



Report
Le 7/10/2013

EDF MAE : DEVELOPMENT IN BURMA

Context :

The Access to Energy branch of EDF (MAE) has the ambition to triple the number of people served by its programs to nearly 1.5 million within 5 years. For this, it intends to provide the means to create at least three new Rural Electricity Service Companies (RESCO) in the next 5 years, including at least one on the Asian continent, where the Mission has no activity yet .

As part of its development plan 2013/2018, 2 Asian countries, Burma and Nepal, have been identified by the MAE as priority areas on the continent. To deepen its prior knowledge of the energy context of these two countries, the MAE has asked for SEVEA's support consisting of a study of the electricity sector (with a focus on electrification rural) of these two countries.

Contexte :

La Mission Accès à l'Energie d'EDF (MAE) a l'ambition de tripler le nombre de personnes desservies par ses programmes, pour atteindre près de 1,5 million d'ici 5 ans.

Pour cela, elle entend se donner les moyens de créer au minimum 3 nouvelles Sociétés de Services Décentralisées (SSD) dans les 5 ans à venir, dont une au moins sur le continent asiatique, où la Mission n'a aucune activité à l'heure actuelle.

Dans le cadre de son plan de développement 2013/2018, 2 pays d'Asie, la Birmanie et le Népal, ont été identifiés par la MAE comme zone prioritaire sur ce continent. Afin d'approfondir sa connaissance préalable du contexte d'accès à l'énergie dans ces 2 pays par rapport à son ambition, la MAE a sollicité SEVEA pour un appui consistant en une étude sur le secteur électrique (avec un focus sur l'électrification rurale) de ces 2 pays.

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A. Executive Summary

ENGLISH

"Open" for almost 2 years now, Myanmar remains an enigmatic country for many foreign players. However, the prospects of an 8% growth for its GDP over the next 15 years have made it unavoidable.

This country, full of resources such as energy, mineral resources, precious stones; located between two Asian giants (arguing with each other over their areas of influence), is somehow emerging out of 50 years of successive military dictatorships and more than 20 years of international economic sanctions. Since 2011, Thein Sein, from the USDP Party (Union Solidarity and Development Party), is president of the country and is considered a reformer as opposed to the hard wing of his party.

In April 2012, for the first time since 1990, the NLD (National League for Democracy), party from Ang San Suu Kyi, won the elections for the lower house of the Burmese parliament.

The next elections in 2015 will be those for presidency of the Republic. But except if the constitution is amended, Ang San Suu Kyi won't be able to attend. Also note that the Myanmar, that has joined ASEAN in 1997, should gain its presidency in 2014.

But to understand the political context of the country, we must also address it through its ethnic complexity. Myanmar is primarily a mosaic of ethnic groups with different languages, different cultures and religions. The country has in fact more than 100 different ethnic groups, among which are 9 major ones that share the national territory. In a middle of national cease-fire signing process, the country is still facing huge challenges posed by the establishment of a true national identity shared by all.

In terms of energy, the country is facing a real challenge: How to respond to its growing energy needs while the majority of its facilities is old and inefficient, and losses on its transmission and distribution network are around 30%.

Today only 26% of the population is connected to the national grid and Burma's electricity consumption per capita is among the lowest in Asia. This situation is supposed to change in the coming years. Experts are predicting a growth in demand of more than 10% per year until 2030. To meet this demand, the installed capacity will thus have to grow from 4 GW to 20 GW, and this in only 15 years. Otherwise the lack of electricity will heavily penalize the economic development of the country.

In the short run, it is clear that electricity supply in urban areas and special economic zones will be one of the country's top priority. There is therefore a real risk that rural areas remain under-electrified in the years to come. Private actors harnessing the development of these areas will therefore be fully legitimate and greeted with open arms by the current government and local stakeholders who feel overwhelmed by the magnitude of the task.



FRENCH

« Ouvert » depuis maintenant bientôt 2 ans, le Myanmar reste un pays énigmatique pour bien des acteurs étrangers. Les perspectives de croissance annuelle de 8% de son PIB durant les 15 prochaines années le rendent toutefois incontournable.

Ce pays, riche de par ses ressources énergétiques et minières, ses pierres précieuses, sa biomasse, positionnés entre les 2 géants asiatiques (se disputant leurs zones d'influence), émerge tant bien que mal de 50 ans de dictatures militaires successives et de plus de 20 ans de sanctions économiques internationales. Depuis 2011, Thein Sein, du parti USDP (Union Solidarity and Development Party) est président du pays et est considéré comme un réformateur en opposition à l'aile dure de son parti. En Avril 2012, le NLD (National League for Democracy), parti de Ang San Suu Kyi a pour la première fois depuis 1990 gagné les élections partielles pour la chambre basse du parlement birman. Les prochaines élections en 2015 seront celles pour la présidence de la République. Mais sauf modification de la constitution, Ang San Suu Kyi ne peut à ce jour s'y présenter. A noter aussi que le Myanmar qui a rejoint l'ASEAN en 1997 devrait en récupérer la présidence en 2014.

Mais pour comprendre le contexte politique de ce pays, il faut aussi l'aborder au travers de sa complexité ethnique. Le Myanmar est avant tout une mosaïque d'ethnies possédant des langues, des cultures et des religions différentes. Le pays compte en effet plus de 100 ethnies différentes, dont 9 principales se partageant le territoire national. En cours de signature d'un cessez-le-feu national, le pays reste face au défit colossal que représente la constitution d'une véritable identité nationale partagée de tous.

En termes énergétiques, le pays fait face à un véritable challenge : Répondre à ses besoins énergétiques croissants alors que la majorité de ses installations est vieille et inefficace, et que les pertes subies sur son réseau de transport et distribution avoisinent les 30%.

Il faut savoir qu'aujourd'hui seul 26% de la population est connecté au réseau national et que la consommation électrique par habitant est une des plus faibles d'Asie. Cette situation étant amenée à changer dans les années à venir, les experts tablent sur une croissance de la demande de plus de 10% par an jusqu'à 2030. Pour y répondre la puissance installée devra ainsi passer, en un peu plus de 15 ans, de 4 GW à 20 GW, sous peine de fortement pénaliser le développement économique du pays.

A court terme, il est clair que la priorité de beaucoup sera dans l'approvisionnement en électricité des zones urbaines et zones économiques spéciales. Il y a donc un véritable risque que les zones rurales demeurent sous-électrifiées au cours des années à venir. Des acteurs privés s'attelant au développement de ces zones seront donc tout à fait légitimes et seront en outre accueillis à bras ouverts par le gouvernement et les acteurs locaux actuels qui se sentent submergés par l'ampleur de la tâche.

B. Le Myanmar en quelques chiffres

The challenge ...

\$1,500

average productivity of a worker in
Myanmar today, about 70 percent below
that of benchmark Asian countries

4 years

of average schooling in Myanmar
(UN Development Programme,
Human development report, 2013)

10 million

additional people to
absorb in Myanmar's
large cities by 2030

\$650 billion

total investment needed by 2030
to support growth potential,
\$320 billion in infrastructure alone



... and the opportunity

Potential
to achieve

\$200 billion+

GDP in 2030, over four times as high as today

With spending potentially tripling from
\$35 billion to \$100 billion, an estimated

19 million

members of the consuming class in 2030 from 2.5 million in 2010

Potential
to create
more than

10 million

additional non-agricultural jobs by 2030

500 million

people living in countries bordering Myanmar
and the closest parts of China and India,
a huge potential market

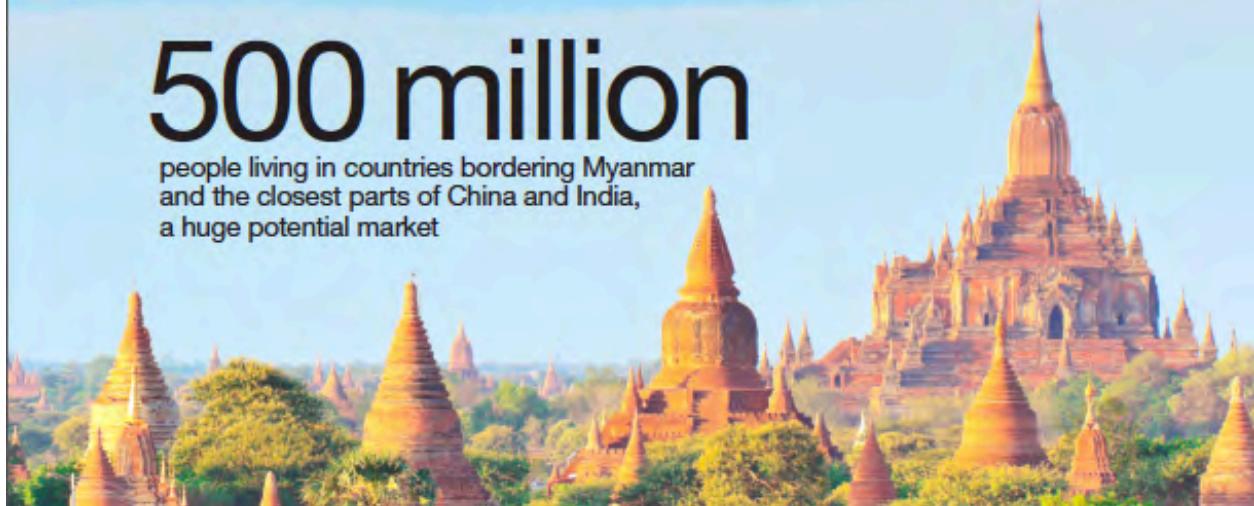


Figure 1: Infographie : Le Myanmar en quelques chiffres

Source : (Heang Chhor, 2012)