Capitalising the BRI Potential for Myanmar: Risks & Opportunities

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Background

▪ University Academic at institutions in Britain with a focus on partnerships, family conglomerates and PPP.
▪ Visiting Academic for UCSB (Coordination) and MoHA (Research Methods).
▪ Consult on development programmes.
▪ Competition Commission Member (Economist).
Myanmar Context

- Historical connections
- Well connected and strategic geopolitical location
- Great potential
Potential may only remain a Potential – as feared can become a “Lost Opportunity”
### Quick assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performing not so well</th>
<th>Opportunity</th>
<th>Risk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal 1: No poverty</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Med</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 7: Ensuring access to the affordable and clear energy</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goal 10: Reduced inequalities</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performing well</th>
<th>Opportunity</th>
<th>Risk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Med</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Med</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Global Partnerships through BRI/CMEC

- Myanmar can capitalise on geographical proximity to China
- Challenge is to create partnerships on equal footing
- Preparedness is Key
Are we prepared to capitalise from BRI/CMEC?

- NO
- Red tape and silo thinking are not our friends
- Ignore-Delay-Rush-Repeat is a disaster in partnering for sustainability.
- The risks are not always external – Myanmar institutions and work culture may be the internal risks preventing the potential to be realised.
Coordination is key

- Practices from the bygone era – should be gone for the sake of increasing preparedness and coordination...

- There is hope:
  - UCSB is promoting coordination skills and a new programme on negotiation could be implemented in short to medium term.
Negotiation for Partnerships

- If one party does not know what s/he want, what is there to negotiate for?
- MSDP is a good start
- State/Region level priorities should be formulated and CLEARLY communicated.
CSO - potential to be a thought leader

- Communications → it cannot be stressed enough of the importance of communication among different stakeholders.
- Opaque style of work will prevent key negotiators to bargain with evidence and empirical data.
Recommendations

- Please share data.
- Cloud based open access will be ideal. Mohingar Style but easier access will be ideal.
- Coordinate in formulation of state/region priorities so that we know what is needed of our side before going for high stake negotiation with DPs/BRI/CMEC stakeholders.
Thank you!