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# **Workshop on Improving Investor-State Relationships in Myanmar: Preventing Disputes and Leveraging International Investment Agreements (IIAs) to Enable Investments to Remain, Expand and Link with the Domestic Economy [1]**

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The workshop on Investor Grievance Handling and International Investment Agreements was held at Kempinski Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw on 7th December 2018 with the collaboration of

the Myanmar Investment Commission and International Finance Corporation (IFC).

The objective of the workshop is to provide the knowledge regarding investment policy reform, international investment treaties, investor grievance handling and investment issues.

At the workshop, Daw Tin Aye Han, Deputy Director General of DICA and Daw Khin Thida Maw, Country Officer, International Finance Corporation delivered opening remarks.

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After that, the presentation from IFC continued with the discussion of topic on, “Understanding the rationale, operation and practice of investment protection guarantees, Myanmar’s Investment law and IIAs” by Mr. Xavier Forneris, Senior Private Sector Specialist, Mr, Sufian Jusoh, Investment Legal Advisor, IFC and Mr. Chris Hughes, Investment Legal Expert, SCM Legal Firm.

The presentation on “Investment Retention and Expansion and its Importance for Development: Government Induced Divestments & Their Opportunity Cost” was made by Mr. Roberto Echandi, Lead Private Sector Specialist, IFC.

Then, Ms. Mariana Gonstead, St. Thomas University, Minnesota made a presentation on the “Implementing SIRM in Practice: Improving Relationships between Investors and Host Government Authorities and Greater Cooperation among Public Agencies”.

It was attended by 50 participants including experts from the IFC, Investment Assistance Committee members, and representatives from relevant ministries and officials from DICA. The workshop will ensure the capacity development of government officials to provide the better services to the investors, improving investor-state relationships. The workshop was concluded at 4: 30 pm.

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