

A4AI-Myanmar Multi-stakeholder Coalition

Break-out Groups
Discussion questions and
themes

Break-out Groups

- A4AI has published a set of policy and regulatory best practices recommendations for achieving affordable access. See folders.
- Each group/table (of about 8-10 people) will be assigned a set of best practices and will discuss how Myanmar's policy and regulatory framework reflects these practices, and if not, what needs to be done to get closed.
- You are welcome to raise additional key issues for Myanmar and it's reality.

Break-out Groups

- Each group has about 45 min. for the discussion
- Please assign someone to be the group rapporteur and provide a summary of the group's discussion
- In the poster paper provided or on your computers, write the answers to the following questions:
 - How does Myanmar's policy and regulatory framework reflect the best practices recommendations you discussed? What are the key gaps?
 - What are the current challenges that need to be addressed to ensure that best practices are implemented (e.g, regulatory capacity, regulatory instruments, public policy guiding the sector, a broadband plan and strategy, etc.)
 - How would you prioritize issues identified?

Group 1



➤ Nurture healthy market competition

- Streamlined licensing process with no legal barriers to market entry
- Ensure a competitive market structure, with limited or no national government ownership of end user service providers
- Available access at reasonable market rates to international gateway or cable
- Transparent disclosure of pricing and service options to end users
- Permit pre-paid and tiered pricing models
- Remove barriers to crossing national borders with network infrastructure and traffic

Group 2

➤ Streamlined processes for infrastructure deployment and sharing

- Efficient and effective access to public rights of way and tower zoning
- Coordinated with other infrastructure projects (fiber or duct laid during road works)
- Facilitate sharing of backbone, ducting, right of way, and cell tower passive infrastructure
- Target public infrastructure investment to market failures, through consultation with market players and other stakeholders. Ensure that subsidized infrastructure is competitively and transparently procured and offers access or capacity to all market players in a non-discriminatory way, so as to achieve end user affordability.

Group 1

Infrastructure Sharing and Deployment

- Sharing of suppliers' services
 - transporting fuel to power the generators
 - Sharing of HR
- Standardization of tower technical designs
- Fiber sharing
 - Smart laws to coordinate the upcoming licensed players for NFS1 & NFS2 in addition to operators
 - Metro sharing
- Sharing of land plots
 - Tower spacing
- Sharing the right of way
 - Mandalay can be the pilot / ideal Smart sharing city
- Sharing the local loop (like IXP)

Group 3

➤ **Effective spectrum management**

- Ensure sufficient broadband-capable spectrum is made available and used efficiently
- Open, transparent, and fair allocation and licensing mechanism
- Harmonization of spectrum to global standards
- Technology and service neutral licensing allowing flexible use

➤ **Enable innovative usage through unlicensed spectrum and opportunistic reuse within rules that avoid harmful interference**

➤ **Established local and/or regional internet exchange point (IXP)**

- Transparent and fair rules for participation
- Support for local data caching

② SPECTRUM

LESS OF.

~~NOT~~ AN ISSUE:

④ HARMONISATION of GLOBAL STANDARDS — generally cons.
but ... 700 MHz?

ISSUES.

① Tech/service neutral licensing for flex. use.

↳ sector is nascent.

Some operators using a spectrum which could be used otherwise.

→ Possible dedication of spectrum for spec. use ... cannot be re-used.
So ... when licensing, licence them to use spectrum — licence part of
spectrum but no determinant of how can be used.
+ spectrum transferability.

→ should not influence
shape of industry. — service +
tech. agnostic

② Sufficient spectrum available.

→ need more spectrum for new operators.

→ there is un/lightly used spec. could be allocated.

③ Fair allocation/licencing mechanism

→ need decisions/process for which spectrum will be
made available, when, and how. — transparency.

EXTRAS: . Human capacity / knowledge of this issue in govt.
. To meet targets — spectrum needs to be made
available to providers.

TN 15
Do 15
PPT 45

Group 4

- **No luxury taxation or excessive customs/tariffs on telecom goods and services required for internet access**
 - Including handsets, set-top boxes, data/voice service, and infrastructure equipment
 - Tax rate at comparable level to basic goods and services rather than luxury goods

③ TAXATION & FISCAL POLICY

* Difficult Import process for HP/Telecom Products

- MCIT Approval letter required for every importer product
- Common Products (Already Approval Once) should be listed and allowed without paperwork with MCIT

* Difficult Repair/Return process for Critical Telecom Equipment (Take weeks, if possible)

- Not only problem with MCIT but Also with Customs, Ministry of Trade, etc
- Need Rapport among ministries

* Should lower ^{Custom Duty} Tax (from 5% current rate)

* Should lower spectrum tax for operator
(current data rate/cost too high)
(may be cheaper rates for local intranet portals)

Group 5



➤ **Effective Universal Service Fund Administration (if one exists)**

- Non-discrimination (fair collection and distribution of funds, including non-carriers)
- Transparent and consultative processes, incorporating stakeholder inputs and priorities
- Clear target goals and monitoring of effectiveness and impact of USF programmes and projects
- Prioritize one-time infrastructure and other expenditures to enable access
- Target any ongoing subsidies to individuals rather than providers

④ UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND

- WHO SHOULD BE THE ADMINISTRATOR OF FUND?

→ THE REGULATOR SHOULD ~~CREATE~~ ^{CREATE ANOTHER INDEPENDENT} BODY TO MANAGE THE FUND (THIRD PARTY)

- ONE FROM REGULATOR
- CSO

HOW TO USE

- Community Libraries
- Local Content Creations
- Capacity Building
 - Ministry of Edu
 - Monastic School
 - Local Training Center
 - CSO's Trainings
- Small Grant to Local CBO
- Subsidize ICT to Public, Community Libraries
- " " Public Institutions, school, University

Group 6

- **Reasonable effort to systematize data collection of key indicators to measure effectiveness**
 - Pricing, speed, adoption rates, spectrum utilization, peering
 - Encourage participation in the ITU Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development
 - Collection and disaggregation (such as by gender) of usage statistics to identify gaps and opportunities

⑤ DATA COLLECTION



We need to understand w / Human Resource

- Awareness (Both sides)
- Funding & Resource support
- Government support
- third party strategy

- Power to Purchase
- Usages and Interest
- Demand (Data Rate, Quality)
- Local Content
- Population

Issue

- Funding
- Operation Cost
- Diversity
- Culture barriers
- HR



REPORT BACK



ACTION PLAN

Priority themes

- As per Group's discussion:
 - Infrastructure Sharing and deployment
 - Taxation
 - Universal service fund administration
 - Data collection and research framework

Schedule of Activities

- Quarterly Face to Face meetings
- Planned policy and regulatory proposals/
recommendations based on agreed workplans
- Planned thematic workshops/seminars throughout the
year
- Regional events and collaboration

Coalition work tools/methods

- Moderated email discussion group for national stakeholders as well as alternative modes of communication (e.g., SMS alerts/notes, others?)
- Smaller working committees (coordinated by WG champions) to address specific priority areas
- Quarterly face 2 face meetings for group discussions and decision making
- Other?



Thank you!

**Join the A4AI-Myanmar
National Coalition!**

Contact: Emilie Yam

Membership/Partnerships Coordinator

Alliance for Affordable Internet

Emilie.yam@webfoundation.org