

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FROM BURMA



Opening Ceremony for the fall class at Cetana Academic Program in English at the Myanmar Institute of Theology. The students are drawn from the Business Administration Program, Liberal Arts Program and the Theology Department as well as the neighborhood.

One of the great pleasures from my work with Cetana is the trips to Myanmar/ Burma to work with the administration, teachers, students and members of the community.. The daily program of attending classes, visiting with alumni of the Learning Centers and Scholarship Program, and meeting with community leaders, NGO staff, and friends of Cetana both informs and gives opportunity to understand our impact. To a person, those whom I met with offered help with the smooth leadership transition for Cetana. Cetana is thriving! The move of our headquarters school to the northern part of Yangon went smoothly and students are hard at work perfecting their English. At our second Yangon learning center, on the Myanmar Institute of Theology campus, we have so many students (130 in the current class) that we need to find more room for them. This Center, originally created for Business Administration Students has gained popularity throughout the school and for students from the district.

Our newest learning center, in Patheingyi, has completed its first class and the students are eager to improve their English language skills. The new building that will house the center in Kyaing Tong is nearing completion.

As many of you know, Tin Hla Kyi (Joan), our so very capable executive director for the last ten years is stepping down and our able program director, Kyaw Kyaw Thac, is leaving to pursue a PhD in business. In this period of transition, Cetana is fortunate to have on our Search Committee a group of outstanding Burmese leaders in the fields of education, business and social development. We are undertaking a wide search for candidates and expect to have made an appointment by mid-year, 2014.

This change comes at a pivotal point for Cetana. As Burma moves to join the international community, the need for English language fluency is urgent. We are reacting to this urgency by planning for new learning centers, and creating the capacity to train teachers from other institutions in the most modern techniques for teaching English. We are looking forward to having computers in all our learning centers.

State-sponsored public schools and universities are not equipped to teach English effectively. Cetana, with our reputation for quality teaching of English in a critical thinking framework and our focus on keeping tuition rates affordable is positioned to fill the gap.

What comes across in this visit to Burma is Cetana's good fortune in having former Cetana Scholars who are eager to help us grow and prosper. Several serve on the Myanmar Board of Directors and others assist with activities to promote the work in Myanmar. The stories of their success, which will be regularly featured on the website, are an inspiration to other students and a strong testimony to the worth of our endeavors.

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An emergent Burma and its ambitious young people are an inspiration for all of us.

All of us at Cetana thank you for your support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cheryl". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



Students from the summer program for junior high school students in Pathein stopped by on the way to school to greet the guest from the United States



Tin Hia Kyi (Joan) Executive Director, Cetana Myanmar and Kyaw Kyaw Thac, Program Coordinator sporting tee shirts with the logo of the Pathein Learning Center.



Brang San Awng - Graduate of the Cetana English Proficiency Center and student at Myanmar Institute of Theology. From Kichin State.



Kyaw Oo - Cetana Scholar who studied forestry in Thailand and is a specialist in sustainability of virgin forest land and commercial tree crops. From Chin State