

Status of Major Chinese-funded Projects in Myanmar (As of 28 April 2023)



The following information is compiled by Inclusive Development International based on best available public information. It is a part of the 8th China Global Newsletter: [Chinese Investment in Myanmar After the Coup](#).

Projects	Pre-coup Status	Junta's Moves	Chinese Actors' Moves
China-Myanmar Economic Corridor Projects			
Kyauk Phyu Special Economic Zone (KPSEZ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Won the tender during the Thein Sein government (2011-2016); - Size and cost renegotiated down in 2018; - Concession Agreement and Shareholders' Agreement signed during President Xi's visit in 2020; - Joint venture for the project approved in 2020; - Tender for EIA and field survey announced in Jan 2021. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reorganized the KPSEZ Management Committee in May 2021 and pledged to move forward in June 2021; - Invited bids to provide legal services in August 2021; - Unclear whether the remaining five agreements under KPSEZ framework have been signed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Canceled the tender for EIA consultant in September 2021 due to too few bidders and started a new "selected tender process"; - Announced the tender result for the field survey in October 2021 and for EIA in February 2022; - EIA and field survey in process.
Muse-Ruili Cross-Border Economic Cooperation Zones (CBECZ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Site approved in 2018; - Prioritized as a pilot for other CBECZs; - MoU on Accelerating Negotiation on the Framework Agreement signed during President Xi's visit in 2020; - Bilateral working group held first meeting in June 2020 and second meeting in October 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reorganized the Myanmar-China CBECZ Central Committee and its working group in May 2021. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revealed that the project has stalled due to COVID and the political situation in Myanmar. - Resumed bilateral working group meeting in November 2022, discussing issues such as setting up regular communication mechanism, site selection, dimensions and timeline, many of which were discussed in the previous meetings, with agreements reached on some issues.

<p>Kanpiketi-Houqiao Cross-Border Economic Cooperation Zones (CBECZ)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Site approved in 2018; - Land for Phase I was acquired and leveled in 2019; - Proposal was approved by the Kachin State government in 2020; - MOU signed in 2020; - The Yunnan provincial government decided not to start the actual development of other CBECZs until the Muse-Ruili zone is successfully piloted and its model is proven to be replicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reorganized the Myanmar-China CBECZ Central Committee and its working group in May 2021; - Granted the investment permit for Phase I in 2021; - Discussed a draft MOA with China-Myanmar joint-venture project company in April 2023. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Chinese developer celebrated the approval of the project; - China-Myanmar joint-venture project company discussed a draft MOA with the junta in April 2023; - Progress on the part of the zone in China continued.
<p>Chinshwehaw-Mengding Cross-Border Economic Cooperation Zones (CBECZ)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Site approved in 2018; - The president of Kokang Self-Administered Zone asked CBECZ Central Committee in the 4th meeting to give this CBECZ the same priority as the Muse-Ruili zone; - The Yunnan government decided not to start the actual development of other CBECZs until the Muse-Ruili zone is successfully piloted and its model is proven to be replicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The CBECZ Central Committee held 7th meeting (the first one since the coup) in October 2022, where it discussed the Chinshwehaw CBECZ which has been stalled due to contested China-Myanmar border demarcation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No reported action.
<p>Mandalay Myotha Industrial Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction was mostly completed and was partially operational. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No reported action. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stalled due to COVID and the coup.
<p>New Urban Development of Yangon City (New Yangon City)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategic environmental assessment (SEA), environmental impact assessment (EIA) and resettlement process started in 2019; - Letter of Intent signed during President Xi's visit in 2020; - In October 2020, civilian government divided project into different components and invited interested companies to compete against China Communications Construction Co. Ltd. (CCCC), in an open "Swiss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No reported action. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No reported action.

	challenge” tender process overseen by a German consulting firm.		
Muse-Mandalay Railway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feasibility report submitted during President Xi’s visit in 2020; - The civilian government invited a Swiss company to scrutinise the project in mid-2020. - EIA Scoping Report submitted in December 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approved EIA in 2022; - Disclosed Resettlement Action Plan in March 2023. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submitted EIA report in June 2021 and disclosed a part of the EIA for public consultation in June 2022.
Mandalay-Kyauk Phyu Railway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MOU of feasibility study signed in January 2021, which was valid for 2 years and requires the study to be finished within 18 months. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In discussion with Chinese company about the railway route; - Stated in early 2023 that the feasibility study had not yet been conducted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In discussion with the junta about the train route.
Mandalay-Tigyaing-Muse Expressway & Kyaukphyu-Naypyitaw Highway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MOU signed with China Harbour Engineering Co., Ltd for feasibility studies; - Detailed Feasibility Reports submitted during President Xi’s visit in 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expressed intention to move the two projects forward in the 3rd meeting of the CMEC Transportation Cooperation Working Group in 2022. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Yunnan provincial government has repeatedly proposed to the central government of China to move these project forward, while admitting that the financing and business models were unclear; - Central government responded in 2021 that the China-Myanmar connectivity projects would depend on the situation of Myanmar; - Expressed intention to move the project forward in the 3rd meeting of the CMEC Transportation Cooperation Working Group in 2022; - The Yunnan provincial government pledged in the proposed 2023-2025 Action Plan to support the preliminary work of the projects.

Watalone Tunnel Project	MoU on Feasibility Study signed during President Xi's visit in 2020.	- No reported action.	- No reported action.
Kunlong Bridge (Aid project)	-An agreement was signed in 2018; -Construction officially started in June 2020.	- Showed continuous support .	Construction continued and completion is expected in June 2023.
Myanmar-China Power Interconnection Project	- MoU on Feasibility Study signed during President Xi's visit in 2020.	- Claimed in 2022 it had plans to cooperate with China on this.	- The Chinese government listed as one of the priorities of cooperation with the junta and expressed willingness to supply electricity to Myanmar.
Chinese Government-backed Projects Connected to or Proposed Under the CMEC Framework			
Myitkyina Economic Zone (also known as the Namjim Industrial Zone)	- MOU signed in 2018 which is valid for one year; - The Kachin government submitted plan to the Union government for approval in March 2020 but project was reportedly suspended around the same time.	- Met with Chinese developer soon after the coup but did not show substantial support.	- The developer gave an introduction of the project to the junta soon after the coup; - In 2022, the Baoshan government pledged to prioritize the project, while admitting that it was only in the planning stage due to the challenging situation; - In 2023 the developer discussed about resuming the project with the junta in Kachin.
China-Myanmar Land and Water Transportation Passage	- Discussed the project in the 2 nd meeting of the CMEC Transportation Cooperation Working Group in 2020.	- Expressed caution about the project in the 3 rd meeting of the CMEC Transportation Cooperation Working Group in 2022, stating that the plan needs to be examined by Myanmar experts given the importance of the Irrawaddy river and emphasizing that it will be a long-term project that requires vast investment.	- Discussed the project in the 3 rd meeting of the CMEC Transportation Cooperation Working Group in 2022; - The Yunnan provincial government pledged to pay attention if the junta has willingness to cooperate on the project.
Key Energy Projects			
Kyauk Phyu Gas station	- Power Purchase Agreement signed in 2019;	- Showed continuous support .	- Completed construction and tested the operation.

	- Construction started in August 2020.		
Mee Lin Gyaing LNG station	- Waiting for approval; - Letter of Intent for the acceleration signed during President Xi's visit in 2020.	- Granted approval in 2021; - Proposed to package it as a CMEC project in 2022.	- No reported action.
Kyauk Phyu I & Kyauk Phyu II Power Plants	In operation	- No reported action.	Decommissioned .
Thaketa & Thanlyin Power Plants	In operation	- No reported action.	Suspended operation.
Solar tenders 2020 (many were won by Chinese SOEs)	- Tender results announced.	- Reportedly cancelled 26 of the projects and proposed blacklisting non-compliant companies.	- Companies repeatedly postponed signing the power purchase agreements and implementing the projects, with some companies confirming their withdrawal.
Solar tenders 2021	N/A	- Called for tenders.	- Only 2 Chinese companies made bids ; - PowerChina built a group of five small solar projects .
Solar tenders 2022	N/A	- Called for tenders.	- No Chinese companies submitted bids .
Rakhine Wind Power Projects	N/A	- Signed an MOA.	- Signed an MOA.
Various planned/suspended hydro dams	- MOUs or MOAs signed by the previous military regime for various projects with Chinese developers; - None reached the stage of power purchase agreements (PPAs); - Myitsone Dam was suspended in 2011. - Upper Yeywa hydropower project started construction around 2011 and hired Zhejiang Orient Engineering as EPC contractor in 2015.	- Pledged to restart the Hatgyi dam that was stalled due to conflict with KNU since 2013. - Invited Chinese investment in hydropower projects, guaranteeing no opposition under the regime.	- No reported action for investment projects. - Construction of Upper Yeywa continued but with slow progress .