

Press Release

Berlin, 26 March 2021

APA Statement on the Military Coup in Myanmar

The economic relations between Germany and Myanmar have made great advances since the democratic opening of the country in 2011: The bilateral trade volume has increased twelvefold within eight years from 2011 to 2019, contributing significantly to Myanmar's economic progress. Since the opening of the Southeast Asian country, German companies have made investments and created jobs. The prerequisites for this were, in particular, legal certainty, freedom of information and public order. These features are also essential requirements for further investments in the country.

APA Chairman Joe Kaeser: "APA companies active in Myanmar are appalled by the latest developments in the country. The escalation of violence by the military against peaceful demonstrators and the loss of liberal order are a setback for the country's development and especially for the companies active on the ground. They are very concerned about the safety and well-being of their mostly local employees."

Further escalation to entrenching civil war-like conditions would cause lasting damage to the gains made thanks to Myanmar's economic and political modernization. The disruption of business activities has led to massive shortages of food and fuel and disruption of supply chains. The humanitarian situation in the country, already hard hit by the Covid 19 pandemic, is becoming increasingly precarious. Many employees of foreign companies, including Germans, have had to leave the country for security reasons.

Joe Kaeser: "German companies remain willing to support Myanmar's development with investments and know-how under stable conditions. This also includes help and support in coping with the pandemic and its consequences. The basis for this, however, is the safety of its employees on the ground."

In addition to an end to the violence and a return to a process that respects human rights, ensuring stable supplies for the population is also a priority. The APA supports the current efforts of the international community – particularly the EU, the U.S. and states neighbouring the country – to exert their influence on the return to the rule of law in Myanmar.

About APA

The Asia-Pacific Committee of German Business is building bridges between German companies doing business in Asia and politics in Germany as well as in our Asian partner countries. The APA pools the economic concerns of German businesses active in the Asia-Pacific region and strives for more intense cooperation with Asia-Pacific and helps promoting trade and investment in both directions. The APA is an initiative of the Federation of German Industries (BDI), the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce (DIHK), the German Asia-Pacific Business Association (OAV), the Federation of German Wholesale, Foreign Trade and Services (BGA) and the Association of German Banks (Bankenverband). Since February 2019 it is chaired by Joe Kaeser, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Siemens Energy AG.

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