



●Joint Press Release●

Opening of New Paletwa Bridge
Connecting Kayin State and Taunggoo (Bago Region)
by Gold Energy Company Limited in collaboration with Asia World
Foundation

- **New Paletwa Bridge - Myanmar's First Prestressed Cantilever Concrete Bridge**
- **Handover of New Paletwa Bridge to Ministry of Constructions**

Thandaunggyi, Kayin State - 10 December 2020 – Gold Energy Company Limited, a subsidiary of Asia World Group of Companies, in collaboration with the Group's foundation, Asia World Foundation, completed the construction of the New Paletwa Bridge linking Kayin State and Taunggoo Town (Bago Region), benefitting the local communities and the socio-economic development of the regions. The opening ceremony was held today, 10 December 2020 at the Bridge Construction Project Area in Pyaungtho Village Group, Bawgali, Thandaunggyi Township, Kayin State today.



Photo : Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate Paletwa New Bridge



The opening ceremony with a ribbon-cutting ceremony was witnessed by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker H.E. Mahn Win Khaing Than and representatives from Hluttaw, Kayin State Chief Minister H.E. Daw Nang Khin Htwe Myint and members, representatives from Ministry of Construction, and Gold Energy Company Limited.

H.E Mahn Win Khaing Than said, “As the transportation system improves, engaging with the surrounding areas will be better, and the awareness of the local people becomes more open which can lead to greater willingness to work for local development. The nation will be developed by developing each region. If only the Asia-World Foundation has a chance, we hope AWF to continuing to support with the aspects of education”.

Kayin State Chief Minister H.E. Daw Nang Khin Htwe Myint delivered her opening remarks at the opening. Regarding the completed Paletwa bridge project, H.E. Daw Nang Khin Htwe Myint commented “This high-strength bridge, built with advanced technology to last for many years and will be more beneficial for health and education of the local communities. The bridge also needs to be valued and maintained by the locals so that it can be utilized for long term benefits”.

After opening remarks and speeches, representatives from the Gold Energy made a presentation on the construction process of the New Paletwa Bridge project and officially handed over the New Paletwa Bridge with related documents to the Ministry of Construction. The New Paletwa Bridge is connected by new roads of 25km, the Thandaung-Paletwa Road Segment Bypass Road, 7 km constructed by Gold Energy Company Limited.

New Paletwa Bridge Construction Project Background

The old Paletwa Bridge was originally on a low-lying area subject to flooding during monsoon season. It was built and designed for light vehicles such as passengers' cars and motorcycles, and pedestrians.

Further to the discussions with the relevant authorities, numerous surveys and soil testing at the possible location for a new bridge, it was finally agreed that the New Paletwa Bridge should be built at the current location being the highest points across the Thaukyegat reservoir (Sittaung River). The technical complexities for the construction of the new Bridge were considered thoroughly. The long-



term usage of the Bridge for the benefit of the communities in the area as well as socio-economic development were considerations in the finalization of the design and construction.

The New Paletwa Bridge spanning a length of **243m** with two lanes and pedestrian walkways on both side of the Bridge, elevation of **145m** with interconnected steel frame system and high-strength reinforced concrete is now officially opened for use. The New Paletwa Bridge is also the first Prestressed Cantilever Concrete Bridge in Myanmar costing more than 10B Kyat.

It now connects villages in the State of Kayin and Taunggoo (Bago Region) for communities' mobility. The loading factor of 60 tonnes on the New Paletwa Bridge will allow not only passenger vehicles but also heavy vehicles utilization. The shorter, safer and efficient access created by the New Paletwa Bridge will expand border trade with the movement of products and goods between Myanmar and Thailand, which is approximately 160 km from the New Paletwa Bridge (with Mese-a border town). The New Paletwa Bridge will benefit the development of the regions and Myanmar.



Photo : A newly upgraded Paletwa Bridge is underuse (1)



U Win Maung, Director of Gold Energy, said: “As the bridge construction area is on elevated ground and steep, we took time to study and review the project for better analysis and preparation on the project. Instead of using the conventional construction method, we utilized advance Balanced Cantilever Method and constructed the Prestressed Concrete Bridge together with local and foreign professionals. We believe the new Bridge will provide a better transportation system that will significantly facilitate the daily life of the local people and help develop the social and economic development of the area”.

U Zaw Win, a Project Director of Asia World Foundation, said: “Asia World Foundation is proud to sponsor another major CSR activity such as this New Paletwa Bridge. This New Paletwa Bridge will bring the communities closer together with access to facilities in the township. Our Asia World Foundation's vision of raising the socio-economic opportunities of rural areas through meaningful sponsorship such as the New Paletwa Bridge and also last year with the construction of the 55 km Angumaw-Maungdaw Road in Rakhine State seek to benefit the communities and the development of the regions on a long term. We hope that this New Paletwa Bridge will stimulate economic activities beneficial to the people in a similar manner that the Road Project in Rakhine State has benefitted the community and increase border trade with Bangladesh. Asia World Foundation's vision of opportunity to all through education and development of such projects as the New Paletwa Bridge and the 55 km Angumaw-Maungdaw Road are our long-term commitment to the nation.

“At this point of time, more immediate supports are ahead for the COVID-19 containment and treatment plan in the long run. We, AWF, will continue to stay active and extend our efforts for the community in the aspect of public health in Myanmar.”, he added.

About Gold Energy Company Limited

Gold Energy Company Limited ("Gold Energy"), a subsidiary of Asia World Group of Companies, operates and manages Thaukyegat (2) Hydropower Project ("TYG") in Sittaung Valley. It is the first private company in Myanmar to be involved in the development of hydropower energy production.

In 2014, Gold Energy received the ASEAN Outstanding Engineering Achievement Award for TYG (II). Myanmar's energy demand has risen since the country opened its economy to the world. Gold Energy is committed to enhancing TYG's power production to meet Myanmar's growing energy needs.



Furthermore, GE will remain a responsible corporate citizen and assist and supports wherever needed. To date, GE has contributed 3342 mln kyat in numerous CSR and philanthropic activities.

1. Tonbo New Aglican Church (constructed and donated, 2012)
2. Tonbo New Primary School (built and donated, 2012)
3. Tonbo Village Administration Ward Office (built and donated, 2013)
4. Tonbo 5000 Gallon Water Tank Storage (constructed and donated, 2013)
5. Tonbo Tube Well (built and donated, 2013)
6. Nagamauk New Middle School (Constructed and Donated, 2013)
7. Myint Ngan Bridge (Constructed and donated, 2013)
8. Bawgali Stadium (Constructed and donated, 2013)
9. Transmission lines for Village 1 2 3 4 5 (constructed and donated, 2013)
10. Electric Supply facilities in five villages (Constructed and donated, 2014)
11. Tawgone Road Upgrade works (constructed and donated, 2015)
12. Yeosin Road Development (constructed and donated, 2016)
13. Tawgone School road development) constructed and donated, 2016)
14. Kyaukpasat Primary School (constructed and donated, 2017)
15. Rural Development for Yaechan - Sharsaephoe Village (Constructed and donated, 2018)
16. Rural Development of Yaethogyi School (Constructed and donated, 2018)
17. Rural Development of Taw Gone- La Mine Pyar (Constructed and donated, 2019)
18. Rural Development of Yaethogyi Village (constructed and donated, 2019)
19. Yaethogyi Hospital Excavation (completed, 2020)
20. Kulaung Bridge Construction (constructed and donated, 2020)

Footnotes to the Editor:

- For more details about the new Paletwa Bridge, please refer to <https://bit.ly/3okObnG>
- For more details about the Rakhine Road Project by AWF, please refer to <https://cutt.ly/EhYlt4m>
- (1) For more photos to download, <https://cutt.ly/RhYlels>

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