

# Social and Economic Development of Taninthayi Division

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## Abstract

Taninthayi like the other division of Myanmar mainly depends on agriculture. After 1988, noticeable features of Taninthayi are the introduction of natural gas export, and the development of plum oil plantation. Rubber plantation is also increasing. After 2005, there is rice sufficiency in Taninthayi Division because of monsoon and summer paddy production. All meat and pearl production is increasing. Social sector, such as education and health is developed. Infrastructure sector, transportation and communication are also developed. The ASEAN high way and the Union Highway will pass through the division. With the growing economic, social and infrastructures development, Taninthayi Division has become a developed region.

## 1. Introduction

This paper studies social and economic development of Taninthayi Division which is in the southern part of Myanmar's bordering Thailand and Myanmar. Taninthayi like the rest of Myanmar is mainly dependent on agriculture; by far the majority of people live and work in the rural areas of Taninthayi division. After 1988, noticeable features of Taninthayi are the introduction of natural gas and crude oil production and the development of plum oil plantation. According to the transformation of Myanmar market economic system, Taninthayi Division is also transformed.

## 2. Background

### 2.1 Historical Background

Taninthayi Division historically included the entire Taninthayi Peninsula, today's Taninthayi Division, Mon State and Southern Kayin State. The peninsular region was part of Thaton-based Mon Kingdoms before 1057 and part of King Anawrahta's, Pagan Empire after 1057. Soon after the fall of Pagan in 1287, the area fell to the ascendant Thai Kingdom of Sukhothai and later its successor Ayutthaya Kingdom. The region's northernmost border was around the Thanlwin (Salween) river near today's Mawlamyaing.

After 1852, Taninthayi Division consisted of the entire southeastern Myanmar, including today's Mon state, Kayin State, and Taungoo District, in Bago Division. Mawlamyaing was the capital of Taninthayi. Upon independence from Britain in 1948, the northeastern districts of Taninthayi were placed into the newly created Karen State. In 1974, the northern part of remaining Taninthayi was carved out to create Mon State. With Mawlamyaing now inside Mon State the capital of Taninthayi Division was moved to Dawei. In 1989 the English spelling of division's name was officially changed to Taninthayi. Taninthayi Division has three districts. Dawei, Myeik and Kawthoung comprising of ten townships and 328 village-tracts.

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## 2.2 Location

Bordering Mon State in the north, Thailand in the south-east and facing Andaman sea in the West, it is situated between latitudes  $9^{\circ}58'$  north and  $15^{\circ}16'$  north in the southern part of Myanmar. The sea along Taninthayi coast is dotted with nearly 800 islands. Islands in the south are called Myeik archipelago. The Division's area is 16,735.5 square miles.

## 2.3 Topography and Climate

As Taninthayi Division is located in the eastern mountain range region, its landscape is mountainous. Generally, mountains with nearly 3,000 feet in height run from north-west to south-east. Some of the mountain ranges run into the sea and rise again as islands along the coast. The 6,801 feet Myinmolekhat Mountain is the highest peak in the Division. Nwalaboh with an elevation of 5,063 feet is the famous mountain in the north and runs as the border of Thailand and Myanmar. Long and narrow plains can be found along the rivers and the coastal areas.

Taninthayi Division has a tropical monsoon climate. The land which is located nearest to the Equator in Myanmar is warm year round with only slight changes in temperature. The highest temperature of Dawei is  $100^{\circ}\text{F}$ . The average highest temperature of Myeik is  $96.5^{\circ}\text{F}$  and the lowest average temperature is  $65^{\circ}\text{F}$ . Annual average rainfall in Myeik is 162 inches and in Dawei is 215 inches.

## 2.4 Population, Inhabitants, Languages and Religion

National races such as Bamars, Kayins, Mons, Shans, Rakhines, Pashues or Malays and Salons are residing in the state and which has a population of 1,327,000 with a population density of 64 persons per square mile in 2008. As the land is mountainous, Thinlys river valley is the most populated area. The majority of the residents live along the coastal plains and river valleys. Launglon and Myeik townships have the highest population density. Taninthayi and Bokpyin township population density is only 14 to 15 persons per square mile. The majorities of the inhabitants are Buddhists and speak Myanmar Language. The main religions are Buddhism, Christian Islam and Leke.

## 3. Economic Sector Development of Taninthayi Division

Taninthayi Division, one of the division in Myanmar, is essentially agriculture based division. As shown in Table (1), Taninthayi Division contributes to national GDP about 8 percent.

Table 1 G D P and per capita GDP of Myanmar and Taninthayi Division

Year	Myanmar GDP(Kyat million at 2005-06 constant price)	Taninthayi GRP Kyat million at 2005-06 constant price)	Taninthayi Share of GDP in Myanmar	Per capita GDP(Kyat) Myanmar	Per capita GDP(Kyat) Taninthayi
2004/05	4116635.4	363032.3	8.82	75814	238053
2005/06	4675219.6	432926.4	9.26	84396	277161
2006/07	13853030.4	481910	3.48	245121	298951

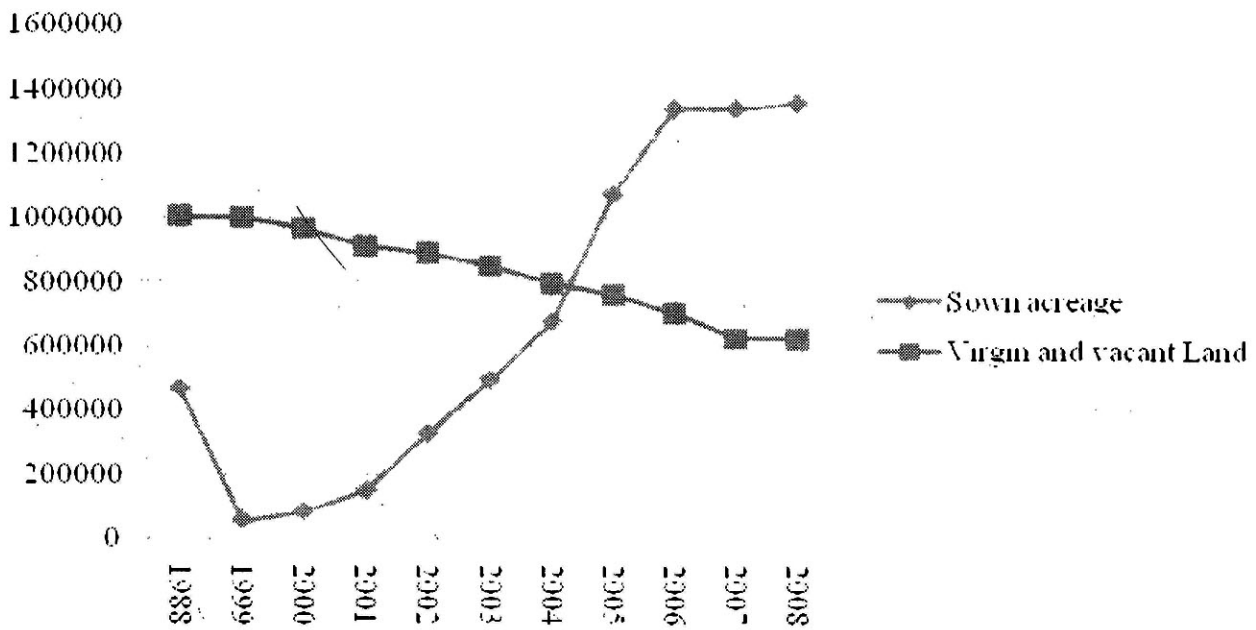
Source: Central Statistical Organization: Statistical Yearbook, 2006, 2007 and Planning Department, Taninthayi Division.

### 3-1 Agriculture Sector

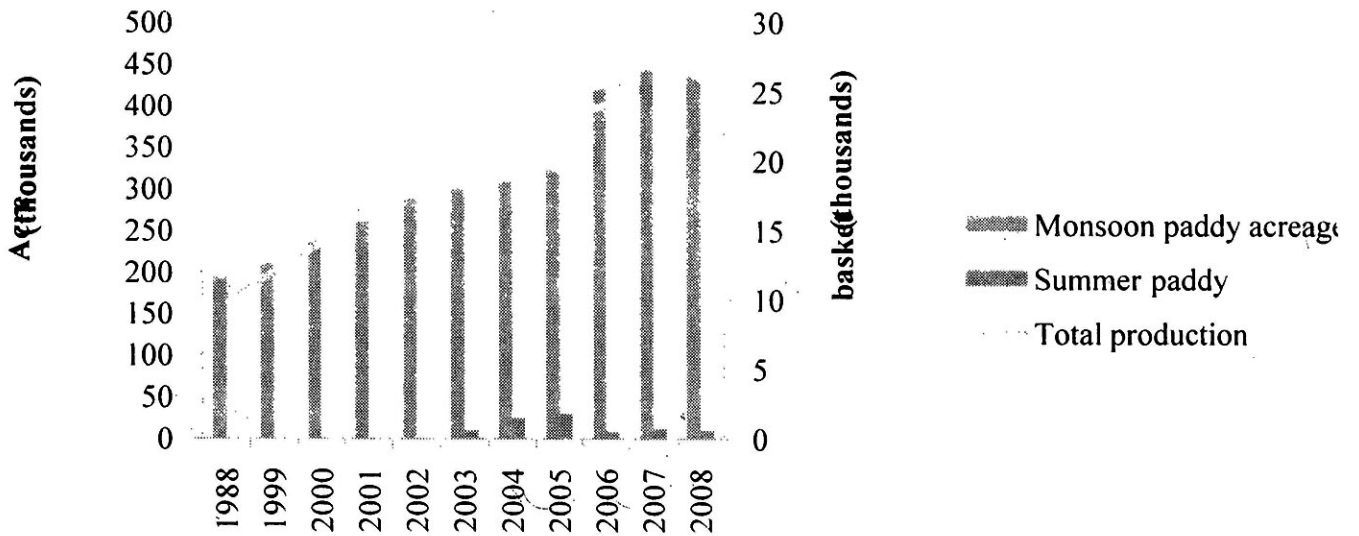
In the past, the area of Taninthayi Division relied mainly on rubber plantations. But now, its agricultural patterns have changed since the gaining of independence in Myanmar in 1948. The area under double cropping area has increased due to increased irrigation through water pumping acres and creek damming methods. Paddy, plum oil, rubber, monsoon paddy, edible oil crop and pepper sown area are increasing. All changes are due to demonstrational and institutional changes, supported by the government. As a result, other species of crops, palm oil and paddy plantation were successful in the division so that it is now producing adequate amount of rice for its population. As shown in Figure 1, land utilization is increasing, so virgin and vacant land area is decreasing. Nearly 900,000 acres of land have been reclaimed, and waterworks and small scale farms are irrigating over 20,000 acres of crops. Plum oil plantation increase sharply.

Yinwa Dam has been built in Kaw Thong Township, and Anyabya Dam has also been built in Dawei Township to irrigate 3,200 acres of crops. Emerging together with the development in oil palm cultivation of the division is the national entrepreneurs' tradition of adhering to the government's policy and responding to its goodwill. Vast oil palm farms owned by the national entrepreneurs are emerging along the Union Highway in the division. Oil-palm plantation increased sharply, followed by monsoon paddy cultivation. Rubber plantation is also increasing. Significant sector is summer paddy sector.

As shown in Figure 1, extended paddy cultivation is increasing, paddy production is increasing. Before 2005, there is no rice efficiency; after 2005 there is rice sufficiency in Taninthayi Division. It is because of monsoon and summer paddy production.



Sources: Various issues of Chronicle of National Development (1988 to 2008)  
 Figure (1) Land Usage of Taninthayi Division



Sources: Table (3.2.1) various issues of Chronicle of National Development (1988 to 2008)  
 Figure (2) Extended Paddy Cultivation in Taninthayi Division

### 3.2 Livestock and Fishery Sector

The Government has been distributing quality strains, feedstuff and medicines and disseminating techniques to develop the meat and fish sector of the division. Because of the increasing animal disease prevention project, the current meat production has increased.

### 3.3 Forestry Sector

Myanmar's government has recognized the role of forests in conserving soil and water resources and in protecting the environment. Myanmar is also committed to sustainable use of forests and other biological resources through a number of international conventions and agreements. Reserved forest, protected public forest and establishment of forest plantation are increasing. Village firewood plantation is most successful because of the participation of the local people.

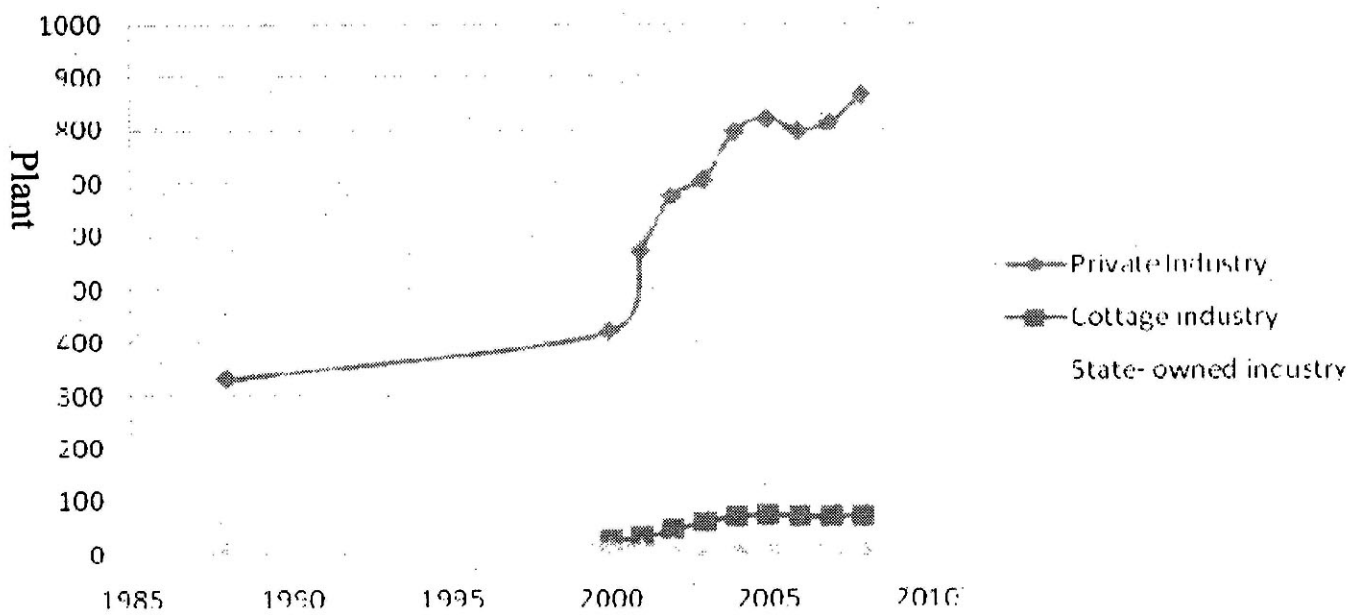
The policy identifies six priority areas for government actions as follows.

- (i) **Protection of soil, water, wildlife, biodiversity and environment.**
- (ii) Sustainability of forest resources to ensure a perpetual supply of benefits from forest for present and future generations.
- (iii) Basic needs of the people for fuel, shelter, food and recreation.
- (iv) Efficient use, in a social and environmentally friendly manner, of the full economic potential of forest resources.
- (v) Participation of people in the conservation and use of forests.
- (vi) Public awareness of the vital role of forests in the well-being and socio-economic development of the nations.

### 3.4 Industry Sector

The industrial development pace of Taninthayi Division is gaining speed as the government encourages the efforts to realize the goal. There are just 26 industries in Myeik industrial zone. The number of factories related to marine resources, minerals, rubber and oil palm is likely to rise. Even now, the number of private factories has increased to 534 apart from existing 10 cottage industries and 13 State owned factories.

In Figure (3) state owned industries are decreasing but private industries are increasing. Private ownership is increasing in according with the market oriented economic system. In 1988 there were no industrial zone but in 2005 there is one industrial zone in Taninthayi division.



Source: Various Issues of Chronicle of National Development, 1988-2008

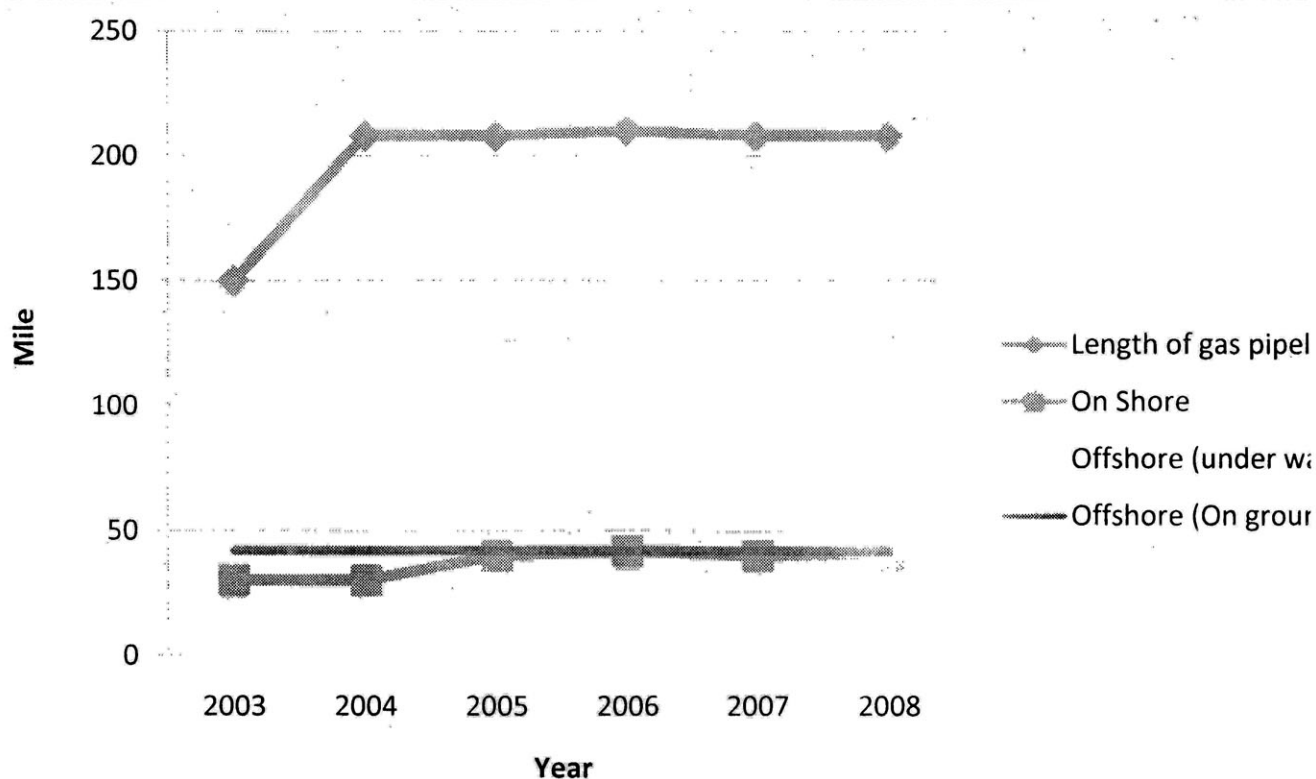
Figure 3 Industrial Development in Taninthayi Division

### 3.5 Energy Sector

In crude oil and natural gas exploitation, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), the sole state enterprise along with a number of international companies, has been conducting exploration and production of petroleum and natural gas in twelve onshore and offshore areas of the country. The emergence of off-shore oil fields in Taninthayi Division possibly created an aphorism that goes as "Mottama is famous for Yadana, Taninthayi for Yedagun and Rakhine Offshore for gold". They are in fact the treasure bequeathed by ancestors to posterity. It assumes that future generation can exploit these gas fields, and reap benefits from these oil fields. In the Figure (4), length of gas pipeline has sharply increased between 2003 and 2004. Offshore (under water) also increased from 2003 to 2005.

The crude oil production is the most promising sector in the energy sector of the Thaninthayi Division. Offshore oilfield has not been improving between 1988 and 2007. However, onshore oil field has drastically increased during the same period. Natural gas production of Taninthayi Division has also sharply increased during that period and the main export in the energy sector of Myanmar.





Source: Various Issues of Chronicle of National Development. 1988-2008  
Figure (4) The Development of the Pipe Lines

### 3.6 Mining and Minerals

The new Myanmar Mines Law was promulgated in mid-1994 in the mining sector. According to this law, the Ministry of Mines was empowered to administer all mining activities in the country. Taninthayi Division also consists of Pale Yadana Myay or Pearl land. Pearl product is increasing.

## 4. Social Sector Development in Taninthayi Division

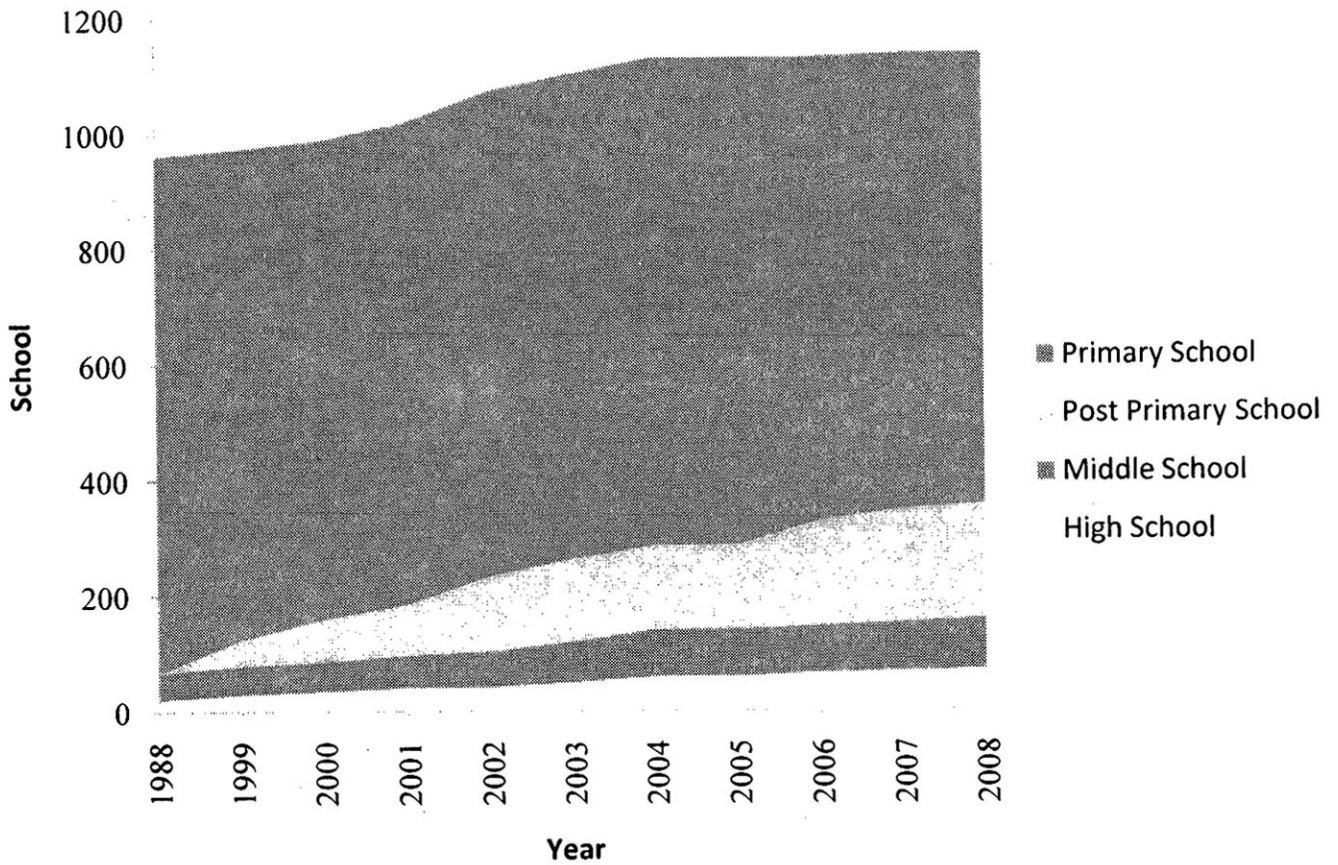
This section will focus on the social sector development of Taninthayi Division. It includes education, and health sectors.

### 4.1 Education

For a nation, education is the best means of investment. This includes the extension of primary-level education to make it accessible to all school-age children, improving the quality of primary education in collaboration with international organizations. In this sense, the government is taking measures to promote the level of education in Taninthayi Division. Progress made in the past and the present in the education drives to ensure equal learning opportunity in Taninthayi Division.

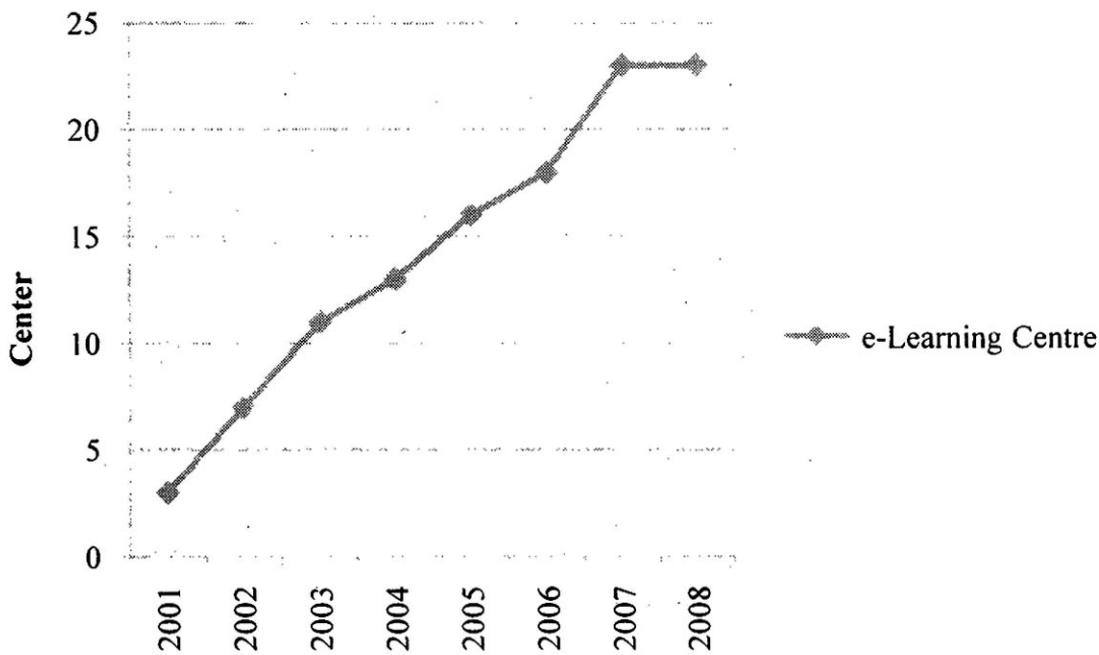
Although both the number of schools in high school level and multimedia class rooms has increased between 1988 and 2008, the teacher student ratio has not changed over the years.

Adult literacy rate has also increased during that period. Figure (5) shows the development of basic education in Taninthayi Division. Primary level holds the largest share in basic education, followed by post primary level. Middle school and high school together make up a smaller share in basic education. It can be concluded that most children in Taninthayi Division are able to attend in Primary level sometimes, but cannot afford to attend in middle schools and high schools.



Source: Various issues of Chronicle of National Development, 1988-2008  
 Figure (5) Development of Basic Education in Taninthayi Division





Source: Various Issues of Chronicle of National Development, 1988-2008  
Figure (6) E-Learning Centers in Taninthayi Division

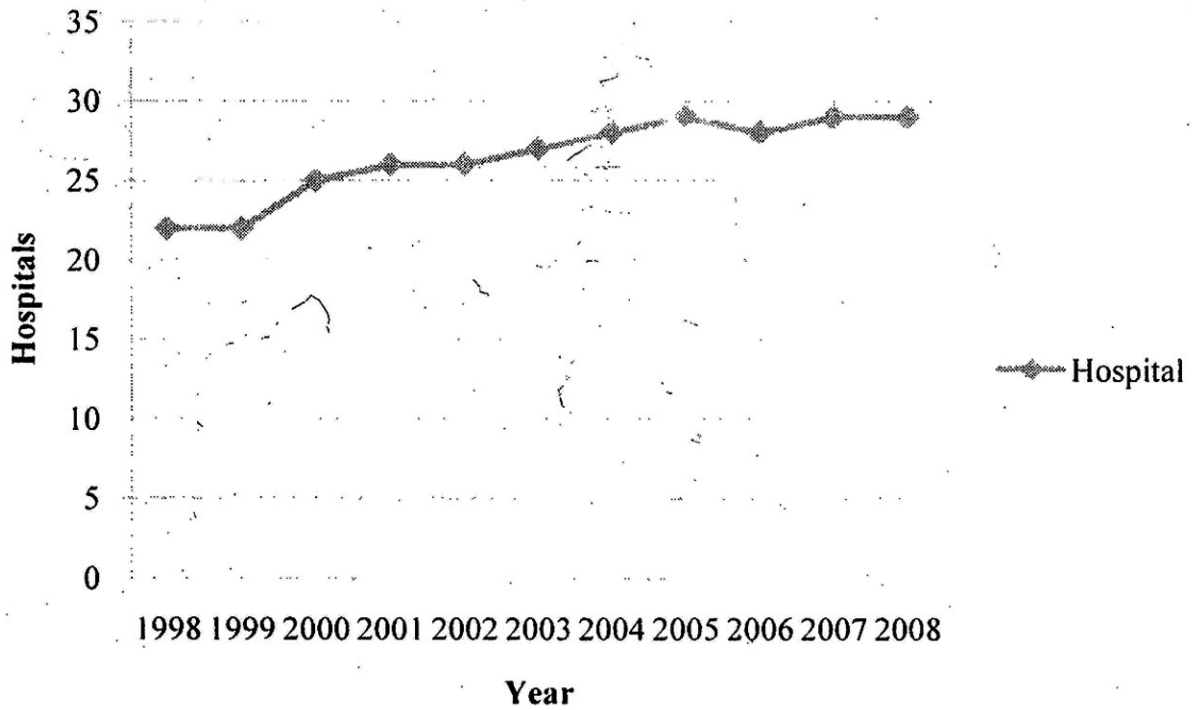
As can be seen from the figure, e-learning centers have increased significantly between 2001 and 2008. Therefore, many students in Taninthayi Division had an opportunity to learn various subjects from these centers.

#### 4.2 Health

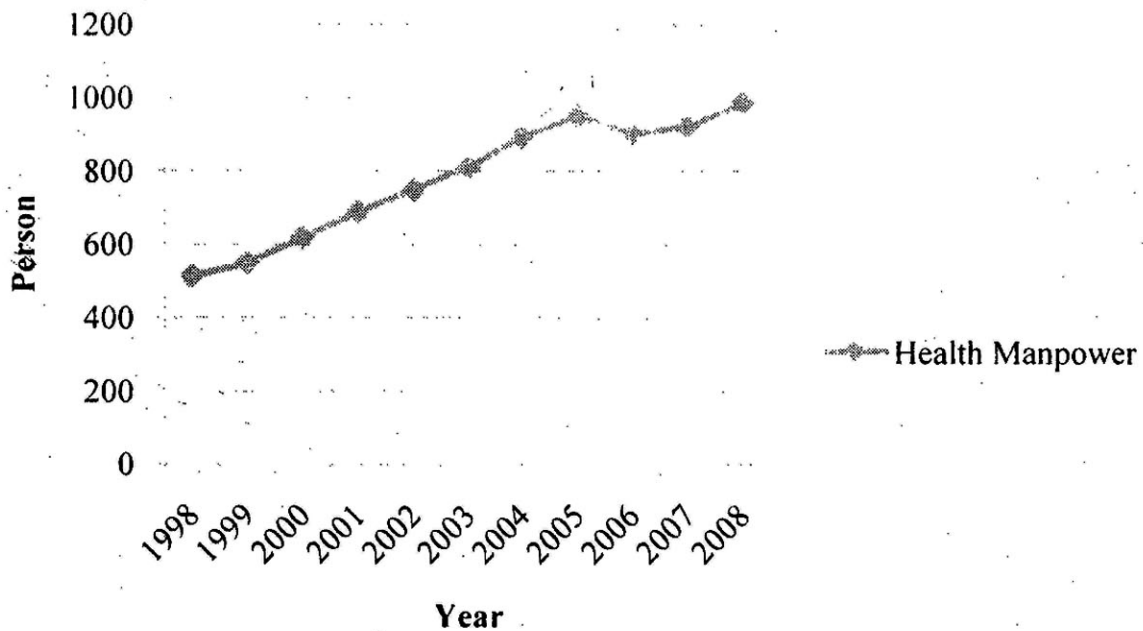
Health has been given top priority in many countries. In Myanmar, the Ministry of Health is chiefly responsible for implementing the National Policy. Therefore, hospitals are being built and upgraded across the country to carry out health care on an extensive scale.

In Taninthayi Division, two 200-bed hospitals were built in the region, and the 100-bed hospital upgraded into 200-bed ones. Moreover, two 50-bed hospitals were also opened alongside with ten station hospitals and three rural health centers.

Another 189 specialists and assistant doctors were employed there. Now, the region has 984 medical staff, up from 513 in the past. A traditional medicine hospital was also opened there to give treatment with traditional medicines. Now, the traditional medicine dispensaries are eight in number. Apart from the existing midwifery school, a nursing school was also established with the aim of producing more nurses within the region. The development of hospitals and man power are shown in Figure (7) and (8).

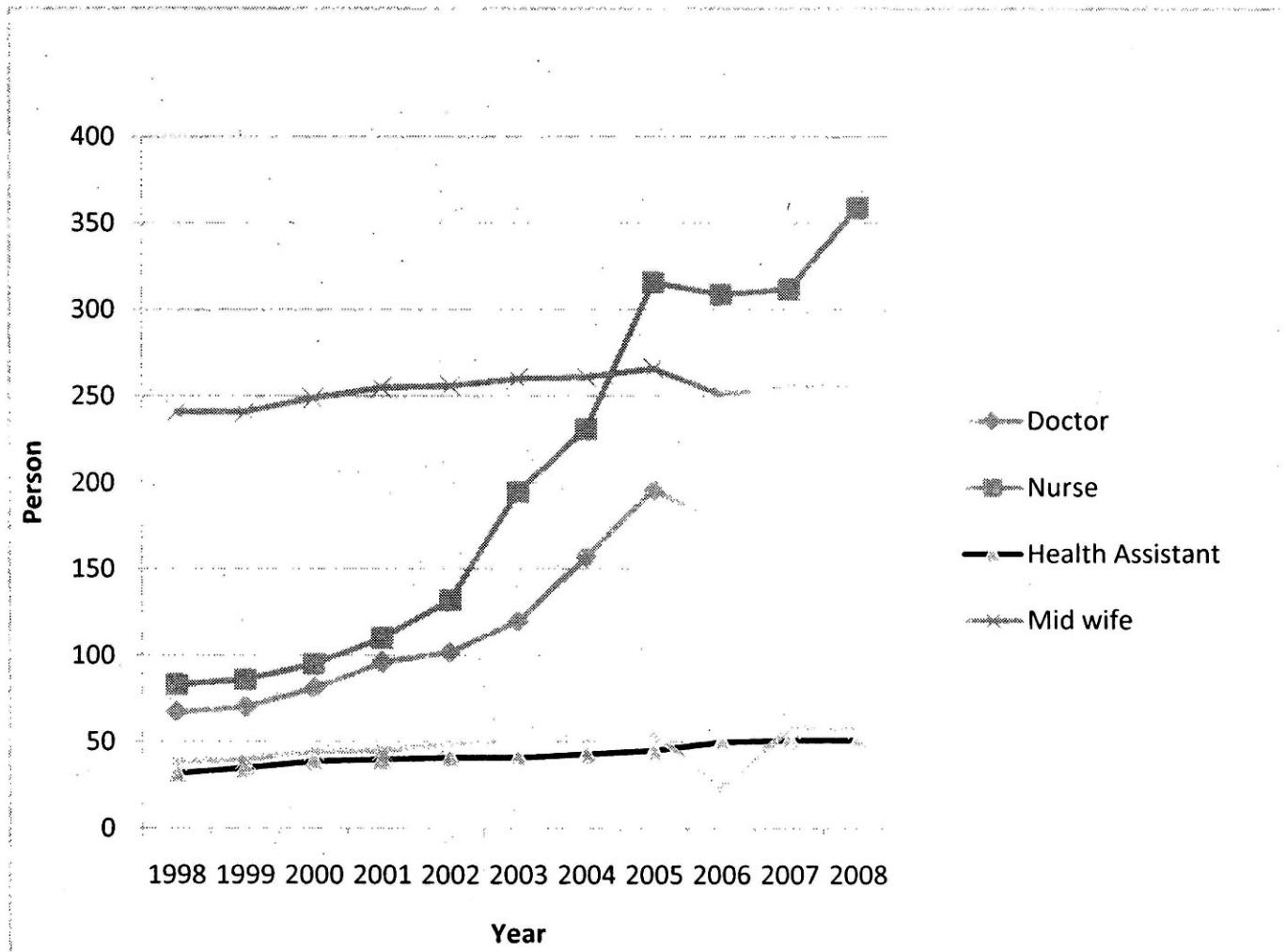


Source: Various issues of Chronicle of National Development, 1988-2008  
 Figure (7) The Development of Hospital in Taninthayi Division



Source: Various issues of Chronicle of National Development, 1988-2008  
 Figure (8) Health man power in Taninthayi Division

Figure (8) shows that health manpower has gradually increased between 1998 and 2005; however, it fluctuated during 2005 - 2008. The number of doctors and nurses have sharply increased between 1998 and 2008; however, the number of health assistant and mid wives has registered significant changes.

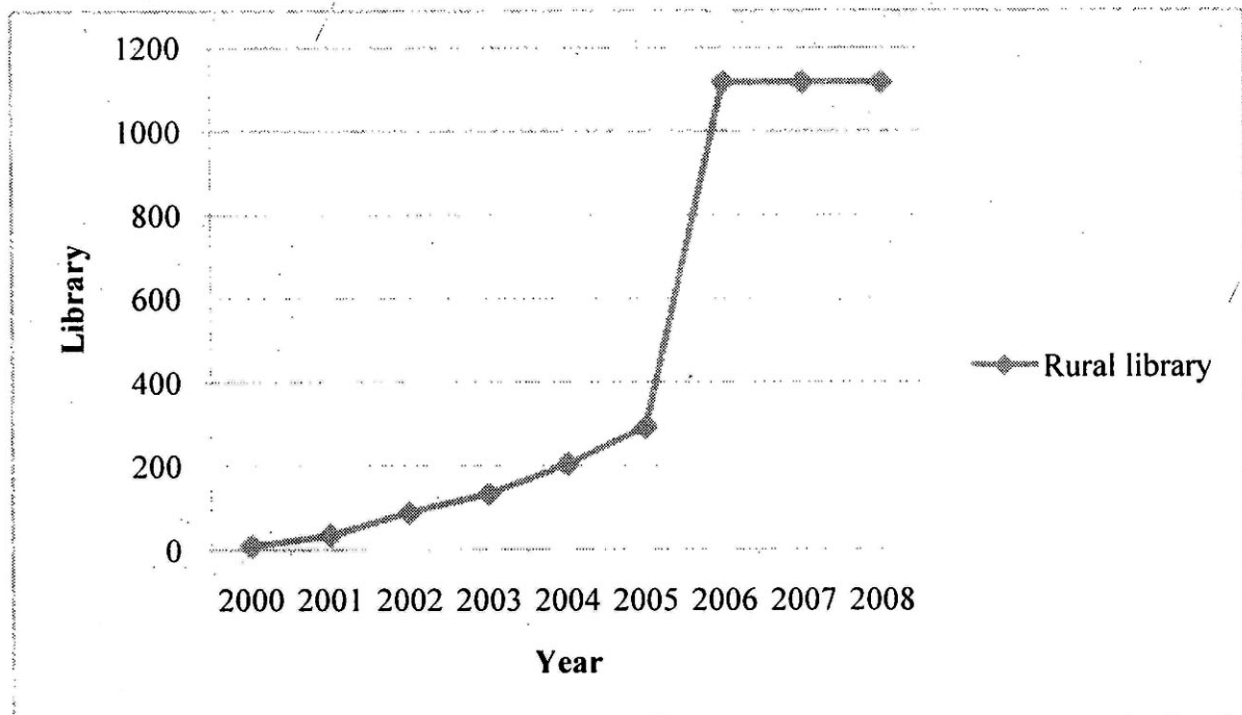


Source: Various issues of Chronicle of National Development, 1988-2008  
 Figure (9) The Development of man Power in Health Sector (Taninthayi Division)

**4.3 Information and Public Relations**

To promote the information sector of Taninthayi Division in the march towards 25 a consolidated new nation. Since then the sub-printing house is publishing the daily news paper, the people of the division can now gain the benefit of reading the daily news early in the day.

In this sector, the most successful component is the rural library sector. The number of rural libraries will 1116 in 2008, see Figure (10).



Source: Various Issues of Chronicle of National Development, 1988-2008  
Figure (10) Rural Library

## 5 Infrastructure Development in Taninthayi Division

This section will focus on the infrastructure development of Taninthayi Division. It is included Road and transport, communication and electricity sectors.

### 5.1 Road and Transport

Rakine State and Taninthayi Division were regarded backward coastal regions in the past due to their geographical conditions. Both are thin stretches of land lying between the mountain ranges and the sea.

Now, Dawai-Myeik-Taninthayi-Bokpyin-Kawthoung road has become an all-weather facility. The division currently has over 750 miles of motor roads including over 455 miles of bituminous roads. The present length of roads is 360 miles and three furlongs longer than that of the past.

In addition to the Union Highway passing through the division, 14 over-180 feet bridges have emerged. Of them, seven have been covered by special projects. The famous bridges in the division are the 500-foot Winwa Bridge in Tayetchaung Township, the 500-foot Palauk Bridge and the 600-foot Palaw Bridge in Palaw Township, the 3,612-foot Kyweku-Kyaukphya Bridge and the 810-foot Pathoung Bridge in Myeik Township, the 1,360-foot Taninthayi Bridge in Taninthayi Township, and 860-foot Laynya-Mandaing Bridge in Bokpyin Township. The railroad which ended in Ye in Mon State in the past has been extended to Dawai in the division that is 102.38 miles from Ye. Ye-Dawai railroad was opened in March 1988. Airports in Kawthoung and Myeik have been upgraded to become facilities that can handle landing and taking off of passenger jets. Five more wharves have been evicted in the division. The division in the west is

enjoying sound transport development. In the future, the ASEAN highway will pass through the region.

## 5.2 Communication Sector

Post and Telecommunications in Myanmar is a state monopoly. Myanmar Post and Telecommunication Enterprise provide three main services: postal service, telegraph service, and telecommunication services for both domestic and international communications. Taninthayi Division is prospering together with other sister states and division like a tree thriving in a garden called the union. Both post office and telephone service has increased drastically between 1988 and 2008, especially; Auto/manual phone has especially increased sharply during that period. The number of MPT satellite terminal has also been increasing between 2001 and 2008.

## 5.3 Electricity

In the electric power sector, which continues to be a state monopoly, there had been increases in installed capacity, power generation, and power consumption due to extension of gas power-generation plants, adoption of high power-generation, and construction of mini-hydropower plants in addition to diesel generators.

In Taninthayi Division, up to 1988, the division had only 0.154- megawatt myitnge hydel power station; however, after 1988, the government built the 0.15 megawatt Kattalu hydel power station and the 0.192- megawatt Yetagon Creek hydel power station in the division. Soon, the 600-megawatt Taninthayi hydel power plant, the 25-megawatt Theinkhun Creek hydel power station and the 20-megawatt Thakyet Creek hydel station will emerge in the division. The hydel power stations of the division will serve as the nation's strength in the future. Electricity consumption has increased gradually between 1988 and 2008.

Electricity consumption has sharply decreased year 2000, and reached a minimum at 2001, and then sharply increased between 2001 and 2007. It reached a maximum at 2007, and decreased again in 2008.

## 6. Conclusion

Due to the growing economic and social infrastructures, Tanintharyi Division has become a developed region.

The improvements in Tanintharyi Division during the period of 1988 to 2008 were as follows. In economic sector development, area under double cropping area has increased due to increased irrigation through water pumping acres and creek damming methods. Paddy, Plum oil, rubber, monsoon paddy, edible oil crop and pepper sown area are increasing. Land utilization is increasing, so virgin and vacant land area is decreasing. All changes are due to demonstrational and institutional change, supported by government. As a result, other species of crops palm oil and paddy plantation were successful in the division and it is now producing adequate amount of rice for its population because of monsoon and summer paddy. All meat production is also increasing.

Reserved Forest, Protected Public Forest and Establishment of forest plantation are increasing. Village firewood plantation is most successful because of the participation of the local people. State owned industries are decreasing but private industries increasing in accordance with the market oriented economic system.

Crude oil production is the most promising sector in the Energy sector of the Tanintharyi Division. Offshore Oilfield has not been improving between 1988 and 2007. However, Onshore Oil field has drastically increased during the same period. Natural gas production of Tanintharyi Division has also sharply increased during that period and the main gas export in the energy sector of Myanmar. Pearl production is also increasing.

In social sectors although both the number of schools in high school level and multimedia class rooms have increased between 1988 and 2008, the teacher-student ratio has not changed over the years. Adult literacy rate has also increased during that period. The number of doctors and nurses has sharply increased between 1998 and 2008; however, the registered number of health assistant and mid wives has significantly changed. In information and public relations, the sub-printing house is publishing the daily news paper; the people of the division can now gain the benefit of reading the daily news early in the day .In this sector, the most successful component is the rural library sector.

In Infrastructure Development, the rural bridge construction and village development tasks to be carried out were successfully completed. The present length of roads is 360 miles and three furlongs longer than that of the past. In addition to the Union Highway passing through the division, 14 over-180 feet bridges have emerged. In the future, the ASEAN highway will pass through the region. Both Post office and telephone service has increased drastically between 1988 and 2008, especially; Auto/manual phone has especially increased sharply during that period. MPT satellite terminal has also been increasing between 2001 and 2008.

Both maximum power and installed power has increased between 1998 and 2008. Electricity consumption has sharply decreased year 2000, and reached a minimum at 2001, and then sharply increased between 2001 and 2007. So National should try to produce electricity demand for the modern development nation.



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