

Media freedom must be used with extreme care

IN the time of press freedom, news media should respect and strengthen media professionalism so that journalists can understand how to use press freedom without harming others. Members of the media who do not respect ethics can impact media freedom and cause great harm to society.

When covering events and writing reports while enjoying the freedom of press, the news media not only must stick to timeliness and accuracy, but also strive to produce non-biased reporting. But some foreign media do not follow ethical standards when covering the Rakhine issue.

Regarding media freedom, article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights issued on 10 December 1948 states that: “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”

Indeed, this stipulation is to be accepted, upheld and abided by. Along with the freedom, the concept of accountability and responsibility comes together in finding solutions, and many nations in the world today embrace this trend and work on it.

At a time when we are trying to solve the Rakhine issue, an onerous responsibility has been placed on the media. When covering the Rakhine issue under the spotlight of the international community, it is found that some foreign media covered one-sided reports with extreme bias. The situation in Myanmar

reminds one of the famous proverb - “A lie can travel half-way around the world while the truth is still putting on its shoes.” That situation is not helpful for the authorities and it causes hindrances to the authorities trying to solve the issues. In some cases, some foreign media released their stories based on hearsay without respecting correctness and accuracy.

A few weeks ago, The New York Times journalist Hannah Beech wrote some articles highlighting made-up stories at the refugee camp in Bangladesh in which she said “Blurring fact and fiction at refugee camps risks undermining their case”, which can reveal the truth behind the lies of the some news media.

While making efforts for bringing harmony between the two communities in Rakhine State, the Union Government has released information related to issues in

Rakhine in a timely manner. Regarding the Indin Village issue in which 10 bodies were exhumed from a mass grave, the military authorities have carried out a probe into the case and have taken action against 16 people, including security forces and villagers.

Currently, Myanmar is cooperating with international communities in a constructive manner and is practicing transparency and accountability for the Rakhine issue. Hence, some foreign media should not neglect their professionalism when they cover this sensitive issue. Thus, the given media freedom must be used with extreme care and responsibility.

An elephant sanctuary in the Rakhine Yoma

By Nyi Tu

BY the time our powered schooner got to the sentry post of the Sanctuary adjacent to the Kyaintali Creek, we began to breathe in fresh smells from the forest. We saw several huts in the sentry post not far away from the edge of the creek. Surrounded by thick jungles and high mountains, the Yadanmyaing village is 33 miles away from Gwa township and we proceeded to the edge of the sentry post for 13 miles by powered schooner along the creek.

The location of the sentry post is more than 10 miles from the nearest village and is situated near the boundary of the Sanctuary. Named as the Kyainkhakhon post, it is one of the three sentry posts in Rakhine Yoma elephant sanctuary. It is built along the Kyaintali Creek for easy accessibility to the Rakhine Yoma Sanctuary.

Importance of locality

As the creek streams along the whole south side of the Sanctuary, the sentry post plays an important role in preventing the danger of collapse of the creek edges. Other two important sentry posts are the Bogale and Kyachaung posts. The three sentry posts protect all wild animals including other wild animals roaming about in this sanctuary.

This sanctuary is the first of its kind in Myanmar, according to administrator U San Win of the Rakhine Yoma Sanctuary. “We just want to let the public know this sanctuary is very important for wild elephants. If we cannot control the situation, the wild elephants in the Rakhine Yoma will be threatened with extinction. This sanctuary is also important for wild animals of rare species. Rich grazing for wild animals There are many

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rare animal species in this sanctuary: 40 kinds of mammals including rare Myanmar wild elephants, tigers and bison, 63 kinds of amphibians and reptiles, 26 kinds of butterflies, 28 kinds of freshwater fish and 12 kinds of insects. Naturally-grown trees of 75 kinds include ironwood trees and large timber trees, 11 kinds of orchids, 9 kinds of bamboo, four kinds of cane and 47 kinds of medicinal plants, according to some records.

The Rakhine Yoma elephant sanctuary is ecologically evergreen environment which is covered by 70% of the bamboo forest. On east side of the Sanctuary borders townships of Kyaukin, Myanaung, Ingapu and Laymyetnar and on the south with Gwa township and on the north side with Thandwe township. In 1997 the sanctuary was set aside for wild elephants and legalized in 2002. The area of this sanctuary is over 430,000 acres wide.

Research

While we stayed at the Kyainkhakhon post, we went into thick forest for about eight miles along the Kyaintali Creek. Our three schooners faced strong torrents and sometimes we had to wade through the shallow water. Along the way we went across several small streams with their respective background information on their names.

The location of Rakhine Yoma elephant sanctuary is among the high mountains: narrow creeks and small streams with big blocks of rock in between. The sanctuary is hard to reach on foot but through narrow creeks and small streams.

An atmosphere of serenity

Pointing at high mountains and a grove of bamboo, U Saw Htoo Tha Po, the keeper at the Yoma elephant sanctuary said the atmosphere of

serenity still remains intact: rich pasture for wild elephants naturally and geographically; a place of no threat for wild animals; an area specifically demarcated for the sanctuary; no deforestation; and ecological systems have not dramatically changed.

U Saw Htoo Tha Po, senior coordinator at Wildlife Sanctuary (Myanmar Program), gets deeply involved in the protection of wild elephants and related research. Our 15-member group found the footprints and faeces of wild animals on the way and picked them up for putting on record and doing research. About a hundred of wild elephants are believed by authorities to be roaming about in this sanctuary. This number is inconsistent with scientific way of counting. U Saw Htoo Tha Po explained that scientific research is required to count wild elephants.

Making a list

He has been trying hard to know in coming years to locate where wild elephants graze in the Sanctuary. After knowing the location of grazing ground, the number of wild elephants should be put on record by doing research. Many small groups will have to cover the sanctuary of 400,000 acres within a fortnight by doing research five times during a period of three months. Collecting data get involved in using DNA analysis of their faeces to distinguish between individual animals. The faeces must be sent abroad for further analysis which will cost much. For the time being as they are focusing on the protection of wild animals, the above analyses could be carried out within a period of several years, U Saw Htoo Tha Po pointed out.

Rare species such as elephants, bison, and birds roaming about in this Sanctuary have

been under threat by poachers, according to Sanctuary administrator U San Win. Wild elephants are being killed by poachers in the forest reserves of Gwa and Taungnyo adjoining the Sanctuary. “Hunters from the townships of Kyaukin, Myanaung, Ingapu, and Laymyetnar in Ayeyawady region are found to have invaded to hunt wild animals and poison fish; hunting causes a lot of problems in the region,” according to U San Win.

Beyond control

According to the set-up of the Sanctuary, there are 81 employees; but there currently 25 with 15 going out on patrol. Due to lack of public service personnel, we find it difficult to go on with present

workforce, he continued. With support from Wildlife Sanctuary (Myanmar Program), the employees keep patrolling together with newly-recruited local employees. Wild animals are being protected in cooperation with Myanmar program. The number of rangers are 25 only; they are divided into three groups with each group including eight rangers. They have to patrol the whole area for 20 days only. Sometimes these rangers happen to confront with 20 or so hunters armed with bayonets, guns and a herd of hunting dogs and they have to retreat.

Revelation of evidences

When rangers are on patrol, they sometimes find and seize racks, huts and percussion lock firearms from the hunters. Bison's flesh is found selling in a village near the Sanctuary, it is tantamount to the kill of hunters, employees say. To solve the problems, recruitment of more employees, the extension of more sentry posts, educating local populace and joint patrol with police force are essential elements for effective actions. Rangers on patrol are required to be armed, some advised.

The sanctuary under threat While wild elephants in the Rakhine Yoma Sanctuary are now under threat, a wild elephant is being killed every week across the country, say the keepers for Myanmar Wild Elephants. According to the Forest Department, 140 elephants were killed by poachers from 2010 to 2017. “Even though the Rakhine Yoma Sanctuary is under threat, proper maintenance of the Sanctuary will be beneficial for nature-based tourism. It will pay the way for studying the local fauna and flora; it will also create job opportunities for local populace,” the sanctuary administrator U San Win pointed out.

“As this Sanctuary is a natural habitat for wild elephants, conservation of this wide area is urgently needed” said U Saw Htoo Tha Po, who has been doing research on wild elephants in Rakhine Yoma. ■

Translated by Arakan Sein

Developing Problem based Learning Skill in Young Minds of Myanmar

(This is Third part of my article that was published on 1st February 2018 on “Need of Developing Employability Skills in Young Minds of Myanmar for their Sustainable Career Growth and making the nation Emerging Knowledge Economy”)



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THERE is wonderful quotation by Woods on problem based learning: “Any Learning environment in which Problem drives the Learning, is Problem based Learning”. Yes, Problem is the central theme of this type of skill that is being looked into the candidates while selecting for big organizations. The development of this skill begins therefore with problems. The concept of problem based learning (PBL) should start with “Identification of Problems”, that is not something that could be practiced with rocket science technology or concept but it can be done by anyone, anywhere. We come across various problems during our study; daily life; society; and many other occasions. This becomes important now how we look into the problems; whether we pay attention to the problems that need solution for benefit of many; or we ignore and just have traditional way of thinking; let it be. The “Let it be” syndrome is the biggest barrier in learning PBL. So, PBL can be summarized as student centric rather than teacher centric; it needs role of trainers as guide not teaching everything; PBL caters the learning outcome in small groups that work for solving a suitable problem with brainstorming put in by team work or individual; and most important thing about PBL is being “Self-directed Learning”.

Now let us understand how to develop this PBL in young minds so that they can apply PBL and become competent enough to deal with any unprecedented situations or problems. Here are few major pragmatic ways of developing PBL.

1. Student Centric Learning: Problem should be identified by the students or trainee, not by trainer or teachers. Let the students realize what needs to be solved or addressed. The role of teacher has to be there as mentor or supervisor for helping the students in the development and assessment of PBL.
2. Clarity and Purpose of Problem Identification: The problem being chosen in solving by the students must have its well defined purpose and objective; and the expected benefit of its viable solution. For example, if students have selected a problem of “challenges in rice production in Myanmar”; so the solution must address the problems of the farmers and should contribute in the economic growth of Myanmar.
3. Brainstorming Discussion on Depth of Problem: The problem that students want to solve must have been brought out based on rigorous brainstorming discussion and relevant study of literature. The “Depth” of problem needs to be introspected and studied; rather than Breadth. Depth of problem while thinking in narrowed window gives more clarity and reasons behind selection of that problem.
4. Learn “What I do not know”: It is very important to identify what I do not know. If I can understand and realize what I do not know then I would try to know “what I do not know”. This is wonderful way of becoming self-centric way of thinking and identifying the problems. You have to discover what you need to learn.
5. Be Concerned to Various Issues: Students have to be concerned with various issues that they come across while studying; experimenting; reading; writing; or any activity that “why this cannot be like other way”; could this problem be solved if it is based on rational thinking.

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HIA survey conducted over Mandalay Mountain cable car project

A human impact assessment (HIA) survey has been conducted to implement the Mandalay Mountain cable car project. A detailed report of the survey results will be submitted to the Mandalay Region Government this year, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

To implement the cable car project for Mandalay Mountain, the authorities needed to conduct the HIA and environmental impact assessment (EIA)

surveys.

They have already conducted the HIA survey, while the EIA survey is being conducted.

"We have hired a foreign company to conduct the EIA survey. We will submit the report to the Mandalay Region Government soon.

The detailed report has not been completed yet," said U Soe Naing, director of Sky Dream Co. Ltd.

Upon completion, the Man-

dalay Mountain cable car is expected to attract several local and foreign travellers.

"Initially, we intended to run the cable car from the east golf ground to the Mandalay Mountain car parking.

The estimated cost of the cable car project is US\$20 million. Upon completion of the project, we can create job opportunities for some 200 local people," added U Soe Naing. —GNLM ■

Motorcyclist seriously injured in head-on collision

A 50-year-old man sustained serious injuries in a head-on collision between a motorcycle and a car on Yangon-Pathein Road on Thursday evening, according to a police report.

At around 6p.m. on that day, a car driven by Ye Yint Naing, 23, collided head-on with a motorcycle, on which U

Tun Tun was riding, near the Kyaunggon river crossing, in Pathein District, Ayeyawady Region.

The motorcyclist, U Tun Tun, sustained serious injuries on his head and right leg. He is currently receiving medical treatment at Pathein General Hospital. The police have filed

charges against the two for reckless driving under Section 338 of the Penal Code.

A police officer said the lack of knowledge about traffic rules and the growing number of unlicensed motorcycles and cars on the roads were leading to traffic accidents.—Win Kyaing (IPRD) ■

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6. Practice Rational and Lateral Thinking: Rational thinking is must for developing PBL because you should know how the problem and it's your way of solving affects and has impact on the purpose of the problem with which it was begun. Lateral thinking is always necessary, since it gives you an opportunity; rather it empowers you to think beyond traditional ways. Out of box thinking has to be practiced. Think different and distinguish yourself from others.
7. Pen down the Problem, its Implementation scheme: You get countless opportunities where you feel why this; why not that way. Generally, after sometime we forget and therefore we should always learn to write down the problems that we come across or identify; and also probable ways of solving it if we get some of them instantly.
8. Prepare a list of Possible Solutions, analyze with Time frame and possible outcome: You have to think

different ways of getting solutions of a problem; this may be implementing a small project based on fundamental knowledge of subject that you study. Analyze all possible solutions with suitable time frame how much effort and time would be required to solve the problem. For example, if a student of Physics or Electronics and Communication Engineering studies about how does a condenser mike work; he/she should try to design it with the help of different resources required and should attempt providing better and effective ways of recording the sound; exploiting the characteristics and properties of devices and materials used.

9. Celebrate all Small Success: Whatever you do, be it very small problem solved by you; you always should celebrate its. This gives you immense happiness and self-satisfaction that would further strengthen your efforts to do more and more such endeavors.
10. Increase your Visibility:

You can share what you are doing and what are your findings without discussing much about your methods with your peers and also on social media and other tools. Others would see what your findings are and you are likely to get negative feedback as well as good positive suggestions that would help you in improving the solution that you had been striving to get.

Hope the PBL approach, practiced by young girls and boys; and even working professionals would help in doing wonders in their study and career. PBL practices make us capable of identifying and formulating problems; make decisions and get possible solutions of a problem; analyze and assess the solutions; think deep about an idea or a problem; collaborate with industries and people working in real time problems and their solutions. Finally, each one of us need some of PBL so that we can become good and rational human being. (Please do write for feedback to me at drgrsinha@ieee.org, ganeshsinha@acm.org, gr_sinha@miit.edu.mm). ■

Heroin, opium and Yaba seized in Phaungpyin

POLICE seized heroin, opium and yaba tablets found in a home in Phaungpyin township on 17 February.

Acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of a person, identified as Than Win, at Shwe Htee Kon Kaung Maung village, Phaungpyin township, on 17 February. He was asleep when the police arrived. The police report seizing heroin weighing 80.7 grams, worth Ks8,070,000, 685 Yaba tablets worth Ks 34,250,000 and opium weighing 2,850 gram and valued at Ks 5,235,450.

The police also found Ks 1,540,900, which they described as money from sell-



Suspect Than Win. **PHOTO: HAN TUN (IPRD)**

ing the heroin, opium and Yaba. Charges have been filed against Than Win under section 15/19-A /21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — Han Tun (IPRD) ■

Track vehicle accident injures one

A 12-WHEEL track vehicle with two people on board enroute to Gwa from Yangon, driven by Myo Min Oo, 33, overturned when the brakes failed on Gwa- Yangon road, Gwa town, Rakhine State on 26 February, leaving the driv-

er injured.

Officials said that the failure of the breaks caused the accident between mileposts 23, mile 7 furlong and 24 mile. The police have charged the driver with reckless driving.— Township IPRD ■



Overtuned 12-wheel vehicle seen on Gwa-Yangon Road, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: TOWNSHIP IPRD**

Wild elephant killed in Ngaputaw Township

A wild elephant was killed in Hsinma Forest Reserve, Ngaputaw Township in Ayeyawady Region on 15 February in the afternoon.

Following a tipoff, local forest officials together with policemen, eye witnesses and staff from the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary

Department went to a scene where the wild elephant was killed. The female, six feet and six inches high, elephant is believed to have been cut off into many pieces and it had been skinned. An investigation into the case is ongoing by local police officials.—Police Information ■