



Cetana Educational Foundation
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Cetana president Chenault Spence just returned from a month-long visit to our learning centers in Myanmar. In this Newsletter we focus on two exciting new partnerships that were promoted on his recent trip.

A New Cooperative Venture in Kampelet

Kampelet is an isolated, mountainous town in western Chin State, about 90 miles from historic Bagan. A former British hill station where the Raj sent their families during the hot, humid months, it's a several hours drive to Mt. Victoria, which is noted for its mountains and jungles. Chin, who call themselves "mountain people," are among the poorest in Myanmar.

Cetana president Chenault Spence was invited to visit Kampelet by Americans from Metta Partners who support the Metta Geha orphanage and by the local Parahita Committee of local leaders that oversees the orphanage. Around 60 children, who come from poor villages surrounding Kampelet, live in the orphanage and attend local schools.

The Committee seeks to give residents of this remote community a window on the larger world and opportunities to gain employment in tourism.



***Metta Geha Director, Tui Tui
With the Children***



Kampelet High School Students

While youngsters now attend English classes in the government schools, fluency is not a realistic prospect. With only enough textbooks for teachers, lessons are written on the blackboard and copied by students. Instruction focuses on memorizing items that will be on the matriculation exam, with no opportunities for listening or speaking.

Cetana has been invited to augment Kampelet's education resources. This spring, Cetana, together with Metta Partners, will send a supply of the standard English text books so that each student will have a copy. The teachers will also have supplemental materials which they have requested in order broaden their classroom activities.

Through 2016, Cetana will work with the Parahita Committee to plan courses for local English teachers who teach in the primary, middle and high schools. Classes will be introduced in 2017 for the two-month summer break. Teacher trainers will also work with the youngsters at the orphanage and will hold evening English classes for local adult residents and high school graduates who plan to attend college.

The English teachers in the government schools are all enthusiastic about the prospect of receiving additional training. We look forward to this as the first step in creating a learning center especially suited to the local condition in Kampelet. It will serve as a model for the way that Cetana can serve isolated communities around the country.



A Remote Village Near Kampelet



Teachers in Kampelet met with Metta Partners and Cetana to Plan a Training Program

FACEBOOK

Students and prospective students will soon be able to engage in back-and-forth communication on Cetana's Facebook page.

The page will be managed by Myo Maw, administrator of Cetana's IT department and the youthful Lugiyo, former assistant to Cetana's Executive Director

Cetana is a Partner in a New English Language College in Yangon

Parami College of the Liberal Arts and Sciences is a new, four-year residential college that is being established in Yangon. Parami will recruit students from all over the country to create a diverse student body that reflects hopes for a more unified Myanmar. Poor, rural students will be helped to transition from traditional rote learning to the modern, critical thinking regime. Cetana expects to participate by providing pre-college English language and critical thinking courses to prepare students for Parami's rigorous liberal arts and science curriculum. Parami's goal is to produce a new generation of global thinkers and leaders who have a deep sense of social responsibility and the skills to contribute to an emerging Myanmar.

Cetana board member Kyle Anderson, along with his Burmese colleague Kyaw Moe Tun, are spearheading this ambitious venture. These two educators are natural collaborators. Kyle is a professor of Asian Studies at Centre College, Danville, Kentucky who promotes interactions between his college students and those in Myanmar. Recently Centre College students collected hundreds of books for Cetana libraries in our learning centers. Kyaw Moe Tun graduated from the Pre-Collegiate Program (PCP) in Yangon before earning a B.A. from Bard College at Simon's Rock and then a Ph.D from Yale. He is now on the science faculty at PCP