

## Soft Launch Event of TradeNet 2.0 System

### *Myanmar introduced a newly upgraded online platform to accelerate trade services*

Virtual Event, November 12<sup>th</sup> – The Myanmar Ministry of Commerce launched the first phase of an online system of processing trade license applications. The expanded digital system will offer more efficient services to traders and enhance trade facilitation in Myanmar. During the first phase, traders will be able to create membership accounts and apply for importer/exporter registration certificates on the new system. Senior officials from governmental departments, private sector associations, traders and international organizations, participated in the virtual soft launch to introduce how traders can create a membership account on the new system. The fully upgraded system is expected to be ready in January 2021. It will allow traders to electronically submit their applications for import and export licenses as well as supporting documents for almost all commodities. The Ministry of Commerce will be able to process those applications and electronically issue importer and exporter registration certificates, trade licenses and other trade-related certificates online.

In the opening remarks, H.E. Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister of Commerce, highlighted the importance of streamlining the process of trade license applications to reduce cost and time for importers and exporters in Myanmar.

“Tradenet 2.0 system will facilitate public services such as processing export/import licenses and other relevant businesses via online. Therefore, it can reduce time and cost of traders in dealing with trade-related businesses by using the internet, smoothen the administrative processes in implementing the system and connect with other relevant government departments in processing trade services. Furthermore, it can enhance trade facilitation since the system will assist the National Single Window and become the Single-Entry System along the process. Traders will be able to have easy access to Tradenet 2.0 and it is the first system in Myanmar which can include other relevant departments in processing trade-related services,” said H.E. Dr Than Myint, Minister of Commerce.

The Ministry of Commerce launched an earlier version of the TradeNet system in 2004 that offered limited automation of its export/import trade registration and license issuing processes. In 2018, the Ministry of Commerce began developing a new second, upgraded generation of the online platform, known as TradeNet 2.0 with the technical and financial support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

“Automating and streamlining trade registration and licensing processes will help to facilitate and reduce the costs for trading in Myanmar. This helps producers and farmers export their products for better prices, and helps consumers gain access to imported products at lower prices. The

United States supports inclusive growth for the people of Myanmar. Developing a digital system for businesses to apply for trade registration and licenses is an important part of that,” said Ms. Aler Grubbs, USAID Mission Director in Myanmar.

The Ministry of Commerce’s ability to electronically receive trade applications and issue trade registrations and licenses is important in time of the Covid-19 Pandemic. It reduces the need to have human-to-human contact. It also contributes to the government’s Covid-19 Economic Relief Plan and the follow up Myanmar Economic Recovery and Reform Plan.

The Ministry of Commerce in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development hosted the virtual soft launch event of TradeNet 2.0. Senior officials from the governmental departments, other donor agencies and private sector participated in the event.