



PRESS RELEASE

SOLAR AIRPLANE TO INSPIRE ENERGY INNOVATIONS IN MYANMAR

*MYANMAR GOVERNMENT AND SWISS EMBASSY BRING FIRST AROUND-THE-WORLD
SOLAR FLIGHT TO MYANMAR; PLANE TO LAND IN MANDALAY IN EARLY MARCH*

Yangon, 24 February 2015 – The first around-the-world solar flight, Solar Impulse 2 (Si2), will inspire energy and technology innovations in Myanmar, spreading a pioneering spirit among youth and mobilizing enthusiasm for renewable energies. The airplane, flying day and night on solar power, without a drop of fuel, is expected to touch down at Mandalay International Airport in Mandalay, Myanmar on 10th March¹.

In early March, the five-month journey spanning 35,000 km (22,000 miles) will begin in Abu Dhabi, and the Si2 will make its forth stopover in Myanmar, grounded in Mandalay for three days. Myanmar is the only Southeast Asia stop. The Government of Myanmar, together with the Embassy of Switzerland in Myanmar and Solar Impulse, is making the visit to Myanmar possible, with support from local partner First Myanmar Investment Co. Ltd. (FMI) and international partners Schindler and ABB.

Solar Impulse 2's visit is a significant milestone marking Myanmar's arrival to the international stage and will raise awareness on the pressing need for sustainable and innovative energy solutions. During the plane's stop in Mandalay, approximately 1,000 students from the surrounding universities will attend educational learning sessions, meeting with the pilots and gaining knowledge around renewable energies. Scheduled times for the public to enjoy a close-up view of the plane will be announced closer to the landing date.

"With the support of the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, H.E. U Thein Sein, the Government and the people of Myanmar, we are a few short weeks away from a historical moment for the country, the energy industry and innovators across the globe," said Swiss Ambassador, Mr. Christoph Burgener. "An idea born in Switzerland, Solar Impulse seeks original solutions to achieve the impossible, teaching

¹ Dependent on flight departure from home country and weather conditions

us that working together delivers superior outcomes. Similarly, as the Myanmar people come together, a brilliant future will be fostered for the country."

"The co-pilots and founders of Solar Impulse embody a spirit that can inspire present and future generations in Myanmar and around the world to be explorers in their own lives." said U Linn Myiang, Chief Operating Officer, FMI. "As a country blessed with many natural resources, the cause for renewable energies lies close to home. Much of our country's success lies in identifying technologies that promote sustainable energy. The Solar Impulse 2 reminds us that such innovation and technology is available with unrelenting persistence and imagination."

The Swiss pilots, Bertrand Piccard and André Borschberg, both pioneers and innovators, are the driving force behind Solar Impulse and strong believers that exploring and pioneering spirit can change the world. After 12 years of planning and development, the plane will fly over the Arabian Sea, India, Myanmar, China, the Pacific Ocean, the United States, the Atlantic Ocean, and southern Europe or North Africa, before closing the loop by returning to the point of departure, Abu Dhabi.

"The authorities and our partners in Myanmar are aware of the importance of clean technologies. I still remember flying in the Orbiter 2 over Myanmar. It was gorgeous to fly in a silent way over so many temples calling for inner peace and wisdom," announced Bertrand Piccard, co-founder and pilot of Solar Impulse. André Borschberg, co-founder and pilot of Solar Impulse added, "I am looking forward to meeting students in Mandalay, organized by FMI, as Solar Impulse is also about working together to inspire the current and future generations of the world"

"Schindler is very proud to be one of the main partners of Solar Impulse, with both sharing the same goal to push the limits in the development of innovative technology to safely move people with less energy. Operating in Myanmar since 1999, the company is thrilled to welcome the plane and the project team on the latest leg of a great journey", said Willis Phua, General Manager of Schindler Myanmar.

"ABB's vision is 'Power and productivity for a better world' which is why the landing of Solar Impulse in Myanmar is close to our hearts. Both ABB and Solar Impulse are taking novel and creative approaches to solving future energy challenges in a responsible way, and as Myanmar enters a new era of economic development, it has the opportunity to make decisions that have a positive impact for generations to come," said Johan de Villiers, Managing Director of Singapore and South-East Asia, ABB. "We need to raise

awareness about the need to use energy more efficiently – and this is one message Solar Impulse will be taking around the world."

Additional information about Solar Impulse can be found at <http://www.solarimpulse.com/>.

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About Solar Impulse

Swiss pioneers Bertrand Piccard (President) and André Borschberg (CEO) are the founders, pilots and life force behind Solar Impulse, the first aircraft able to fly day and night without fuel or polluting emissions – the aircraft with which they will attempt the first solar flight around the world this year. Supported by partners Solvay, Omega, Schindler, ABB, Google, Altran, Bayer Material Science, Swiss Re Corporate Solutions, Swisscom and Moët Hennessy amongst others, Solar Impulse is a history-making attempt in the world of exploration and the world of renewable energies. Solar Impulse is also an airborne laboratory, making way for innovative technological solutions capable of meeting today's challenges head on. And it is a vision which drives each one of us to become a pioneer on a day-to-day basis.

Solar Impulse Links

The public can follow the adventure on a daily basis on www.solarimpulse.com, the primary web platform of the First Round-The-WorldSolar Flight.

Regular updates will be available on the following social media channels:

[google.com/+solarimpulse](https://www.google.com/+solarimpulse), www.facebook.com/solarimpulse,
www.twitter.com/solarimpulse

Latest videos are available on www.youtube.com/SolarImpulseChannel.

Tagging @solarimpulse, using #solarimpulse, #RTW or linking to www.solarimpulse.com in any publication will allow Solar Impulse to push any content.

Information on Bertrand Piccard, the Chairman, Co-founder, and pilot is available on the following online platforms: www.bertrandpiccard.com, [facebook.com/piccardbertrand](https://www.facebook.com/piccardbertrand),
www.twitter.com/bertrandpiccard.

Information on André Borschberg, the CEO, Co-founder, and pilot is available on the following online platforms: andreborschberg.com, [facebook.com/borschberg](https://www.facebook.com/borschberg),
www.twitter.com/andreborschberg.

About the Embassy of Switzerland in Myanmar

The Embassy of Switzerland in Myanmar was opened in November 2012. The two countries have maintained diplomatic relations since 1956. Through its Myanmar 2013–2017 cooperation strategy, Switzerland is supporting the transition process, peacebuilding and development in Myanmar. That support aims, among other objectives, at strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

About FMI

First Myanmar Investment Co. Ltd., (FMI) was established in 1992 as one of Myanmar's first public companies. It currently has over 6,000 shareholders, and boasts an unbroken track record of profitability and dividend payments since inception. FMI established the first gated community in Myanmar, FMI City, and is also a key partner in the Star City project in Thanlyin. FMI is also a substantial shareholder in Yoma Bank, one of the country's most reputable private banks. FMI's Pun Hlaing Hospital is one of the leading hospitals in the country, and FMI Air, the company's main aviation investment, is well known for quality service on its current Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw route. FMI is also involved in many joint ventures with leading international firms including Mitsubishi, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Asian Development Bank, Parkson and others.

About Schindler Myanmar

Founded in Switzerland in 1874, the Schindler Group is a leading global provider of elevators and escalators with 54,000 employees operating in more than 100 countries. Schindler supports sustainable urban development with safe, reliable and ecologically sound building transportation systems for low-rise residential buildings to commercial and high-rise towers stretching up to half a kilometer into the sky. Schindler's equipment moves one billion people every day all over the world. Schindler Myanmar was established in 1999 and has been operating directly in Myanmar without the use of agents and distributors to ensure a high level of service delivery. Schindler Myanmar is headquartered in Yangon, with two branches in Naypyidaw and Mandalay, designs, engineers, installs, maintains and modernizes all types of elevators, escalators and moving walkways.

About ABB

ABB (www.abb.com) is a leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility, industry, and transport and infrastructure customers to improve their performance while lowering environmental impact. The ABB Group of companies operates in roughly 100 countries and employs about 140,000 people. ABB inaugurated

its first new office in Yangon, Myanmar in September 2014 after an absence of 20 years. ABB now offers its full portfolio of power and automation solutions to customers in Myanmar.

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