowledge-sharing talks and a mobile clinic program. The industrial training centers and nursing schools in the area have also been on a temporary shut down and therefore, the enrollment of youths from the community under the support of MPRL E&P's CSR Program has been halted.

In addition, Lai Lai Khaing has to put a stop to her own initiative of organizing knowledge-sharing activities with the children in local schools where she would discuss personal hygiene, the importance of keeping the environment clean, and planting trees including many other educational topics through a variety of storybooks published for children. Her stories attracted not only children but also their teachers and parents. If not for the pandemic, she believes she would be able to tell more fascinating stories that will nourish her audience's inquisitive minds.

Due to the third wave of COVID-19 in Myanmar, Lai Lai Khaing has been staying indoors while strictly following necessary health guidelines and inoculation. What's more important these days is paying even more attention to the community's voices, delivering messages in high sensitivity, and putting your own private opinions aside. Although many may find themselves helpless in this a-rock-and-a-hard-place situation, the CSR Field Coordinator firmly believes that supporting each other during this time is essential to overcome the debacles together for both business and the community. ■







# Happy Birthday

September 2021

Working with you  
each day is truly a gift  
for all of us. Thank you for all  
your endless support, guidance,  
and leadership.



MPRL E&P Group of Companies

Build through Excellence. Lead with Integrity

ANNIVERSARY  
2017



**COVID-19**  
Vaccination Services  
September 2021

A graphic with a dark blue background. At the top, there are several stylized blue virus particles. Below them, the text "COVID-19" is written in large, bold, white letters. Underneath that, "Vaccination Services" is written in smaller white letters. At the bottom, "September 2021" is written in white.

# M&AOSB Donates Medical Supplies to Nga Yoke Kaung Hospital

Pyae Pyae Phy

The global pandemic has brought many hardships around the low income, under-resourced communities across Myanmar. With an offshore supply base in Nga Yoke Kaung Town, Patheingyi District in the Ayeyarwady Region, M&AOSB has increased its efforts in the fight against COVID-19 in the project area through medical supplies and funding.

In July 2021, M&AOSB donated MMK 1,983,500 worth of medical supplies to Nga Yoke Kaung Hospital in support of the local response to COVID-19 crisis. The donation included 2 units of oxygen concentrators, 1,000 pairs of examination and surgical gloves, 2,500 surgical masks, 150 face shields, and 30 bottles of Dettol antiseptic disinfectant liquid. The handover ceremony was held at the General Administration Department Office of



Nga Yoke Kaung Town on 3 July 2021, where M&AOSB CSR Field Staff received the acknowledgment letters from the COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee and Nga Yoke Kaung Hospital.

As a responsible business operator, M&AOSB is pleased to further assist and make contributions towards the COVID-19 prevention and related health responses in the local host communities where we operate. ■



# M&AOSB Provides a Tricycle Hearse to a Free Funeral Service

Pyae Pyae Phy

As a socially responsible investor and operator, M&AOSB finds ways to identify the real needs of the community and fulfill them sustainably and efficiently. One of the highlights of M&AOSB CSR Program for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 was the donation of a tricycle hearse, a funeral van gifted to Danakuthala Free Funeral Service Association in Nga Yoke Kaung Town.

Danakuthala is a well-organized association that provides free funeral services to the community in Nga Yoke Kaung Town. Due to the lack of many facilities with a hearse being one, they had faced many difficulties when transporting the deceased to the crematory or burial site. With the current pandemic, it became a necessity, thus the humble request from the organization for a hearse. After careful review and evaluation, M&AOSB decided to extend the donation of a tricycle hearse, contributing MMK 4.5 million on 16 June 2021. It was a much-needed contribution for the community in times like this. The acknowledgment letter was sent to the M&AOSB by the organization, leaving a positive footprint by M&AOSB in the community where we operate.

U Myint Aung, the treasurer of Danakuthala Free Funeral Service Association, said, "In the past, as there was no hearse in town and so, we needed about four to six people to carry a dead body on a stretcher for transporting. We were so worried about slipping and falling, especially during the COVID-19 outbreak that is so contagious. Because of M&AOSB's tricycle hearse donation, we are now more at ease, mentally and physically, when conveying the deceased to the burial site. The hearse is so needed in our community, especially during the pandemic. On behalf of the association, I would like to thank the company that donated the vehicle and we look forward to helping out the local community in many ways."

M&AOSB is always delighted to contribute towards improving essential public services and the community where the business operates. ■





# Data Center and its New Avatars

**Kaung Myat Thu**

## What is cloud computing?

Cloud computing is a technology that makes data storage and distribution easier over the internet while providing many advantages such as efficient and reliable business operations and innovation, improved productivity, flexibility of resources, and economies of scale. Many giant IT companies like Google, Amazon, and Microsoft offer various cloud computing services and some of the popular services are Microsoft Azure, AWS cloud, iCloud, Dropbox, and OneDrive.

## Why has cloud technology become so popular?

Cloud technology has become a rapidly growing force in recent years. It has allowed us to quickly adapt and cater to the ever-changing needs of businesses and their employees. Cloud computing can process large volumes of data and facilitate global deployment, allowing businesses to create more innovative and dynamic ways of working.

Particularly with the recent pandemic, it was quickly discovered that remote work (work-from-home) or telecommuting will become a cornerstone for the long-term sustainability of an organization. 2020 and 2021 not only made us recognize the unforeseen challenges along with the digital transformation and its impacts on businesses; the health crisis has reinforced our position as a leader in the data center colocation market. Our business technology is secure, reliable, and well prepared to face any challenges ahead.

Let's look at a few reasons why cloud technology is gaining so much popularity and how it's helping businesses globally.

- 1. Easy implementation:** Cloud hosting allows businesses to retain the same applications and business processes without having to deal with the backend technicalities.
- 2. Accessibility:** Using the cloud for storage gives you access to your data and information from anywhere and anytime that has an internet connection. This allows for easy collaboration and sharing among users in multiple locations.
- 3. Cost savings on equipment:** Cloud computing uses remote resources, in other words, saving organizations the cost of servers, switches, routers, and other equipment.
- 4. Data security:** Encryption and other data masking techniques can help prevent prying eyes from being able to access protected information and important data.
- 5. Efficient recovery:** Cloud computing delivers faster and more accurate retrievals of applications and data. With less downtime, it is the most efficient recovery plan.

compliance, data privacy and security system, 24/7 monitoring of network operating center, and disaster recovery plan.

That is the reason why the cloud is not a replacement for the data center, rather it is just a complement to it.

## Why Myint & Associates (M&A) Data Center should be chosen for your business operation?

Myint & Associates Telecommunications Ltd. is an information technology arm of MPRL E&P Group of Companies, covering the entire IT affairs of its group of companies and data security. It is also an organization that is responsible for the smooth and reliable operation of GoC's business activities.

Myint & Associates Telecommunications Ltd. fully owns Myint & Associates Data Center, a key player in supporting the smooth running of the entire GoC's business operations. Today, we stand as the regional market leader in providing reliable, secure, and sustainable data center facilities.

M&A Data Center also delivers these services for various business industries with the following advantages:

- 1. Business continuity plan:** M&A Data Center is already experienced in keeping the businesses running smoothly under unusual circumstances like the COVID-19 pandemic and other environmental situations. Besides, we provide setting up secondary disaster recovery (DR) sites depending on the customers' requirements.
- 2. "Work from home" DC-based businesses:** Using remote work allows organizations to leverage a much broader talent pool as well as develop innovative products and services without having to physically relocate operations. The significant benefits of remote work are evident during this pandemic. M&A Data Center provides remote work services to every sector.
- 3. Customer care:** We provide 24/7 onsite support and customer care with standard operation procedures managed by highly experienced NOC engineers.
- 4. High reliability:** M&A Data Center maintains the highest reliability standards and continues to boast zero operational downtime performance to date since the commencement of operations.
- 5. Compliance:** We have achieved independent third-party compliance certifications such as Tier III and Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) which guarantees reliability, safety, security, and many more.

*Hey Cloud!  
No, you are not.  
You are just  
complement to me!*

*Hey  
Data Center!  
I can replace you!*



**Will cloud computing replace traditional data centers?**

Even if traditional data center tasks are all moved to the cloud, there will still be a need for on-site infrastructure that will ultimately require what looks like a traditional data center. It means that the traditional data centers are the basic IT infrastructure of every business form such as cloud, financial transactions, and so on.

The main advantage of the traditional data center over the cloud is that business industries and organizations can access their information and data in every condition of internet connection and non-internet connection. Further, other significant factors include business continuity plan, strong

*Hey Cloud!  
What do you want  
to be when you  
grow up?*



*Data  
Storage*



From Page 3

proper waste management initiatives like cleanup litter programs, as littering has become one of the biggest issues, especially in developing countries. To note, littering is categorized as a type of pollution and can cause harm to biodiversity and other serious consequences to the environment.

Cleaning up trash is the beginning of a very simple step towards a proper waste management journey. Cleanups produce many positive changes; these events and initiatives reduce the negative impacts of littering on the environment and discourage people from doing it as they become more aware of the consequences. It is important to realize that even small steps can have a meaningful and lasting impact on the environment. If all of us proactively commit to cleanups with love, compassion, and discipline, we can make the world a better, cleaner place. Actions speak louder than words; what you do is more important than what you say, something all of us should adhere to in our daily lives.

Since the beginning of its operation, M&AOSB has noticed the waste management problem, especially litter, as one of the major concerns raised by all three communities where our operations are. M&AOSB started the waste management journey in 2020 and since then, we have been making positive changes to reach the point of sustainability. In December 2020, M&AOSB CSR Program has initiated the Trash Hero Program in the project area and has been actively working together with the local community while encouraging them to be a part of the local, national and global change.

Trash Hero Gaw Yan Gyi Chapter was created in 2020 to cultivate meaningful environmental changes and to create a cleaner and more sustainable community. The collaboration efforts are to reduce the negative impact on the environment and to inspire long-term behavior change in the community through local cleanups and litter pickups. Despite many restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Trash Hero Gaw Yan Gyi Chapter successfully organized collective cleanup events with the support of the local community and M&AOSB while following national health guidelines. The Chapter kicked off its first cleanup program on 20 December 2020 in Nanttharpu Village Tract. As of 20 June 2021, the Chapter has organized a total of 11 cleanups and collected a total of 1,530 kg of trash. During these six months,



many small group cleanups were initiated in compliance with COVID-19 regulations and mobilized a total of 309 heroes including 88 adults and 221 kids. Further, the cleanup groups received generous contributions and warm support from M&AOSB and the Nanttharpu community.

The table shows the progress of Trash Hero Gaw Yan Gyi's cleanup journey. Surely, the Chapter will continue taking its steps towards tackling long-standing waste management issues and reach the global sustainable goals through collective, ongoing action, and awareness.

In conclusion, we would like to congratulate environmental volunteers and trash heroes all over the world, who participated in the fourth-year milestone of World Cleanup Day on 18 September 2021. World Cleanup Day aims to raise awareness

of the mismanaged waste crisis by mobilizing all spheres of society to participate in cleanup actions. This special day started with the humble beginning in 2008 when 50,000 people united in Estonia to clean the country in 5 hours, attracting the global attention to join in the next cleanups and to find better solutions to tackle the global problem. World Cleanup Day is held over the course of a 24-hour period, on the third Saturday of September annually. According to Euronews Green, around 50 million volunteers in 180 countries participated in World Cleanup Day 2021 and the global civic movement has brought together millions of people for the biggest waste collection day in human history. It is hoped that the global cleanup journey could reach a zero waste destination very soon. ■

Trash Hero Gaw Yan Gyi Cleanup Journey						
Cleanup No.	Cleanup Date	Trash Bags	Kid Heroes	Adult Heroes	Total Heroes	Trash Kilogram
1	20-Dec-2020	20	28	11	39	100
2	03-Jan-2021	25	35	12	47	125
3	17-Jan-2021	55	23	12	35	275
4	31-Jan-2021	89	47	15	62	445
5	14-Feb-2021	4	7	3	10	20
6	09-May-2021	10	7	2	9	50
7	16-May-2021	8	8	2	10	40
8	30-May-2021	17	10	3	13	85
9	06-Jun-2021	13	12	4	16	65
10	13-Jun-2021	30	19	9	28	150
11	20-Jun-2021	35	25	15	40	175

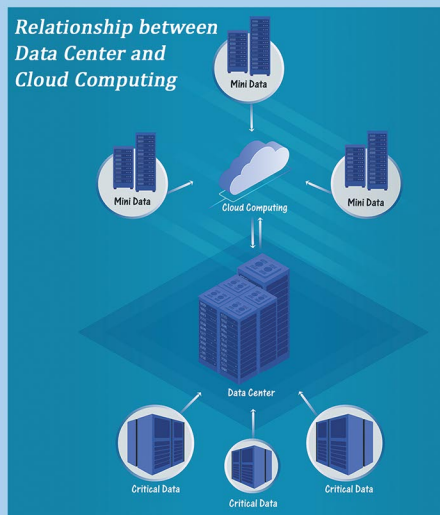


From Page 16

**6. Data privacy and security:** M&A Data Center is built with eight layers of security system to secure your critical points of information and data. The data center itself is also set up with a physical security system such as CCTV monitoring and a digital access card system.

**7. Financial saving:** Big data improves the efficiency of risk-based pricing and risk management while significantly alleviating information asymmetry problems. Further, it helps to verify and collect the data, predict credit risk status, and detect fraud.

**8. Environmental superiority:** M&A Data Center is located at Vantage Tower, Myanmar's most technologically advanced building with a high level of security, earthquake resistance safety, fire prevention, and evacuation system. ■



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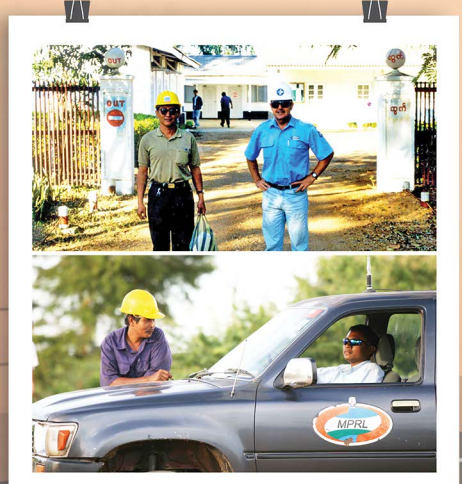
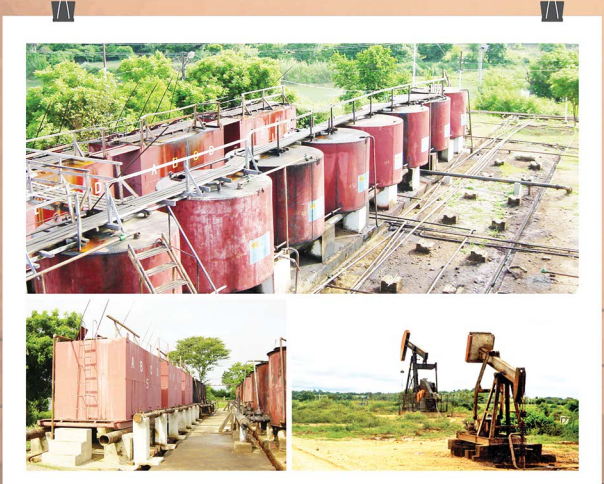
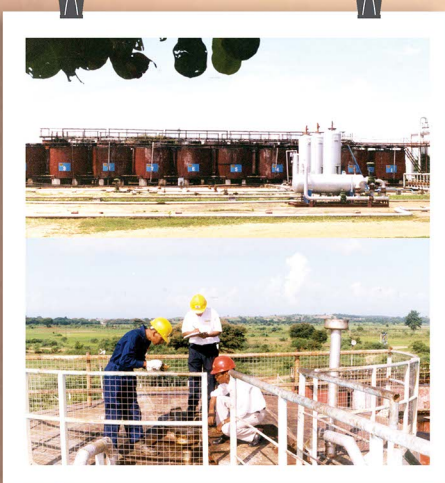
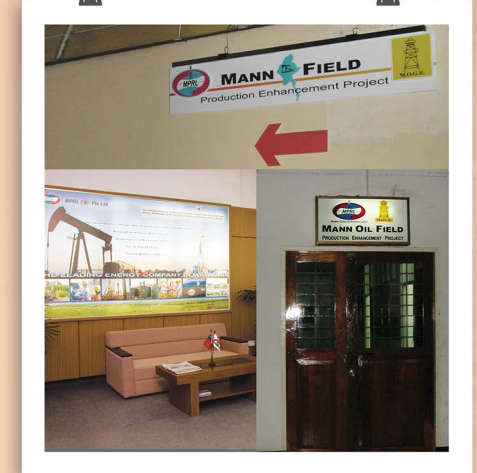
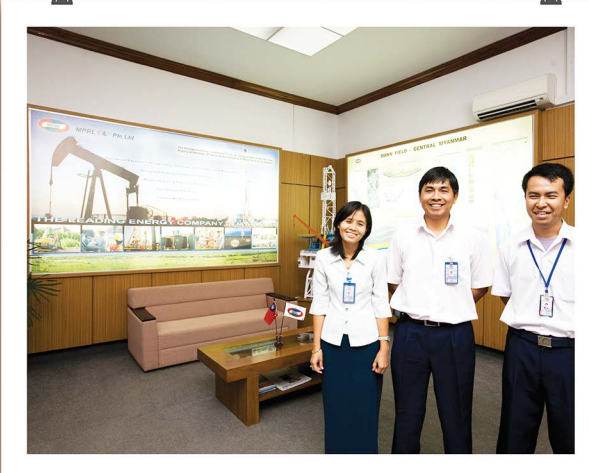
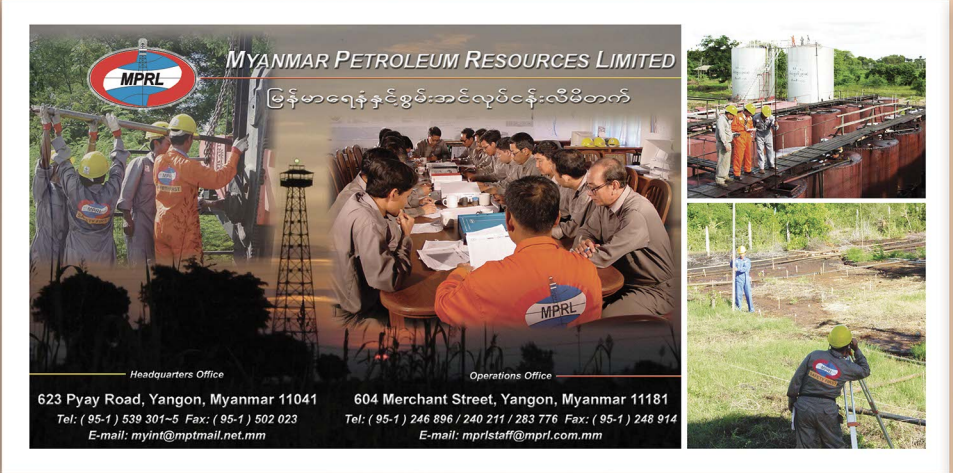
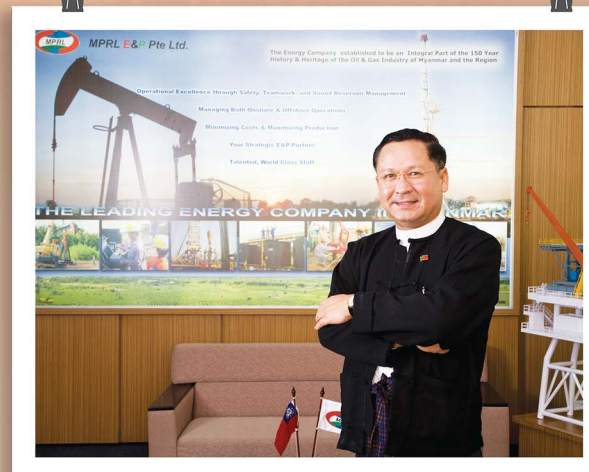
# Old Photographs at Merchant St. Office & Mann Field

## A Brief Trip Down Memory Lane

The Mann Field Production Enhancement Project has progressed from its humble beginnings in 1996 starting at the Merchant Street Office to where it is today. It is pivotal to the evolution and success of MPRL E&P as an O&G operator because not only it represents a transformational journey of a historical landmark but also a significant milestone in the growth of the company.

For several decades, this project has significantly contributed towards enhancing the incremental production of our own domestic resources whereupon reducing the considerable financial burden on the country from having to import oil and finished products from abroad.

The old photos of the storage tanks and facilities at the start of the partnership with MOGE at that time is a testament to our pioneering spirit, hard work, and perseverance, which have enabled us to penetrate and well establish ourselves in the energy sector starting as a service provider in 1989 to become a full-fledged operator, both onshore and offshore.



All Roads Start Here

**NEVER STOP EXPLORING!**

Here, you will find old photos of our office on Merchant Street, also known as "Kone The Lan" for many locals. It is an east-west road in downtown Yangon, the economic capital city, where our Project Office was first situated 25 years ago, and which is now located in Vantage Tower. So many sentimental memories are shared between our Mann Field Project, MOGE, and MPRL E&P staff that will have us converse in the years to come. ■

# Interview with COVID Committee on Emergency Medical Assistance and Vaccination Efforts for Staff

**Thal Sandy Tun**

Let's start this interview with how the COVID Committee has come about and its assistance program aimed to support staff and their immediate families who are severely affected by the third wave of the coronavirus.

The third wave of the coronavirus pandemic, indicated by the daily mass testing programs performed by the Ministry of Health (formerly known as Ministry of Health and Sports) with snowballing positivity rates since the end of June 2021 and detection of the arrival of more contagious Delta variant in the country, has severely affected the health and wellbeing of our staff across the MPRL E&P Group of Companies and their families. We quickly recognized the dire need for medical assistance with provision of emergency medical supplies including oxygen supplement, doctors, medicines, and other medical equipment, which all play an essential role in saving the lives of some of our staff and their family members who fell severely ill with the virus.

Therefore, under the daily guidance of our Chief Executive Officer U Moe Myint, and the leadership of our Chief Operating Officer U Sithu Moe Myint, the MPRL E&P Group of Companies Emergency COVID-19 Assistance and Oxygen Support Committee, also known as COVID Committee, was formed on 12 July 2021 with 13 company personnel across different business units within the Group of Companies.

The key objective of the COVID Committee is the prevention of morbidity and mortality resulting from COVID-19 and management of severity of the disease through the reliable and efficient provision of medical supplies for staff who are tested positive and severely ill. In other words, to save as many lives as possible within our professional community, as this third wave proved to be a deadly outbreak affecting dozens of communities across the nation. The assistance program extends



eligibility for all their immediate family members including children and spouses and sets three key policies: Oxygen Supply Policy, Oxygen Concentrator Supply Policy, and COVID-19 Emergency Medication Policy.

The emergency Oxygen Supply Policy focuses on the oxygen level of COVID-19 patient; during the course of the sickness, if the patient's oxygen level drops below 80%, he or she is to be supplied with a 40L oxygen cylinder and if the oxygen level ranges between 90% and 80%, two 20L oxygen cylinders will be provided. This provision of oxygen cylinders will be increased on a case-by-case basis that is approved by the Head of the COVID Committee.

The severely ill patient is also allowed to use an oxygen concentrator for up to ten days and it must be disinfected before transferring among confirmed positive patients. As for the unconfirmed patients, they are allowed to receive a new oxygen concentrator under the Oxygen Concentrator Supply Policy.

Similarly, in line with the COVID-19 Emergency Medication Policy, the COVID Committee has procured necessary FDA-approved medication from trusted retail and wholesale suppliers ensuring the accessibility and affordability for our staff. In some cases, these medications are offered free of charge.

**Could you please talk about what kind of assistance and support initiatives have been made available for staff across the MPRL E&P Group of Companies as short-term priorities?**

The COVID Committee has ensured timely access to doctors, medicines, and oxygen supplement for all employees who have tested positive for COVID-19 and who are in line with our policies. Our doctors conduct home visitations and monitor and assess the health conditions of each patient. Only with the proper diagnosis from the doctor, the COVID Committee procures required medicines within 24 hours to distribute to the patients.

If blood tests are required, the doctors would collect patients' blood samples and the COVID Committee would arrange to get them tested at respective laboratories. In order to further guide and enhance the treatment regimes, the COVID Committee would arrange a home service for medical imaging tests like chest X-rays for patients who are bed-ridden with low oxygen levels.



**Daw Naw Helen**  
Senior Internal Audit Manager  
Myint & Associates Co., Ltd.



*When I fell sick during the third wave of the virus, I sought emergency medical assistance from the COVID Committee. Gratefully, I received the much-needed oxygen supplement delivered to my door step multiple times and home visits by a company doctor to closely check on my symptoms and progress signs on a regular basis. The doctor told me I was ill with a severe form of COVID-19 and I determined I remained strong to be able to overcome the illness soon. Now I have fully recovered from the COVID-19 and I am planning to get my very first jab of a coronavirus vaccine under the arrangement of the COVID Committee. I would like to express my ample thanks here to both our CEO U Moe Myint, the COVID Committee and other staff members who offered a helping hand, for all their material and mental supports amidst this period.*

With regards to medical oxygen supplement, the COVID Committee procures oxygen cylinders from various reliable sources and supply them in a timely and adequate manner to all our patients despite the acute shortage of it in the country.

**Are there any significant challenges the COVID Committee had to overcome in assisting staff and their family members?**

The COVID Committee has gone through multiple challenges consisting of insufficient supply of basic pharmaceutical products in the market, the influx of counterfeit medicines with unknown origins, a surge in the prices of specialty medicines, difficulty procuring oxygen and related materials, and a lack of hospitalization opportunities for people infected with the coronavirus amidst the pandemic and a complex socio-political context.

The third wave of the coronavirus reached its highest positivity rate of over 40% at the end of July in Myanmar. Cases had also been on the rise in our neighboring countries like Thailand and India. The number might be a snapshot of reality on the ground and cases are expected to drop gradually towards mid-September. Meanwhile, we have experienced the unfortunate loss of family members, friends, as well as colleagues to the virus. It was a very sad and painful moment for all of us.

**How is the COVID Committee planning to get the staff vaccinated against the coronavirus? Will there be a mandatory vaccination policy for physically returning to work?**

The pandemic waves have become so severe that mass vaccination campaigns are underway in many countries around the world. We are seeing many Myanmar-based energy companies that have already started the vaccination program so that their employees can return to work safely.

We have practically seen that there is a stark difference between the vaccinated people and those who are not vaccinated against the virus in terms of contracting the virus, hospitalization, recovery and deaths. With this evidence, we are spearheading a mass vaccination campaign for our employees. We encourage some of our staff to receive vaccination at the Inya Center in mid-March this year while the majority chooses to wait for their first jab through different private channels.



*I had been sick for 54 days since the deadly third wave of the coronavirus struck Myanmar. During the first few days of feeling sick, I was consulting a general practitioner in my ward but my condition was not improving with oxygen level remaining low and I have underlying health conditions. When the general practitioner asked me to visit him again only after three days had passed, I decided it is time to seek assistance from the COVID Committee. It was a great decision I had made: I had been assisted with 30 medical oxygen cylinders (40 liters) as well as expensive and effective medicines by the COVID Committee for free. I was also given an opportunity to tele-consult with a specialist from Grand Hantha International Hospital and based on my daily health records, I was told I had successfully fought off the virus and since then, my underlying health conditions have been stable. Meanwhile, my daughter had to be operated for appendicitis at Asia Royal Hospital as a mid-night emergency case. I would like to say I am very thankful to our CEO, COO, the COVID Committee and MPRL E&P Group of Companies for saving both my life and my daughter's with their generous supports as we went through a difficult time in our lives.*



**U Myint Kywe Oo**  
Senior Camp Boss  
Mann Field Project

Since March of this year, the COVID Committee has been coordinating with SML Medical & Diagnostics Centre to order 10,000 doses of Covishield to vaccinate 5,000 people, which included staff, personnel from our partner organizations, and Buddhist monastic scholars. During the course, India has imposed an export ban on their coronavirus vaccines, resulting in a delay in our mass vaccination efforts.



We did not give up, the COVID Committee went ahead and placed an order of 1,000 doses of Sinovax at Pun Hlaing Hospital but the order was canceled during the month of July. As a third attempt, in the same month, we contacted the Myanmar Chinese Chamber of Commerce (MCCOC) to secure Sinopharm vaccines for 533 people. We were also able to lodge a vaccine order for another 586 people at Pun Hlaing Hospital at the same time as our second attempt. The total monetary value of these vaccines' orders stood at MMK 61,810,000.

In terms of vaccination rates in our companies, by 27 August 2021, we have fully vaccinated 191 staff and family members. Another 199 staff and family members have received their first dose of the



coronavirus vaccine. As of 30 August 2021, 15% of staff across the MPRL E&P Group of Companies have received their first jab and 12.4% have been fully vaccinated against the coronavirus.

The COVID Committee firmly believes the only means to prevent and control the coronavirus is by vaccinating every eligible citizen.

**What sort of messages and information does the COVID Committee want to share with the staff?**

From what the COVID Committee has experienced during the course of the third wave of the pandemic, we would like to highly encourage our staff to strictly follow the safety guidelines of the World Health Organization and the Ministry of Health. It is imperative that everyone gets fully vaccinated and stays in compliance with the measures which can prevent you from getting infected with the

virus such as wearing a face mask, regular hand washing, and social distancing. We must understand this is the only way to keep ourselves, our families and communities away from the virus. Between a vaccinated person and an unvaccinated one, there will be a big difference in the level of self-confidence in overcoming the critical period of a virus outbreak including the severity of the illness. Even if one gets infected in the worst-case scenario, one should seek proper medical assistance out of the desire to continue living.

**Are there any long-term plans for the COVID Committee?**

In the long run, we hope to be better prepared and carefully and systematically approach future waves of the pandemic based on our lessons learned from this third wave and upon adherence to new guidelines and policies released by the Ministry of Health. In addition, the COVID Committee will continue to work on the mass vaccination campaign until every single staff and their families across our Group of Companies has been vaccinated against the virus either through the national program or private channels, ultimately resulting in a reduced infection rate. ■



# Donation of COVID-19 Safety Supplies to MOGE

**Thal Sandy Tun**



When it comes to the coronavirus pandemic, a coordinated response effort is essential to minimize the impact on public health and disruptions to livelihoods, businesses, and communities. Through its own CSR fund, MPRL E&P made an emergency relief donation of personal protection and safety supplies worth MMK 2,369,000 to Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), our PCC Contract Partner for the Mann Field Enhanced Oil Recovery Project since 1996. Personal protective

supplies which are to be used in the context of COVID-19 included N95 masks, face shields, hand sanitizers and antiseptic disinfectant liquid. We hope that our donations will help control and suppress the spread of coronavirus especially in remote communities while ensuring support, safety and wellbeing of our oil field staff. As we are in this for the long haul, MPRL E&P looks forward to helping communities fight against COVID-19 through various preventive measures and support systems. ■



**လျှပ်စစ်နှင့်စွမ်းအင်ဝန်ကြီးဌာန**  
**မြန်မာ့ရေနံနှင့်သဘာဝဓာတ်ငွေ့လုပ်ငန်း**  
**မန်နေဂျာမြေ**

**လက်ခံရရှိကြောင်းနှင့် ဂုဏ်ပြုမှတ်တမ်း**

လျှပ်စစ်နှင့်စွမ်းအင်ဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့ရေနံနှင့်သဘာဝဓာတ်ငွေ့လုပ်ငန်း၊ မန်နေဂျာမြေ နှင့် ရေနံအထွက်တိုးမြှင့်ရေးလုပ်ငန်းများ အကျိုးတူ ဝယ်ယူဆောင်ရွက်လျက်ရှိသည့် MPRL E&P ကုမ္ပဏီမှ မန်နေဂျာမြေ ဝန်ထမ်းများအတွက် ထောက်ပံ့ပေးသည့် **စုစုပေါင်း (၂၄၆၀၀၀ ကျပ်)** တန်ဖိုးရှိ ထောက်ပံ့ပေးပါမည့် Covid-19 ကာကွယ်ဆေးဝါးများအား လက်ခံရရှိပါကြောင်းနှင့် ကျေးဇူးတင်ဝမ်းမြောက်ပါကြောင်း ဤမှတ်တမ်းလွှာဖြင့် မှတ်တမ်းတင်တင်ပြုအပ်ပါသည်။

Super Care Mask without polybag	50's	140 Nos
Glass Face Shield		970 Nos
KN95 FFP2 NR Mask	1's	50 Nos
KF 94 Mask	10's	50 Nos
Precare Adult Pulse Oximeter		5 Nos
LifePlus Instant Hand Sanitizer	500ml	200 Nos
Medlife Antiseptic Disinfectant Liquid Hygiene	500ml	100 Nos

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### Disinfection Activities of our Office Equipment and Common Areas at Vantage Tower



### Disinfection Activities of our Fleet of Vehicles



Disinfection Activities of Offices and Furniture at Vantage Tower

