

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

The Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science

Annual Newsletter October 2013



The Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science Changes and Development (2012-2013)

The Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science, officially instituted on 16th August 1999, has now entered its 15th year. Over the years it has made sustained efforts to realize its principal objectives of encouraging and promoting research and academic excellence in Myanmar higher institutes of education towards building a modern and democratic nation that has earned a rightful place in the global community. The Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science has, to a considerable extent succeeded in disseminating knowledge and upgrading the standard of scholarship appropriate to a knowledge-based society, though it realizes that much still needs to be done. It



H. E. Dr Mya Aye,
Union Minister for Education

The development of Myanmar lies in their hands and they are the ones who will complete the work of alleviating poverty, of caring for the aged and sick and disabled and they are the hope of Myanmar's future.

The vision and aspiration of the Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science is to

participate in nurturing and educating the next and coming generations; and whatever the difficulties and challenges and however long it may take, the members of the MAAS will pass on the baton from hand to hand.

At its foundation the composition of the Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science consisted of 268 retired university teachers and 449 still in service as members. Of these 24 were then selected as executive committee members to draw up and implement the projects and programmes for the realization of the Academy's goals. But since its foundation the years have taken their toll and today the membership stands at 567.

The President of the MAAS at the time of inception was doyen teacher, administrator and author U Than Oo who in spite of his age gave all of his time and energy to the MAAS till he very recently retired at the age of 85 at the end of July 2013. Vice-President Dr. Hla Wai, Professor U Shwe Thwin and Professor U Hla Tun Aung retired along with him and the two newcomers to the EC of the Academy are Professor Daw Mi Mi Kyi (Geography) and Daw Carole Ann Chit Tha (International Relations). The incoming President is now Professor Dr. Thein Myint (Mathematics) former director-general, Department of Higher Education (Upper Myanmar) as well as Vice President of the MAAS. (See List of EC members page 8)



Outgoing President
U Than Oo



Incoming President
Dr. Thein Myint

is therefore committed to generating the right academic atmosphere that will produce young qualified scientists and technicians, who are innovative and creative and who will be able to expand the frontiers of knowledge. We also need the most able administrators, dedicated educators, keen and competent economists, and the finest legislators and judiciary – young Myanmar with a sense of their history, of moral and social values and yet with sound knowledge of the rest of the world and how to relate to it and to the rest of humanity. For, they are the ones who will carry on with democratic reforms.

It was a privilege to have worked together with outgoing President U Than Oo, Vice-President Dr. Hla Wai and EC members U Shwe Thwin and U Hla Tun Aung and the current EC members take this opportunity to wish them a very happy retirement.

The Annual Research Conference

The Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science, to fulfill its goal of intellectual capacity building, regularly organizes an annual research conference and the 12th Research Conference was held from 24 to 26 October 2012 at various venues of the University of Yangon and the Yangon University of Economics. The main objectives of the conference are to encourage research, provide systematic guidelines, and raise the quality of research to achieve academic excellence. The research conference is open to researchers and academics from all fields. The Best Paper Award presented by the Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science Awards for the best research paper in each field of study is an added incentive. Each paper awarded by the MAAS is supplemented by awards donated by the philanthropic organizations, The Tun Foundation and Thiri Mon Foundation. Papers that are deemed to be up to the standards set by the Academy are also published in the Journal of the Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science. (See list of journals published in 2012).

The opening ceremony of the 12th Research Conference was held at the Arts Auditorium on 24th October 2012. Deputy Minister of Education Dr. Myo Myint gave the opening speech followed by a speech of welcome by the President of the MAAS U Than Oo. It was a well attended occasion with distinguished guests both from at home and abroad including visiting Professor Dr. Frauke Kraas of the University of Cologne Germany and Professor Surapra Bhattacharya (Chakraborti) of the Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies on a short visit from the University of Kolkata. She also presented a paper on academic relations between

India and Myanmar. Present also were education officials from the respective departments of higher education, rectors, pro-rectors, professors and researchers from around the country.

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Acting Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Myint

The Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science Award

The Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science established annual awards for the best Ph D research report and dissertation in the categories of Arts, Science and Social Science as of 2006. The award consists of a citation for excellence, a commemorative plaque and a cash award of Kyat 300,000. The Tun Foundation provided three more similar awards which enabled the MAAS to award six researchers, two in each category.

The Awards Ceremony

The PhD Research Awards and the Best Research Paper Awards were presented at a special ceremony held at the Arts auditorium on 26 October 2012. The awards were presented by the President and EC members of the MAAS and by donors U Thein Tun of the Tun Foundation Bank and a representative of the Thiri Mon Foundation.



Winners of the Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science PhD Research Awards (2012)

Sr./Name / Title of dissertation /
Research Report

Arts Awards

1. **Dr. Aye Aye Khaing**, Lecturer (Geography),
Dagon University
*A Geographical Assessment of Malaria Risk Areas
in Bago Region*
2. **Dr. Lama Lunana**, tutor (Psychology)
*A Study of Personality Profiles and Attitudes of
National Selected Sportsmen*

Science Awards

1. **Dr. Yi Shan**, Professor (Botany), Lashio University,
*Postulation of Leaf Rust Resistant Genes in some
Wheat Cultivars*
2. **Dr. Soe Min**, Asst. lecturer, (Geology),
Taungoo University,
*Structural Study along the Kyaukkyan Fault, Shan
State*

Social Science Awards

1. **Dr. Win Tun**, Assoc. Professor, (Statistics),
Institute of Economics, Yangon,
*Bootstrapping Confidence Intervals: Application
to Forecasting the Productivity of Spirulina*
2. **Dr. Daw Kyi Swe**, Asst. Lecturer, (Teaching
Methodology) University of Education, Yangon,
*Investigation itno the Effectiveness of Inquiry-
based Learning*

Best Paper Awards, MAAS Annual 11th Research Conference -2012

The winners of the Best Research Paper in the
respective fields of study are as follows:

1. Dr. Khin Myo Latt -Myanmarsar/
Myanmar Language and Literature
2. Dr Ne Win Oo - Geography
3. U Zaw Linn Maung - History
4. Dr. San Tun - Philosophy
5. U Than Aung Htwe - Psychology
6. Dr. Nyo Mee Aung - Oriental Studies
7. Dr. Yin Myo Thu - International Relations
8. Dr. Than Palai - Anthropology
9. Daw Khin San Thandar - Archaeology
10. Daw Saw Mya Kyi Tha - Library Science
11. Dr. Hnin Thandar Aung - Chemistry
12. Dr. thet Mar Win - Physics
13. Dr. May Thi Tun - Mathematics
14. Dr. Aung Kyaw Swa Oo - Zoology
15. Dr. Han Su Yin Thet (Yangon University) - Botany
16. Dr. tun Naing Zaw (Taungoo University) - Geology
17. Dr. Seinn Le Aye (West Yangon University)
- Industrial Chemistry
18. Dr. Khin Maung Cho (Patheingyi University)
- Marine Biology
19. Daw Khaing Tinzar Lwin
(Yangon University of Economics)
- Commerce
20. Dr. Thi Thi Lwin (Pyay University) - Law
21. U Johnny Than (Yangon University of Education)
- Teaching and Learning Methodology
22. Dr. Maung Maung Swe (Pyay University)
- Linguistics
23. Ma Thida Maw (PhD Student in Computer Science)
- Computer Science

All research papers that meet the criteria set by
the MAAS are published in the Journal of the Myanmar
Academy of Arts and Science



Collaboration between the MAAS and the OSF in 2012

MAAS President and members attend Joint Board Meeting of the OSF

The Chairman of the OSF Mr. Jorge Soros has taken a personal interest in this project for collaboration and the OSF invited President of the MAAS U Than Oo, member Dr. Thet Lwin and Professor and Head of the Law Department Dr. Khin Mar Yi to attend the Joint Meetings of the Boards of the Open Society Foundations held on September 12th and 13th 2012 at the Sofitel Chain Bridge Hotel in Budapest, Hungary. They had the opportunity to meet Chairman Mr. Soros for informal discussions. U Than Oo and Dr. Khin Mar Yi presented their views on teaching and research in the arts and social sciences. The Myanmar visitors were then taken on a tour of the Hungary Academy of Sciences of the Central European University and its library. When U Than Oo made a comment that Myanmar needed such a fine library in Myanmar he was told they had already established contact with the Cornell University Library for aid and assistance and that plans were already in the pipeline to upgrade the Central Universities' Library in Yangon. Later, discussions were held with Professor Jacque Fremont and other responsible members and it was resolved at this

meeting to conduct a workshop on Design and Methods of Social Research for University Faculty in Myanmar in November 2012.

The Design and Methods of Social Research Workshop for University Faculty

The agreement made between the Open Society Foundations and the Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science to collaborate in endeavours for intellectual capacity building in the Humanities and the Social Sciences led to the first round-table discussions held in The Diamond Jubilee Hall of the University of Yangon from the 25th to 28th June 2012 with the Theme, Building Social Sciences and Humanities for Myanmar: Enhancing Intellectual Capacity for Teaching, Learning and



Professor Nancy N. Chen with smiling participants



Participants at work

Research

This was followed by The Design and Methods of Social Research Workshop for University Faculty from 26th to 28th November 2012. Two hundred faculty members from universities across the country participated with interest and enthusiasm in the workshop which was conducted by researchers and scholars affiliated to the Open Society Foundations. The goal was to raise the quality of research undertaken in Myanmar universities. The workshop was a resounding success and since then visiting professors of OSF have been conducting short courses on research and teaching in the arts and social sciences of Yangon University such as Law and International relations.

MAAS members U Thi-Ha, Dr. Thet Lwin and Daw Kyi Kyi Hla were the liaison between the universities and the OSF >>



Extra-curricular Activities of MAAS EC Members

- ➔ Vice-President Dr. Thein Myint attended the National Education Development Conference held at Nay Pyi Taw from 17 to 19 September 2012.
- ➔ Vice-President Dr. Thein Myint represented the MAAS at a conference under the heading Global Education Dialogue: Asia Series held from 27 to 28 September 2012 in Hong Kong. It was sponsored by the British Council and attended by delegates from Australia, China, Japan, the Philippines, Thailand, Britain, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao.
- ➔ Vice-President Dr. Thein Myint and EC member U Kyaw Myint Oo attended the meeting of the Committee for Renovation and Raising the Standard of the University of Yangon (Main Campus) held at Building No. 1 (12) of the Pyitthu Hluttaw Complex at Nay Pyi Taw on 12 December 2012.
- ➔ President U Than Oo, Vice-President Dr. Thein Myint, EC members U Tin Nyo and U Myint Han attended the Coordination Meeting on Drawing Up New Syllabi and Lesson Plans for the Basic Education Sector held at the Ministry of Education Meeting Hall at Nay Pyi Taw on 26 December 2012.
- ➔ President U Than Oo and Vice-President Dr. Thein Myint in their capacity as National Advisers/Consultants of the Comprehensive Educational Sector Review (CESR) Project and Director-General of the Higher Education Department/Secretary of the MAAS U Zaw Htay together with EC members U Tin Nyo and U Myint Han attended a meeting held from 28 to 30 January 2013 to discuss the first draft of the CESR Report held at the Office of the CESR of the Myanmar Educational Research Bureau.
- ➔ President U Than Oo, Vice-President Dr. Thein Myint, EC members U Kyaw Myint Oo, U Myint Han, Daw Yi Yi Myint and Dr. Thet Lwin attended the Workshop on Raising the Standard of the Basic Education Sector convened by the Ministry of Education at the Office of the Ministry of Education at Nay Pyi Taw from 18 to 20 February 2013.
- ➔ President U Than Oo chaired a Workshop on the Copyright Act held at the meeting hall of the Myanmar Film Association on 24 February 2013. Representatives of The World Intellectual Property Organization had once visited and held discussions with MAAS members. The goal of the Workshop was to enable the drafting of a new updated Copyright Act for deliberations in the Hluttaw.
- ➔ President U Than Oo and Vice-President Dr. Thein Myint were invited to attend the meeting held by the Pyitthu Hluttaw Committee for Raising the Standard of Education in Myanmar held on 6 March 2013 at the Office of the Pyitthu Hluttaw of the Union of the Republic of Myanmar.
- ➔ EC member U Kyaw Myint Oo represented the MAAS at a meeting held at the Pyitthu Hluttaw to raise the educational standard of the University of Yangon on 12 March 2013. The meeting was chaired by Pyitthu Hluttaw member Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Four visiting scholars from Australia and 12 members of the Committee for Raising the Educational Standard of the University of Yangon also participated in the meeting.
- ➔ EC members U Tin Nyo and U Myint Han attended a Conference on Raising the Quality of Education in the Basic Education Sector held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall from 23 to 25 April 2013.
- ➔ EC member Daw Yi Yi Myint represented the MAAS at the 13th Meeting of the Asian Council of Science held at Bangkok from 7 to 9 May 2013.
- ➔ Vice President Dr. Thein Myint, Secretary U Zaw Htay, EC members U Myint Han and Dr. Thet Lwin attended a workshop on EMPOWERING HIGHER EDUCATION; A Vision for Higher Education in Myanmar, sponsored by the British Council and held at the Thingaha Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw from 29 to 30 June 2013.

Participants and leader Prof. Nancy N. Chen (Middle, in Myanmar dress)

>> contingent while Rector of the University of Yangon Dr. Tin Tun was responsible for all logistics concerning the workshop.

The MAAS goes on record to thank the Open Society Foundations for its substantial support and encouragement in enhancing the research capabilities of university teachers in the Arts and Social Sciences; it has helped Myanmar in its efforts to establish an open society through its educated citizenry.

OSF Chairman Jorge Soros visits Myanmar

Chairman Mr. Jorge Soros later visited Myanmar and met with President U Than Oo, Rector of the University of Yangon Dr. Tin Tun and other faculty members on 1 May 2013 at the reception room of the Arts Hall of the University of Yangon.

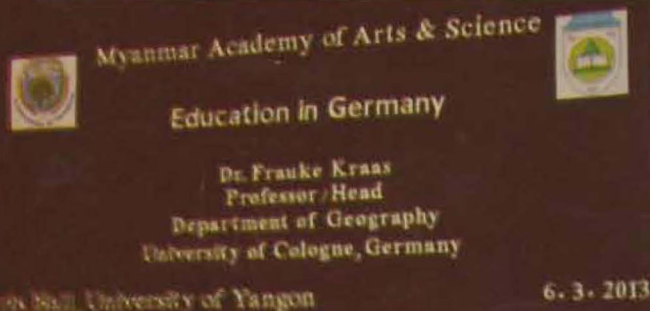


<< Mr. Jorge Soros, President U Than Oo and Rector Dr. Tin Tun in a group photo

Talks and Panel Discussions

Talk

Talks and discussions in one form or another are usually scheduled twice a month, but this year because many EC members had been assigned tasks to participate in other forums in connection with educational reforms both at home and abroad the MAAS could organize only one talk and one panel discussion



Education in Germany

Dr. Frauke Kraas, Professor and Head of the Department of the University of Cologne, Germany, was invited to give a talk on Education in Germany at the Arts Auditorium of the University of Yangon on 6-3-2013. It was well attended by teachers and students from many universities in Yangon and there was a lively Q & A session following the talk.



Regular Meetings

Monthly EC Meetings

Monthly meetings of the executive committee members of the MAAS are held on the first Wednesday of each month and depending on what has been scheduled other meetings are held as and when necessary. EC members also attend office at least twice a week each to oversee the daily office routine and to meet visitors.

Meetings with MAAS members

The President and EC members keep in constant touch with other MAAS members and regularly hold meetings with retired professors who, as MAAS members, head each disciplinary group and with current professors and heads of department who are the conveners for MAAS activities.

- Thus President of the MAAS U Than Oo and Vice-President Dr. Thein Myint went to Mandalay and met with the heads and conveners of each discipline of Upper

Myanmar universities on 23 January 2013. The meeting was also attended by the Deputy-Director General of Higher Education (Upper Myanmar)

- A similar meeting was held for the heads and conveners of various disciplines at the Yangon University Arts Hall Meeting Chamber on 1 March 2013. The Director General of the Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) and rectors, professors of universities in Yangon Region also attended the meeting.

Publications -(2012 - 2013)

1. Journal of the Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science
 - Volume XI, Nos. 1. - Chemistry, Industrial Chemistry
 - Volume XI, Nos. 2 - Physics
 - Volume XI, Nos. 3 - Mathematics, Computer Science
 - Volume XI, Nos. 4 - Zoology
 - Volume XI, Nos. 5 - Botany
 - Volume XI, Nos. 6 - Geology, Geography



- Volume XI, Nos. 7 - Myanmar Literature
 - Volume XI, Nos. 8 - Myanmar Language, Foreign Language (English), Oriental Studies & Library Science
 - Volume XI, Nos. 9 - History, International Relations, Archaeology, Anthropology & Philosophy
 - Volume XI, Nos. 10 - Psychology, Education, Law & Economics
2. Teaching in Higher Education: A Few Pointers by U Thi-Ha, EC member
 3. Introduction to Academic Degrees, Academic Papers and Referencing Systems by Dr. Hla Wai Vice President, MAAS



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UMFCCI

Economic Forum

Foreign Direct Investment: Opportunities and Challenges

The Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science, the UMFCCI and the Yangon University of Economics in collaboration, organized an economic forum on the opportunities and challenges that confront foreign direct investment. The forum was held at the UMFCCI Office Tower on 20 July 2013. President of the MAAS U Than Oo gave the opening address and Vice-President of the UMFCCI gave a welcoming speech.

MAAS President U Than Oo chaired the forum and the panelists were;

- (a) U Hla Maung - Ambassador (Retd.) - Foreign Direct Investment and the Flow of Regional FDI
- (b) Daw Khine Khine Nwe - Member, Myanmar Investment Commission - Foreign Direct Investment Law, Implementation and Impact
- (c) Dr. Aung Tun Thet - Member, Myanmar Investment Commission - Foreign Direct Investment: Opportunities and Challenges

Discussion - Dr. Thet Lwin, EC member MAAS This was followed by a stimulating Q and A session



Foreign Scholars and Educators Meet and Hold Discussions with MAAS Members



Members of the Science Council of Japan and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)



Mr. Kenneth King of the British Council meets with MAAS members on 6-3-13

Executive Committee of the MAAS

| No. | Name | Degree | Subject | Duties |
|-----|--------------------------------------|------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | Dr. Thein Myint (D.G. Retd.) | PhD | Mathematics | President |
| 2. | U Sein Min (Prof. Retd.) | MSc | Mathematics | Vice-President (Science) |
| 3. | Dr. Thet Lwin (Prof. Retd.) | PhD | Statistics | Vice-President(Science) |
| 4. | Daw Kyi Kyi Hla (Prof. Retd.) | MA | Philosophy | Vice-President(Art) |
| 5. | U Zaw Htay (D.G. DHLE) | MBA | Economics | Secretary |
| 6. | Dr. Lwin Lwin Soe (Rector, UFL, Ygn) | PhD | English | Jt.Sec. (Arts) |
| 7. | Dr. Tin Tun (Rector, YU) | PhD | Zoology | Jt.Sec.(Science) |
| 8. | | | | Jt.Sec.(Science) |
| 9. | U Myine Thant (Prof. Retd.) | MA | Myanmar | Member |
| 10. | U Thi-Ha (Prof. Retd.) | MA | English | Member |
| 11. | Dr. Mi Mi Kyi (Prof. Retd.) | PhD | Geography | Member |
| 12. | Daw Sein Sein (Dir.Retd. D.H.E) | MA | Anthropology | Member |
| 13. | U Kyaw Myint Oo (Rector, Retd.) | MSc | Zoology | Member |
| 14. | Dr. Myo Thant Tin (Dir. Retd.) | PhD | Chemical Engineering | Member |
| 15. | Daw Yi Yi Myint (Prof. Retd.) | MBA | Business Admn. | Member |
| 16. | Dr. Daw Than Nwe (Prof. Retd.) | LLM, DLitt | Law | Member |
| 17. | U Tin Nyo (D.G. Retd.) | MEd | Education | Member |
| 18. | Daw Carole Ann Chit Tha (Dir. Retd.) | MA | History | Member |
| 19. | U Myint Han (D.G. Retd.) | BSc, BEd | Education | Member |

University academic staff attached to the MAAS.

1. Daw Aye Aye Khine –Lecturer, Department of Mathematics,
University of Yangon (2010-)
2. Daw Mi Mi Lay – Lecturer, Department of Chemistry,
University of Distance Education (2010-)

