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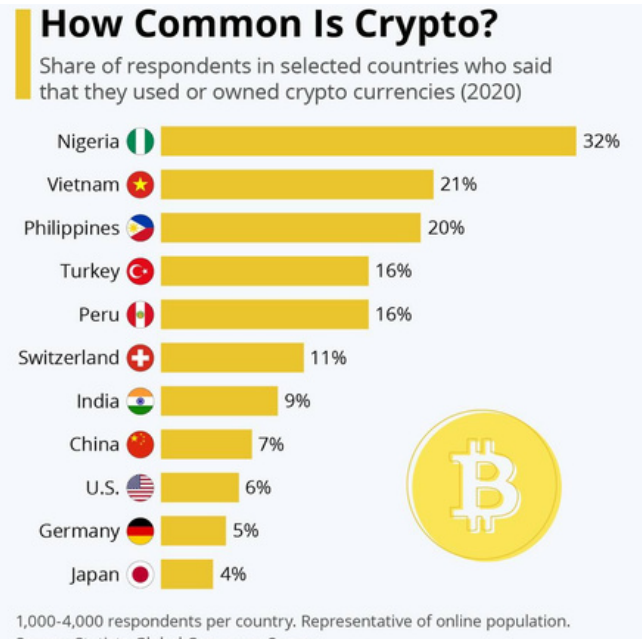
# **Cryptocurrency & Its Future in Myanmar**

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Source: Canva



Source: Statista Global Consumer Survey

## What is Cryptocurrency?

Cryptocurrency is a kind of digital currency that is predicated on blockchain technology. There are more than 4,000 types of cryptocurrencies: Bitcoin, Ethereum, Tether, Binance Coin, Cardano, Dogecoin and among them, Bitcoin is currently the most valuable coin in the market.

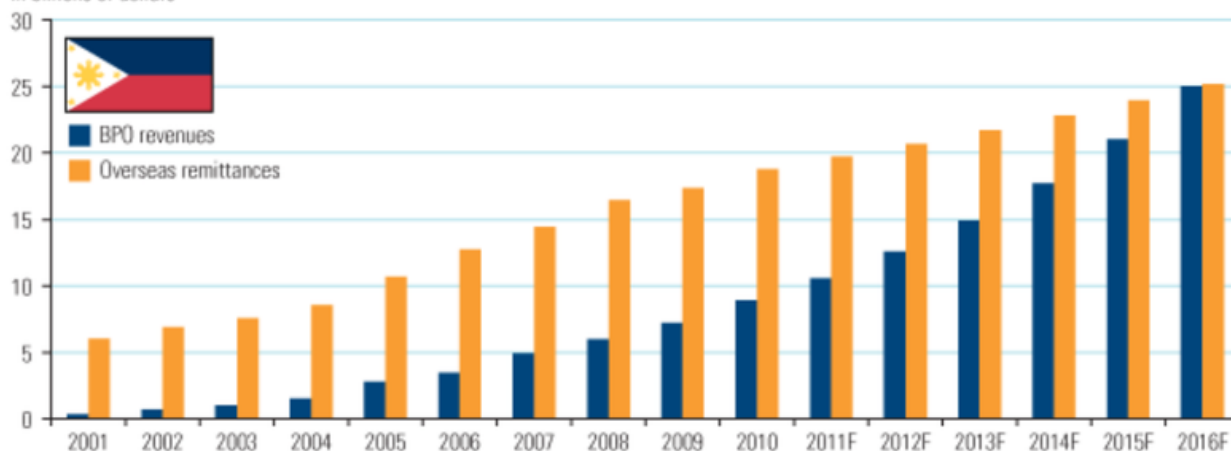
Bitcoin was the first cryptocurrency that originated in 2009. The technology called blockchain is utilized to calculate and engender the digital currency called Bitcoin. People use cryptocurrency to buy stocks online and for investments in stock markets, to purchase other services and products.

## Regulations on Cryptocurrency around the World

Cryptocurrencies are legalized in European Union, G7, East & Central Africa, Southern Africa, North America, Central America, Caribbean, Central Asia, East Asia, Central Europe and Northern Europe countries. Nevertheless, cryptocurrency is recognized as illegal in Northern Africa, Western Africa, Bolivia and Nepal. Currently, the most widely used countries are Nigeria, Vietnam, the Philippines, Turkey, Peru, Switzerland, India, China, the US, Germany and Japan.

## The Philippines BPO and Overseas Remittances Should Each Grow to \$25 Billion

In billions of dollars



Source: CLSA Asia-Pacific Markets, BSP, Business Processing Association of the Philippines (BPAP)

## Use of Cryptocurrency in ASEAN Countries

In ASEAN countries, cryptocurrencies are legalized in Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. In the rest of ASEAN countries, although it is recognized as legal to trade and hold, it is also illegal to use it as a payment tool and ban in banking.

Among ASEAN countries, the Philippines is one of the largest users of cryptocurrency. The Philippines is the third-largest user of cryptocurrency in the whole world, not only in ASEAN. The central bank of the Philippines, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) has also legalized the use of cryptocurrency. The Philippines is one of the earliest countries in south-east Asia to use cryptocurrency as Filipino migrant workers from abroad use the largest source of remittance by using cryptocurrencies. The BSP provides a trustworthy platform and the support for Philippines's cryptocurrency sector so that the gaming rewards, Bitcoin (BTC), Automated Teller Machine (ATM) networks and rural banking integration becomes reliable indicators and the cryptocurrency sector in the Philippines is growing more reliably in advance.

## **The legality of the Cryptocurrency Currently in Myanmar**

Let's see how well-known a cryptocurrency is and how about the legal restriction with cryptocurrency in Myanmar. At the moment, cryptocurrency, a digital currency, is still not widely used by the people of Myanmar and also there is no legal permission to use it from the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM). The CBM has issued two warning statements against the use of cryptocurrency.

In the first warning statement issued on May 3, 2019, the type of cryptocurrency that was banned from being traded was not disclosed, but it has been issued as a warning. A year later, on May 15, it issued a statement restricting cryptocurrency transactions and prosecuting violators, but did not specify the exact type of penalties.

## **The Depending Factors on the Use of Cryptocurrency**

If the Central Bank of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar legally allows the use of cryptocurrency, let's think about whether there will be more crypto users and investors in Myanmar. It would not be wrong to say that Myanmar is still a small underdeveloped country compared to other Southeast Asian countries.

In addition, Myanmar has a lower class than other countries and there are still many education level differences among the people. Most of the population in Myanmar is low-income people with lower levels of living standards who are rarely exposed to technology. These lower-class people who barely make both ends meet may not be interested in anything else. Raising living standards also indirectly depend on the proliferation of digital currencies, such as crypto.

Cryptocurrency is based on blockchain, so it is important that users must have the ability to easily learn and master the basics of digital literacy. It is clear that Myanmar lags behind other countries in the use of all advanced technology. To give a clear example, it took more than a decade for mobile phones to become popular in Myanmar and now it has become almost non-existent in all walks of life. The same is true of the growing usage of cryptocurrency in Myanmar.



National Unity Government of Myanmar

July 2 at 8:15 PM · 🌐



United XYZ Fund Raising အဖွဲ့၏အကူအညီဖြင့် လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပြီဖြစ်။

NUG သို့ ပြည်သူများ၏ လှူဒါန်းမှုများကို United XYZ Fund Raising အဖွဲ့၏ အကူအညီဖြင့် Cryptocurrency အသုံးပြု၍ အလှူငွေများ လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါပြီ။

- USD နှင့် တန်ဖိုးညီမျှသော Cryptocurrency ကိုပိုင်ဆိုင်သူများသည် "BUSD" (သို့မဟုတ်) "USDT" တို့ကို အသုံးပြု၍ လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။ ("BUSD" ကိုပိုင်သည့် လွှဲပြောင်းနိုင်သည့်လက်ထပ်ပါသည်။)
  - "BUSD" ကို အသုံးပြုသူများအတွက် Binance Smart Chain Network ဖြစ်သော BEP20 ကို အသုံးပြုပြီး လွှဲပြောင်းလှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။
  - "USDT" ကို အသုံးပြုသူများအတွက် Ethereum Network ဖြစ်သော ERC20 ကို အသုံးပြုပြီး လွှဲပြောင်းလှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။
  - လွှဲပြောင်းလှူဒါန်းရာတွင် Cryptocurrency အကောင့် လိပ်စာနံပါတ်များ လွှဲပြောင်းမှုမရှိစေရန် အထူးဂရုပြု၍ လှူဒါန်းပေးပါရန် မေတ္တာရပ်ခံအပ်ပါသည်။
  - လှူဒါန်းရမည့် Cryptocurrency အကောင့်လိပ်စာကို [unitedxyz.com](https://www.unitedxyz.com) Website မှလည်းကောင်း၊ NUG (Blue Mark ရထားသော) Facebook Page များမှလည်းကောင်း၊ တိုက်ရိုက်ကူးယူပြီး လှူဒါန်းပေးပါရန် မေတ္တာရပ်ခံအပ်ပါသည်။ (Social Media နှင့် Messaging App များတွင် Share ထားသော Cryptocurrency အကောင့် လိပ်စာများသည် လွှဲပြောင်းမှု ရှိနိုင်ပြီး၊ လှူဒါန်းမှုများ ဆုံးရှုံးနိုင်ပါသည်။)
  - Cryptocurrency ဖြင့် လှူဒါန်းရာတွင် လွှဲပြောင်းသည့် "BUSD" ဦးစားပေး အသုံးပြုပြီး လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။
- အောက်ပါ Cryptocurrency အကောင့်လိပ်စာများကို တိုက်ရိုက်လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။  
 အောက်ပါ QR Code ကို Scan ဖတ်၍ လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။  
 BUSD (BEP20) AddressUSDT (ERC20) Address (ပုံထဲတွင် ရှိပါသည်)  
 (သို့မဟုတ်)  
 Trust Wallet အသုံးပြုသူများအတွက် အောက်ပါလင့်များသို့ဝင်ရောက်၍ လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။  
 BUSD (BEP20) Address:  
<https://link.trustwallet.com/send?coin=20000714...>  
 USDT (ERC20) Address:  
<https://link.trustwallet.com/send?coin=60...>
- [www.unitedxyz.com](https://www.unitedxyz.com) တွင် visa, master, စသည်များဖြင့်လည်း အနုပညာပစ္စည်းများကို ဝယ်ယူအားပေးခြင်းဖြင့် လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။
- Cryptocurrency ဖြင့်လှူဒါန်းကြောင်းကို <https://unitedxyz.com/donation> တွင် ဝင်ရောက်ကြည့်ရှုနိုင်တယ်။  
 အသေးစိတ်ကို PDF File ဖြင့် အောက်ပါလင့်တွင် ဝင်ရောက်ဖတ်ရှုလေ့လာနိုင်ပါတယ်။  
<https://bit.ly/2TnZsdc>

Source: National Unity Government of Myanmar Facebook Page

### Good out of bad

One of the pros and cons is the current political instability in Myanmar. The reliability of citizens upon the banks is declining as a result of the current military coup. In addition, on July 2, 2021, the National Unity Government ( NUG) announced that people would be able to donate money using cryptocurrencies such as Tether (USDT) and Binance (BUSD), leading to a resurgence in the use of digital currencies. As more and more people become interested in a decentralized cryptocurrency, it is gaining traction on social media. Social media users are now no longer familiar with cryptocurrency and are beginning to study with interest. These include the widespread usages and interest of cryptocurrency in Myanmar in the future.

### Far-Reaching Consequences of Using Cryptocurrencies

As described earlier in this article, since the majority of households in Myanmar are living below the poverty line and they do not have easy access to proper tools and information related to technology and finance, it is obvious that they have less knowledge about these issues when it comes to comparing with people in the ASEAN region. Therefore, Myanmar citizens, if cryptocurrencies were legalized, would be faced with a variety of impacts, both advantageous and disadvantageous.

Because of the fact that cryptocurrency is not something similar to fiat money backed and run by the central banks, government and third-party organizations are less likely to control and trace crypto transactions. Moreover, one can prevent his personal data and identities from being hacked and stolen while processing financial payments using crypto coins. However, people who engage with unlawful activities such as drug smuggling, human trafficking, auditing irregularities and fraud may take advantage of these kinds of things to commit large-scale tax evasion, corruption, diverting funds and laundering money. Accordingly, the government needs to introduce specific and functional laws and policies to charge and terminate illegal businesses misusing cryptocurrency.

On the other hand, if a person is to transfer money from one country to another, he will benefit from processing transactions with cryptocurrency because of a comparably less amount of transaction fee and shorter duration period. Despite these reasons, he is likely to be faced with some financial loss due to price fluctuations in crypto coins like BTC, ETH and USDT. Likewise, profit can be generated by predicting frequent price alternations.

## **Conclusion**

In light of what has been said above, Myanmar is still a poor and underdeveloped country compared to its neighbouring countries. To legalize cryptocurrency on the surface, it may seem simple, but from an economic point of view, it literally has many complex implications. In order to expand the use of cryptocurrency in Myanmar, the government needs to have a strong legal and technical infrastructure to protect its users. And also the users need to have sufficient and financial literacy knowledge as well as basic knowledge that is important to live in harmony with modern society. The people of Myanmar, who have been suffering from double crisis for over a year, are now struggling to cope with the current political instability. The immediate recovery from these issues, such as a coup, will definitely have a prominent impact on the future of cryptocurrency in Myanmar.

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