

Constructive role essential in seeking sustainable resolution of Rakhine issue

MYANMAR is still facing several challenges in its delicate democratic transition, which needs continued support from the international community.

The international community must play a constructive role in seeking a sustainable resolution that would lead to peace, stability, and development in Rakhine State, rather than laying the blame on Myanmar.

Sadly, some groups and countries in the UN are continuing to exploit UN agencies to exert discriminatory and illegitimate political pressure, with malicious intent for Myanmar.

One clear example is the establishment of the Independent Investigative Mechanism (IIM) on Myanmar by the Human Rights Council. This action is yet another step in a series of unprecedented and discriminatory scrutinizations of a member State.

We strongly objected to the establishment of the IIM, as it was set up beyond the Council's mandate. It represents selectivity, discriminatory attitudes, and double standards by the UN human rights body. It will only serve the political purpose of those who wish to exploit the HRC for their political agenda.

The Government of Myanmar is committed to accountability in addressing the issue. Therefore, we strongly reject any move to bring the issue before the international judicial system.

Commission of Enquiry (ICoE).

The Commission is carrying out its mandate with independence, impartiality, and objectivity, and is investigating allegations of human rights violations based on hard evidence. The Commission is also requesting access to refugee camps in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh to meet with the alleged victims of abuse. The Commission's work will be evidence-based. Therefore, the international community must support the work of the Commission.

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The international community must stop focusing narrowly on the negative aspects of the Rakhine issue.

Roundtable discussion on upgrading Yangon University

"Yangon University is a historic institution and while we are maintaining it as a historical heritage, we are simultaneously working towards transforming it into a clean, picturesque and vibrant learning environment befitting international standards."

Dr. Poe Kaung, Rector of Yangon University

By News Team

The following is an education roundtable on upgrading and potentially renovating Yangon University, broadcasted on MRTV. The participants include Dr. Maung Maung Wint, Chairman of the Software Committee and former Director-General of the Medical Science Department under the Ministry of Health and Sports, Dr. Poe Kaung, Rector of Yangon University, and Dr. Aung Min, Vice Chairman of the Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science.

Facilitator: Dr. Maung Maung Wint, could you first tell us how the upgrading project was conceived and what processes are included in it?

Dr. Maung Maung Wint: For a time, Yangon University was a prominent academia renowned for its quality of education and standards throughout Southeast Asia since its establishment in 1920.

And now, to meet the educational needs and socioeconomic requirements of modern society, a motion was put forward during the First Pyithu Hluttaw by then MP Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, to renovate the university and facilitate better cooperation with regional and international learning institutions. The Hluttaw approved the motion after a majority voted in favour.

Drafting a Master Plan

Now, this was a national level task which required a sound Master Plan to guide it through. We formed think tanks and committees as necessary and began a draft in 2017. The Steering Committee for this undertaking is chaired by the Union Minister for Education and includes domestic and foreign experts. We have onboard Professor Matei and Sasha from the Hungarian Central European University, the Irrawaddy Policy Exchange, and UK-based Kilburn Nightingale Construction.

As for local experts, we have individuals with a strong background in education, two MPs



from Hluttaw Education Committees, and senior officials from MoE in the relevant committees. We have working committees, a Hardware Committee, Master Plan Drafting Committee, and a University Charter Committee, all working together to accomplish this grand project.

... The second component is fulfilling the requirements of an autonomous university, which YU falls under in accordance with the National Education Law 2015.

Facilitator: Could you elaborate on some of the major components of the Master Plan?

Dr. Maung Maung Wint: The first thing is that the upgraded university will vary greatly from the preexisting one. We will have to refine and reform the administration, management systems, the setup, organizations and policies of the university. The discus-

sions for that are ongoing.

The second component is fulfilling the requirements of an autonomous university, which YU falls under in accordance with the National Education Law 2015.

The third component is managing educational changes, establishing faculty systems, and departments for major subjects. We also have to plan expanding existing departments to accommodate the new centres we will build for them. Another thing to consider is reassessing our existing curriculum to make necessary reviews, revisions, or drafting new ones.

Changes are necessary

The curriculum policies must also be amended to suit the quality of education, develop the national socioeconomic, and ensure smoother student mobility.

Another major component of any university is setting up an internal quality assurance system, which YU sorely needs and is working with topmost priority. We will also increase applied research activities for the students.

We're looking to implement collaboration programmes with external universities, namely Yangon University of Foreign

substantial results.

Facilitator: Could you explain the physical infrastructure and hardware aspects of the project, Dr. Poe Kaung?

Dr. Poe Kaung: The Master Plan is divided into two distinct categories, which are upgrading the education software, and renovating the infrastructure and hardware. Upgrading the education system relies on having the necessary infrastructure and hardware to accommodate them.

Yangon University is a historic institution and while we are maintaining it as a historical heritage, we are simultaneously working towards transforming it into a clean, picturesque and vibrant learning environment befitting of international standards.

Facilitator: Could you continue to elaborate on the important sectors for upgrading the university?

Dr. Poe Kaung: The existing organizational structure and policies of the university need to be reassessed for its ingrained advantages to reform the university's education, administration and management systems so that our Yangon University will be organized as an autonomous university as prescribed in the National Education Law.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

(Translated by Pen Dali)



CONVOCATION HALL OF UNIVERSITY OF YANGON. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 2nd March, 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the South Bay and a few cloud to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 3rd March, 2019: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing Region, Shan and Chin States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3 - 5) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3rd March, 2019: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3rd March, 2019: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3rd March, 2019: Generally fair weather.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Own name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar

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