

Groundbreaking Ceremony
Simulator Assessment Centre (Two-Storey RC Building)
Department of Marine Administration
Dawbon Dockyard Compound

20 February 2026

Yangon

Opening Remarks

by Deputy Minister

Ministry of Transport and Communications

His Excellency, Chief Minister of the Yangon Region Government,

His Excellency, the Ambassador of the Republic of India to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar,

Heads of Ministerial Departments,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I wish to extend my respectful greetings and sincere appreciation to all distinguished guests who have graciously attended this auspicious occasion.

1. Today's Ground-breaking Ceremony for the construction of the two-storey Reinforced Concrete Simulator Assessment Centre within the Dawbon Dockyard Compound of the Department of Marine Administration represents a significant milestone in the advancement of Myanmar's maritime sector. This year commemorates 78 years of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and India. Rooted in a long-standing and historic relationship, our two countries stand as close neighboring partners. The ceremony we are holding today further reflects our strengthened cooperation in infrastructure development and human resource capacity-building under the Myanmar-India strategic partnership.
2. This project is being implemented with the valued support of the Government of the Republic of India under the Small Development Project Programme. Based on mutual trust and enduring friendship between our two nations, the Memorandum of Understanding on the "**Project for Simulator-Based Training, Assessment and Examination System for Seafarers**" was duly signed on 27 June 2025, marking an important initiative to broaden and deepen future cooperation.
3. Myanmar is proud to be a nation that produces a substantial number of qualified seafarers serving aboard international sea-going vessels that form the backbone of global trade. Often referred to as a "**smokeless industry**," the income generated by Myanmar seafarers contributes meaningfully to national GDP growth without depleting natural resources. Therefore, our seafarers constitute an indispensable and strategic human capital foundation for the sustainable development of the maritime industry.
4. Furthermore, expanding global employment opportunities for Myanmar seafarers demonstrate measurable and encouraging progress. In 2021, the number of Myanmar seafarers serving aboard international vessels stood at just over 22,000. Today, that figure has increased to more than 36,000. This remarkable growth is clear evidence of the enhanced competence, discipline, and professionalism of Myanmar seafarers, as well

as the growing confidence placed by international shipping companies. It is also consistent with the national strategic objectives for human resource development.

5. In light of rapid technological advancement and the rising international standards in today's global shipping industry, it is essential to continuously upgrade the competence and professional quality of Myanmar seafarers to remain competitive in the international labour market. The establishment of this modern **Simulator Assessment Centre** represents a strategic investment in infrastructure that will support the upgrading of professional standards and the promotion of employment opportunities.
6. The new two-storey RC building, measuring 120 feet by 40 feet, will be equipped with modern simulator systems. Bridge procedures will be conducted through a Full-Mission Bridge Simulator, while engine-room operations will be carried out using an Engine-Room Simulator. These facilities will recreate operational environments closely resembling real shipboard conditions, enabling the creation and training for Normal, Abnormal, and Emergency situations. They will facilitate structured practical training, competency assessment, and examination in accordance with international standards, ensuring greater accuracy, consistency, and credibility.
7. Among the many anticipated benefits of this project, a key advantage is that officer candidates will be able to thoroughly prepare for shipboard routine tasks before entering actual service. Moreover, they will strengthen their ability to respond systematically and effectively in accordance with established shipboard contingency plans in case of emergency situations. As a result, Myanmar seafarers will be well positioned to demonstrate high levels of competence and professionalism when competing with other nationalities in the global employment market.
8. I wish to express my deepest appreciation to the Government of the Republic of India and to the Embassy of India in Myanmar for their generous and invaluable support in making this important project possible. This exemplary cooperation not only further strengthens the bonds of mutual trust and friendship between our two nations but also provides a solid foundation for broader and deeper collaboration in the years ahead.
9. Today's groundbreaking ceremony, therefore, signifies not only the commencement of construction works but also stands as a historic milestone underscoring Myanmar's firm commitment to the continued development of the maritime industry.
10. The Department of Marine Administration will implement this project with the highest standards of responsibility and accountability at every stage — from commencement through completion — ensuring full transparency, adherence to the established timeline, and strict compliance with the prescribed standards, so that this facility will emerge as a nationally significant institution and an internationally credible Simulator Assessment Centre.

With these remarks, may I conclude by expressing my sincere appreciation to all present.
Thank you.