



Myanmar Centre for
Responsible Business

PRESS RELEASE

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“WITH THE WORLD GOING ONLINE, TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT’S ON YOUR COMPANY WEBSITE”

Yever and MCRB have concluded the first round of scoring for the *Pwint Thit Sa* (Transparency in Myanmar Enterprises) 2020 report. The 277 companies which are being assessed have been emailed their draft scores and invited to review them.

Companies have a further three months to increase their disclosure on corporate governance and sustainability and raise their draft scores in the final *Pwint Thit Sa* report which will be published at the end of 2020.

In the preliminary scoring process, it was found that 161 out of 277 companies (58%) have functioning websites (up from 56% in 2019). For the first round of assessment, the overall average score was 5%, as it was in the 2019 report. However, only 30 companies have updated their websites in the last year. Average draft scores for companies in different categories are:

	Number of companies	Average score (2019 final score in brackets)
Top 10	10	47% (50%)
Publicly listed companies	6	29% (32%)
Financial Institutions (*)	36	8% (11%)
Privately owned companies	182	4% (4%)
Public companies	66	3% (3%)
State-owned enterprises	23	2% (3%)

(*): Financial institutions are also included in the scores for listed, private and public companies, and SOEs, as appropriate.

Vicky Bowman, Director of MCRB said *‘We have emailed draft scores to all companies for whom we have contact details, and we are keen to support them to enhance these scores before we do the final assessment based on their online information on 31 August. That is why, as in previous years, we are available for feedback sessions with individual companies’.*

Nicolas Delange of Yever explained *‘In these times of COVID-19, we will be holding a webinar for companies on Thursday 14 May to present the findings of the first round, highlight good practice which we have found, and answer initial questions. We’ve also extended the final deadline by a month, to take COVID into account. With the world going online, and many employees working*



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from home, now is a good time to review your company's website and see how it can be enhanced'.

Background

1. Transparency in Myanmar Enterprises (TiME), also known as *Pwint Thit Sa*, is an annual assessment of corporate disclosure undertaken by MCRB in a *pro bono* partnership with Yever, a Myanmar business consultancy. The intention is to encourage increased transparency by Myanmar businesses through the internet. The most recent report was published in April 2019. The research phase for the 2020 report was launched in January 2020.
2. A draft assessment was sent to companies after Thingyan, giving them the opportunity to enhance disclosure in advance of the final deadline in 31 August 2020. The *Pwint Thit Sa* report will issue in November/December 2020.
3. The 2020 report will cover disclosure of the same four types of information as the April 2019 report:
 - corporate profile
 - corporate governance
 - sustainability management
 - reporting.
4. However, in the 2020 report, although the criteria are very similar to those used in 2019, bonus points will be given for privately owned companies who do not have regulatory requirements to disclose information but nonetheless choose to do so. Furthermore, the rating scale will give more points to companies who have corporate policies which are both meaningful and show evidence of implementation in their reporting. Also added in this year's scorecard are criteria related to the governance of corporate philanthropy.
5. Previous reports, the companies list for 2020 and list of assessment criteria are available at www.myanmar-responsiblebusiness.org/pwint-thit-sa/2020.html
6. More information about Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business (MCRB) can be found at www.mcrb.org.mm, and about Yever at www.yever.org

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