

Yangon University, our historical heritage

NO ONE would disagree that Yangon University has played a key role in our colonial history, the independence era, the period of democratic uprising, and our modern history.

Most of the great thinkers, inspiring leaders, and political figures of Myanmar have passed through the halls of Yangon University since its establishment in 1920. So much so, that people began to revere the institution and likened its role to that of a nurturing mother.

The university's alumni include national leader U Aung San, Myanmar's first post-independence Prime Minister U Nu, and other historical leaders such as Ko Hla Pe (Bo Lin Kyar), Thakin Thein Pe, Authoritarian Hla Shwe, Thakin Ba Hein, Bo Aung Kyaw, U Ba Swe, and U Kyaw Nyein.

People recognized as the 'faces of Myanmar' such as Sayargyi U Pe Maung Tin, Sayargyi U Khin Zaw (Kay), Sayar Zaw Gyi, Sayar Min Thu

Wun, and Sayar U Myo Min also made the university their home. Other notable alumni of the varsity include U Tin Htut, Dr. Htin Aung, modern historian Dr. Than Tun, Theikpan Maung Wa, Maung Htin, Ludu Daw Amar, Moe Moe Inya, and countless literary figures.

The infrastructure and campus of Yangon University is also a historical and cultural heritage. Who can forget its iconic Convocation Hall, the main Adipati Road, or the library? Not to mention the on-campus residences, such as the Bago Hall, Thiri Hall, Marlar Hall, Inya Hall, Amara Hall, Mandalay Hall, and Dagon Hall, which have

housed many of the country's national figures and people of note.

The Ta Ka Ta, or the Yangon University Students' Union, also took shape in this historic institution, and went on to lead nationwide protests such as the anti-colonial movement, the revolt against authoritarians, strikes in 1974, '75, '76 for U Thant, and the 8888 uprising.

The university is filled with numerous milestones and memories, and the fact that it still stands in all its grandeur indicates its contribution to our nation's integrity, and its place as a significant cultural heritage.

The campus is filled with lush trees that provide ample shade and greenery. Students and teachers will always remember the beautiful fruit-bearing plants and ancient trees that dot the grounds of the university.

Having seen Myanmar's first student rebellion against the unfair university law, Yangon University will be celebrating its centenary next year.

We must preserve our history to establish a strong future. As we welcome the upcoming hundredth anniversary of this prestigious establishment, we would like to urge everyone to consider what needs to be preserved and what must be given higher priority for sustainability.

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MOLIP: Enforcing labor laws, implementing in area of immigration, collecting data of population in line with the National Policy

"We have standards assessment centers under the National Skill Standards Authority to certify individual workers' ability and expertise. In accord with the assessment program to date, 3622 level-1 skilled workers and 472 level-2 skilled workers were granted certifications."

Union Minister U Thein Swe

Interview: Khin Yandana

MINISTRY of Labour, Immigration and Population (MOLIP) is responsible for development of the nation by tripartite cooperation of Government, employer and employee in conformity with the labor laws and implementing in the area of immigration, registration and collecting data of population in line with the National Policy systematically.

The news team met with the Union Minister U Thein Swe for media cover on the Ministry's progress in the 3rd year.

Q: Can you tell us about some of your achievements during your third year in office?

A: Rights and welfare of workers concern the whole nation. From 1 April 2018 to 28 February 2019, there were 9054 posts open in the government offices with 216,391 jobs in the private sector.

There are a total of 269 agencies that help employ people from Myanmar abroad legally. Last year, Myanmar sent up to 228,162 workers abroad. We also helped establish 251 new worker unions, 10 job fairs in 3 regions and states and helped fill 2210 posts.

Q: What are some initiatives to protect Myanmar workers employed abroad?

A: The Ministry is issuing Certificate of Identity to workers currently in Thailand with



Union Minister U Thein Swe. PHOTO: MAY OO MOE

no proper documentation. There were 9 centers and two mobile teams that issued these certificates with 66,412 certificates issued from 11 March 2018 to 30 June 2018 and a total 263,135 OWIC cards issued from 1 April 2018 to 28 February 2019.

For workers who hold the TR-38 card, the Myanmar embassy is now allowing Myanmar passport holders to renew their passports with proper documentation. Myanmar has also signed respective MoUs with the Republic of Korea and Japan to allow workers from Myanmar to have access to employment and training centers there.

Q: What are some policies to protect migrant worker safety?

A: Safety of workers is very important. We are trying to train our Labor Exchange officers, General Administration Officers

(GAD) and Ward and village administrators to be able to provide accurate and relevant information on safe migration to potential migrants and their families. Hopefully, this will help them make more informed choices and avoid human traffickers and other illicit agencies.

Q: What are some programs by the ministry to train skilled workers?

A: We have standards assessment centers under the National Skill Standards Authority to certify individual workers' ability and expertise. In accord with the assessment program to date, 3622 level-1 skilled workers and 472 level-2 skilled workers were granted certifications.

Q: Can you explain more about the national minimum wage initiative and documenting the workforce?

A: Currently, the minimum wage is 600 kyats per hour and 4800 kyats per day. The law doesn't apply to family owned businesses and small businesses under 10 employees. For factories, the minimum wages for workers have been enforced since 2013. We started our data collection for people who were employed in 2015 and will continue to survey in 2019. The survey goes bi-annually and collects up till 14040 households every 6 months.

Q: What about the laws and regulations?



Union Minister U Thein Swe explains the diplomats and officials from UN agencies about the efforts of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

A: There are 14 laws concerning labor laws. We are planning to draft for foreign workers labor bill in Myanmar along with bills on safety and regulations in workplaces. The laws are being discussed in the ministry after getting suggestions from the Office of the Attorney General. The Workplace Safety and Health Bill was ratified by the Second Pyithu Hluttaw 11th regular meeting.

Q: Can you elaborate on the Social Security system in Myanmar?

A: Within the 3rd year of the current administration, there were over 1,239,229 people who were reimbursed medical costs from 32,119 offices. Over 391 million Kyats covered medical costs for 8359 cases and 10,709 million Kyats more paid for 221,859 cases as damages. The ministry is trying to reform our IT system to make things more streamlined and efficient in addition to the medical reform to create a provider-purchaser split system for healthcare. There is also a 2018-2023 project roadmap to eradicate child labor and we are currently drawing up a step-by-step plan to achieve the objectives in the roadmap. There is currently a draft regarding child labor in over

20 industries and 108 sub categories and is expected to come out in early 2019. The National Committee for Eradication of Child Labor is headed by our Vice President.

Q: How about dispute resolution between workers and employers?

A: During our 3rd year in administration, 332 million Kyats and 16,047 USD were awarded to 1219 employees from 68 disputes that were judged by the Council. From the township dispute resolution offices, there were 1173 settlements out of 1275 disputes and 102 transferred to the state level. A total of 1400 million Kyats and 300 USD were awarded to 3756 employees.

Q: There is relaxation on visa restrictions. Can you tell us more about it?

A: There are 12 types of visas for foreigners entering Myanmar. The ministry added two additional types of visa for family and guests of diplomats and added two more countries (Ukraine, Russia) to 53 countries eligible for Visa on Arrival. The VOA is available in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw international airports for different types of visa. Since the implementation of visa on arrival,

ASEAN countries visa free except for Malaysia. Starting October 2018, Myanmar passport holders can visit up Hong Kong and Macau visa-free.

MAPPS (Myanmar Advanced Passenger Processing System) was installed in Yangon International Airport that lets us see Black Listed passengers starting March 2018. Repatriation efforts are also in order with 68 applications for Myanmar citizens approved out of 117 applicants who are reapplying for citizenship after losing it. Foreigner Registration Cards are also being issued with 480 approved out of 590 applicants. We are trying to update our Border Control System (BCS) into international standards at the airports and border gates.

Q: How about reception efforts for people who had to flee due to conflict?

A: There are reception centers for people who are coming back to Myanmar by land or sea. UNDP, UNHCR and our own Ministry is working together as promised in the MoU signed 6th June 2018. The Technical Working Groups have been founded to check whether people coming back have lived in Rakhine or not and are reporting back to the State Counselor's Office.

We are also issuing NV cards. NV card means the Identity Cards for National Verification for a person who is to undergo for scrutiny assessment for citizenship.

There were 67699 NV cards

issued so the people will be able to have an identification card that proves they are Myanmar citizens. For example, from the 89 IDP camps in Kachin, we helped 29351 people apply for new NRC cards due to lost/damage to the cards. The people in Rakhine IDP camps were also given a type of identification.

With the help of NeID system, we were able to collect and account for 2,374,787 people. The ministry is also trying to collect bio data and biometric data starting with the prisons and people in custody of the police from different states and regions.

Regarding the 1 million migrant workers from Myanmar that are currently in Thailand, we were able to scrutinize and confirm for 35780 people out of 39509 applicants. There are committees being formed and consultants hired for an e-government to go online so the ministry will be able to utilize e-ID.

Q: What about the National Census?

A: We publish population data on our website and Facebook. There are forward projections on population here in Myanmar up till 2031. The Ministry also distributes the Micro Data Set on request and maintains the Master Sample Frame from 2014 census. To capture a more accurate population snapshot in 2023, we are planning to have a national census in November.

Translated by Myat Thu



The Immigration Department of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population is providing 24-hour service at the airports.