

PREFACE

Legal Issue on Burma (L.I.O.B). turns 10 years old from this issue but in a different name “Legal Journal on Burma” We owe an explanation to our readers for the change in name and size and apology to its founders. The change in name has been propelled by changes that have taken effect since the birth of the first issue in 1997. Enormous changes have taken place round the world and also in the democracy movement of our country, Burma. The Journal was the creation of a few founders of the BLC Lawyers by profession, who fled the country to escape from the dragnet of the military dictatorship. The need of the hour at that crucial stage was to focus on “Legal Issues” which confronted the people having been brought down under military dictatorship by its brute force. The pro-democratic movement under exile leaders and leaders inside the country took deeper roots. 1990 election and landslide victory of the democratic forces widened the spectrum of the main stream politics.

The lawyers could not remain confined strictly to legal issues. Many Socio economic problems emerged which needed legal interpretation. Slowly in its journey the journal moved into the wider arena. It recorded all the changes and struggles. The change of name is thus more to formalize the broad spectrum in which law is centrifugal. Hopefully with the end of military dictatorship and transition to democracy, the journal will be able to take care of varieties of problems which will be thrown up by historical changes. The collapse of military rule will lead to disappearance of junta. The change is a process of preparation for the future. The change in size is to make it even with our Burmese Journal and lessen the burden in our potential funders. It is with gratitude that we B.L.C acknowledge the pioneering service Friedrich

Naumann Stiftung (F.N.S) has rendered to the cause of the rule of law. Also to the contributors of our journal with expectation that they will continue co-operation.

We are getting ready to be held accountable. The lawyers will have to play a critical role in democratization of the country, nation building from legal aspect and putting the country under the rule of law banishing military rule for ever. The on- going National Convention and the road map has become a focal point in Burmese politics. The country has been ruled without a constitution for nearly half a century. The future constitution of Burma should evolve all inclusive processes focusing on the debate amongst the people. The journal may play a crucial role in exposing the merits and demerits of junta's constitution and its making processes. More importantly, the other major issues of society will also be scrutinized from legal aspect and reported to the international community as the cause has become socio- legal. Our Legal Journal on Burma hopes to meet the aspirations of the people.

Publication Team