

UNDP – Ooredoo Signing Ceremony

Strand Hotel, Yangon

9 November 2018

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Colleagues,
Member of the Media,
Friends,

It is great to see you here today. Thank you for joining us.

We are all here because we want to help Myanmar end poverty in all its forms.

We want to help build a prosperous, democratic and peaceful Myanmar.

We have to be ambitious. We have to work together. The time is now.

Myanmar is a young country. More than half of the population are under the age of 30.

This is an opportunity.

With 6.4 percent growth, Myanmar is still one of the fastest growing economies in the region.

The young people entering the labor market will thrive with access to training, tools and role models.

I therefore welcome the agreement that UNDP and Ooredoo are signing today.

Under this two-year partnership, they will engage with the youth, and provide technology as a platform for social innovation and new business ideas.

They will organize a national hackathon on 8 and 9 December, they will support business incubation, entrepreneurship training and mentorship.

They will do so under the umbrella of the Sustainable Development Goals.

These Goals guide countries towards creating an inclusive, resilient, secure and sustainable future for everyone, everywhere.

The Goals were adopted by the leaders of all countries at UN's General Assembly in 2015.

The UN supports initiatives which contribute to achieving these ambitious Goals.

A growing number of business leaders are championing the Goals, too.

Global consulting firm Deloitte interviewed 350 senior executives from multiple countries and found that 92 percent of respondents supported the Sustainable Development Goals agenda.

I thank Ooredoo for joining us in making progress on the Sustainable Development Goals in Myanmar.

There is no time to waste. We have to be ambitious. We have to work together.

The challenges are enormous. Myanmar is undergoing a democratic transition, a peace process, and an economic transformation.

There are humanitarian and human rights crises.

Engagement and participation, and technology and innovation, will deliver some of the needed solutions.

I look forward to today's panel discussion, and the upcoming hackathon and other activities.

Much more will be needed to move towards the objective of ending poverty once and for all. I hope you will join the movement.

Myanmar is at crossroads. The time to invest in prosperous, peaceful and democratic future for all is now.

Once again, thank you for your engagement today.

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