



**Press Release**  
**22 March 2016**

### **British Chamber of Commerce Myanmar Achieves Full Accreditation**

In March 2016, the British Chamber of Commerce Myanmar has been awarded full accreditation status by the British Chambers of Commerce UK.

Accreditation provides global recognition that the British Chamber in Myanmar meets the high standards of operations and services set by the British Chambers of Commerce UK.

It reinforces the British Chamber of Commerce Myanmar's position as a leading business membership organisation representing a diverse membership of over 180 member companies.

An independent on-site audit took place in February 2016, assessing key areas, including governance, compliance and membership activities.

The British Chamber of Commerce Myanmar joins 52 Chambers in the UK and 22 British Chambers overseas, which have been accredited. The overseas network of British Chambers provides in-market, practical assistance and advice for UK companies looking to establish in high growth, hard to access markets.

The British Chamber in Myanmar launched in July 2014 with the support of its Founding Patrons: BG Group, Jardines, Prudential and Standard Chartered Bank. The Chamber is an established, high profile, dynamic network, which has proven valuable to the business community in Myanmar and across the region and has proven to be an essential resource for member companies and market entrants.

Since EU sanctions on Myanmar were lifted three years ago in 2013, a number of UK companies have established themselves in Myanmar. There is growing interest in the market and the Chamber expects to see even more UK companies exploring opportunities in Myanmar in light of rapid political and economic reforms and the country's landmark elections in November last year - the first genuinely democratic polls in 25 years.

Despite the challenges which businesses commonly face in emerging and fast developing economies, there are also vast opportunities for British and Myanmar companies across a broad range of sectors. These include oil and gas, power generation, professional services and education and vocational training.

Business services are available to all British businesses looking to take advantage of the array of opportunities in this fast-growing market. Companies can access in-market advice and support on how to export their goods and services in Myanmar, as well as bespoke market entry services including partner identification, market visit organisation and event management.

The Chamber will continue to work to expand its network, focussing on making links with Myanmar companies and continuing to contribute to improving the business environment for all companies operating in Myanmar.

**British Ambassador to Burma, Andrew Patrick said:**

"I would like to congratulate the British Chamber on achieving accreditation less than two years since launching. UK companies can be confident they will receive a high quality service from the Chamber to access the opportunities here. The strong partnership between the Chamber and the British Embassy will deliver results for UK companies looking to set up in the fastest growing economy in South East Asia".

**Stephanie Ashmore, Executive Director, British Chamber of Commerce Myanmar, said:**

“We are delighted that our efforts have been recognised by the British Chambers of Commerce UK. This award represents a key milestone in the development of the British Chamber in Myanmar and is testament to the hard work and commitment of the Chamber team and its Board. Receiving accredited status shows that the Chamber is leading by example on issues of corporate governance and compliance. The Chamber is dedicated to supporting members and UK companies and is committed to building links between the UK and Myanmar companies. We hope to see many more UK – Myanmar business partnerships in the near future.”

**Peter Beynon Chairman, British Chamber of Commerce Myanmar said:**

“Obtaining full accreditation required a significant amount of hard work and dedication by the Chamber executive team and should be seen as a recognition of the quality of services the Chamber provides to the business community at large in Myanmar. The British Chamber of Commerce is now uniquely placed to support new business seeking to venture into this part of the world at what is an exciting time in it's developmental journey.”

**Adam Marshall, Acting Director General, British Chambers of Commerce UK, said:**

We have been impressed with the pace of the development of the British Chamber in Myanmar and we are delighted to award the Chamber full accreditation after a thorough audit process. UK companies now have a trusted, accredited, business-to-business network, which they can access as their first port of call in Myanmar.”

**Notes to Editors**

**British Chamber of Commerce Myanmar**

The British Chamber now has 180 member companies, including leading Myanmar, British, ASEAN and European businesses. The Chamber provides regular networking opportunities for the business community, up to date and relevant information on doing business in Myanmar and advice for market entrants navigating the challenges of establishing a business here. The Chamber also promotes opportunities Myanmar to UK companies, encouraging British trade and investment in Myanmar.

Membership of the Chamber is open to all UK Companies and non-UK companies who have trade links in the UK, or are interested in developing them. Further details on membership can be found on the website: [www.britishchambermyanmar.com](http://www.britishchambermyanmar.com)

**Overseas Business Network Initiative (OBNI)**

The Overseas Business Network Initiative (OBNI) is a global initiative, funded by the UK government, which offers business services to British companies seeking to do business in high-growth and hard-to-access markets. As part of this initiative the British Chamber of Commerce Myanmar provides market entry services to UK companies which include: partner identification and matching, delivering tailored market visit programmes and event management.

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