

Such systems would require 30-50 percent subsidies from the government as they are more costly unlike Pico-Solar and SHS which are relatively cheap, US\$10-\$40 and \$80-\$150 respectively, so don't require subsidies.

"We think the focus of the DRD (Department of Rural Development) budget should be on micro-grids which definitely need the subsidies. Centralised solutions, where you really need to invest in the infra-structure and then people will pay month by month. For home systems and Pico solar we don't think there's a need for subsidies," Mr Gueroult said.

"What is lacking is the whole chain that will be able to bring these products in Myanmar up to the remote villages and for that we need distributors in Chin and Kachin states, with local businesses doing the distribution," he said.

U Nyan Tun said that the rural electrification department has already implemented about 17,600 solar home systems in FY2013 and 13,600 solar home systems projects in FY 2014.

Mr Gueroult said he was pleased with the uptake of Pico-solar and SHS in rural areas, having already sold



Small solar panels options work in remote areas of the country.
Photo: Hong Sar/Mizzima

8,000 units in Myanmar but said the solar sector would benefit greatly from the setting of quality standards by the DRD.

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