

## **Responsible investment in Myanmar – Ongoing initiatives for aligning investment with human rights**

Dramatic political changes in the past 18 months have transformed the political and economic scenario of Myanmar. With its democratic reforms, including release of many political prisoners, partial lifting of censorship, and holding of free and fair elections last April, and the passage of a new foreign investment law and freeing the currency, Myanmar has taken significant political and economic steps to reintegrate with the international community.

Governments that had imposed sanctions on Myanmar have relaxed most measures and have cited several international standards, including the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, as a common framework for doing business in Myanmar. This has led to a growing number of companies looking seriously at investment prospects in Myanmar.

But many challenges remain for companies committed to respecting human rights, including access to land, violations of labour rights, challenges in identifying local partners, and ongoing discrimination.

This session will discuss the human rights challenges of operating in Myanmar and efforts underway to support responsible investment in the country. Speakers will include:

- A representative from the Myanmar Permanent Mission to the UN
- Alexandra Guaqueta, UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights
- Allan Jorgensen, Danish Institute for Human Rights
- Amy Lehr, Foley Hoag LLC
- Min Zar Ni Lin, Myanmar Development Research Institute
- Salil Tripathi, Institute for Human Rights and Business
  
- John Morrison, Institute for Human Rights and Business (chair)

When: 3 December, 3.30–6.00pm

Where; Room XXI, Palais des Nations