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Module - E

"Pattern of displacement and migration due to economic developmental models" - Case study of newly liberalized Burma

The study aims to examine the various implications of accelerating economic interests in Burma in the backdrop of easing sanctions and increased foreign investment in exploitation of natural resources , especially the pattern of land acquisition and hence displacement.

Burma has the dubious record of hosting the longest running civil war in the world as fighting started back in 1948. The country was imposed economic sanctions from rest of the world .The conflicts between the state and ethnic groups have dimmed the prospects for peace, democracy and development in Burma Ordinary people invariably suffer as it is difficult to deliver aid and development in crisis situations.

Recently, we are seeing in the country is that the President Thein Sein and associate ministers are pushing for reform in four key areas: 1 Improving relationships with NLD (National league for Democracy); 2. Improving relationships with ethnic groups; 3. Improving the Economy; and 4. Improving the relationship with West . They are holding seminars and engaging in policy debates on these issues. This is real change, but the impact so far on ordinary people on the ground has been limited.

Now, after years of absence, foreign governments are rushing to reopen their embassies in the country. Moreover, multilateral organizations and former ministers from around the world are flocking to help the authorities make progress on their ambitious agenda, from expanding electricity provision to building their own governing capacity. Investors, too, are actively exploring opportunities. This focus is not surprising. After years of economic isolation and anemic growth, Burma is one of Asia's last largely untapped markets. Now that the country is opening up, investors are clearly hoping to establish sources of structural advantage that could last for many years. Interest in Myanmar (Burma) has become intense. Thein Sein became the first president of Myanmar to visit the White House in nearly 50 years, and leaders from British Prime Minister David Cameron to India's Manmohan Singh to Japan's Shinzo Abe have all visited Yangon.

The neighboring countries like India , China and Thailand are the most interested countries to invest for their escalating economic needs. China dominates the construction sector in Myanmar/Burma, including numerous hydropower projects and a deep-water sea port project in Kyauk-phru in Rakhine State. The most important Chinese project is a gas and oil pipeline across Myanmar from Kyaukphru to Ruili, on the China border. The natural gas will come from fields off Burma's west coast . Land has been confiscated all along the pipeline route for years .The 771-kilometer-long Chinese pipeline project has been criticized by local inhabitants with reference to unfair land grabbing, controversial compensation and environmental disaster..

The Kaladan Multi Model Transport project of India is also subject to wide concerns, Critics of the US\$214-million transport project, which is being constructed in Western Myanmar as part of a joint venture between the two governments, say that India is not doing enough to allay concerns that local

people affected by the project face yet another land grab that will destroy their communities and alienate them from their traditional ways of life.

(Burma) Myanmar needs "responsible investment" of foreign capital as it seeks to accelerate economic development. Foreign companies should abide by the international norms doing development projects with respect to the voice of the people who live in the province as per Aung San Suu kyí