

CETANA news

human resources for myanmar's future



CETANA ENGLISH PROFICIENCY CENTER NEARS MOVE TO DOWNTOWN YANGON

Improving the quality of English of students from all parts of Myanmar has been the goal of the Cetana English Proficiency Center since it opened six years ago, in June 1999. It had become clear at that time that students needed to improve their ability to speak, write and comprehend if they were to succeed in classrooms abroad.

As of last spring, the CEPC counted 1,500 "graduates" of its intensive, interactive immersion courses in English. About 350, on average, are enrolled each year. A good number of those have gone on to study at colleges and universities in the United States and Asia.

Now, in December, the CEPC will move from its present crowded space in residential Yangon to new more spacious quarters downtown in a new building of the Yangon YMCA. On a single floor with about 50 percent more space, the Center will house classrooms, a library, a computer room for use of interactive programs, a meeting room and a room for teachers.

Since its first term, the school has so increased in popularity that its present four classrooms bulge with 80 to 100 students each three-month, 200-hour term. They come eager to speak, listen, write and interact entirely in English, four hours every day, five days a week.

Some are students fresh from high school; some are attending advanced courses elsewhere; and some are post-graduate doctors and engineers. The program prepares students not only for foreign study in English, but also for jobs with international companies or international non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

MAI PHOYBOB, BEREA COLLEGE, KY, USA:

"CEPC NOT ONLY IMPROVED MY ENGLISH, BUT ALSO TAUGHT ME LEADERSHIP, FRIENDSHIP AND SELF CONFIDENCE THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN CLASS ACTIVITIES, DEBATE AND PRESENTATIONS."



CLASS AT CEPC BEFORE MOVE

FALL 2005

EDUCATION FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN MYANMAR CETANA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION provides educational opportunities for the people of Myanmar, through scholarships for study in Asia and the United States and through resource and professional development. The Foundation is nonsectarian, working without regard to religion, race or ethnicity, and entirely independent of the governments of Myanmar or the United States. The Foundation is a public charity, a 501(c)(3) foundation, as defined by the United States Internal Revenue Service. **CETANA** is a Burmese word meaning "goodwill, benevolence without recompense, service to others or one's country."

Classes are offered at the Elementary, Intermediate, Upper Intermediate and Advanced levels. Students may come for one term or work their way up through all four. The CEPC has introduced participative study skills and critical thinking, through debate, speech-giving, book reports, and presentations. Computers for self study, audio-taped books and videos allow students to test their listening skills and learn accurate pronunciation.



SELF TEACHING BY COMPUTER

**KHIN THANDAH HTUN,
CENTRAL PHILIPPINES UNIVERSITY:**

“ LEARNING AT THE CEPC GAVE ME A REMARKABLE EXPERIENCE. IT BROUGHT OUT IN ME THE CONFIDENCE I NEEDED AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE. ”

CEPC management includes teachers who are retired senior lecturers from English departments of the universities. Popularity of the courses has allowed daily operations to become self-sustaining, as well as to provide a few scholarships to students who could not afford the fees.

With the new location providing easy access downtown, the CEPC should experience an even greater flow of students. Long-range offerings may include an English-language library open to the public, classes available after work, and counseling of students who wish to attend schools overseas. It seems the sky's the limit for the CEPC.

ETHELYN PANKRATZ TO SERVE AS INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN CETANA RESTRUCTURING

In September, the Board of Trustees of the Cetana Educational Foundation voted to install as Interim Executive Director Ethelyn G. Pankratz, of Portland, Oregon, a consultant in the management of non-profits, with years of experience in leading nonprofits in Oregon and wide recognition for her achievements.

This interim position is an important step the Foundation has undertaken to provide for its long-term future. Since its start-up in 1993, members of the Board have handled, as volunteers, all U.S. operations. Ethelyn Pankratz, as Executive Director will offer an interim buffer as Cetana moves out from the shelter of its founders. The Board will learn much about its administrative potential under her guidance, while at the same time conducting a search for a new, younger, full-time, professional Executive Director, to be in place by the summer of 2007.



ETHELYN PANKRATZ

That search is coordinated by John Young, who has carried the ball as Executive Director from the beginning. He points out that the job has become highly demanding as Cetana's programs have grown in number and size. He will continue on the Board as Secretary and assist in providing a smooth transition. He brings to the table his deep interest in Myanmar, his creativity as a long-time photo journalist, and his nonprofit experience in disaster relief for the American Red Cross.

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JOHN YOUNG





CETANA SCHOLARS (L TO R, FRONT) KYAW MOE AUNG, PHYU PHYU LIN, AND MYO THET NWAI RECEIVED MASTER'S DEGREES IN JUNE FROM ASIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, BANGKOK. PROF. U KYAW THAN, ADVISOR TO CETANA SCHOLARS IN BANGKOK, AND JEAN DICKASON, CETANA PRESIDENT (BEHIND THEM), ATTENDED THEIR GRADUATION.

BRIEFLY>>>

- ▣ Four new students – an undergraduate in the U.S. at DePauw University and three graduate students in Bangkok at Asia Institute of Technology – have joined our active students, bringing the total to 21 receiving Cetana’s support this year.
- ▣ The Kachin version of the trilingual dictionary should appear in December, printed as required by a Kachin printer who will handle distribution in the Kachin State as well as more broadly. The Karen version is now available in color for sale in the U.S.
- ▣ Cetana will sponsor a one-day symposium on “The Arts of Burma” in April 2006, with talks on “The Ancient Arts of Pagan,” “The Crafts of Burma,” and “Contemporary Painters of Myanmar.” Watch for an announcement!
- ▣ Cetana’s Executive Director may change, but not our address, which will remain: Cetana Educational Foundation, 90 Mt. Lucas Road, Princeton, NJ 08540.

SEVERAL RETURNED CETANA ALUMNI GATHER IN YANGON: (L TO R, TOP ROW) KHIN MAE SHIN, AYE AYE OHN, EI EI CHAW, NANCE AYE AYE YU, KHIN KHIN KYI. (L TO R, FRONT ROW) DR. HLAING MIN SWE, SAI NAWNG HKIO, NIXON EWAY, HTOO HTOO WAH.



DISASTER RELIEF IS FOCUS OF TWO CETANA ALUMNAE

Two Cetana alumnae are working in disaster relief, serving Myanmar and all of Southeast Asia. Both are based in Thailand.

May Nwe Nwe Aung, who received an M.A. from Asia Institute of Technology (AIT) in Women and Gender Studies, is Regional Disaster Risk Management Programme Officer of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent, based in Bangkok.

This role, she says, gives her “an opportunity to serve not only my native Myanmar Red Cross but also other National Societies targeting all kinds of vulnerable citizens who are afflicted by natural disasters.” Her role also includes dealing with population movement issues, such as refugees, migration, trafficking and smuggling.

Mu Mu Kyi, who was an MBA recipient from AIT, has joined the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center in Thailand, where she is training, among others, 20 individuals from Myanmar in disaster preparedness. In Yangon, she worked previously as manager of Capacity Building Institute in Yangon, which trains workers for the more than 40 human services agencies, or non-governmental organizations, operating in Myanmar.

CETANA NEWS

CETANA SCHOLARS: ALUMNI RETURNED TO MYANMAR

Twenty of 31 Cetana alumni have returned to Myanmar; an additional three have plans to return.

ALUMNI RETURNED TO MYANMAR

kyaw moe aung

Cetana Support: Asia Institute of Technology (AIT), M.A. Telecommunications

ei ei chaw

Cetana Support: AIT, M.A., Women and Gender Studies > Present: Manager, World Vision (NGO), program for repatriation of women from Thailand

rocky sein dwe

Cetana Support: Assumption University M.A., Teaching of English as a Second Language (TESL) > Present: Working as a capacity building officer at People Living with HIV/AIDS project, Myanmar Council of Churches; Cetana Advisory Board

nixon eway (UBCHEA)*

Cetana Support: AIT, M.A., Computer Sciences > Present: Director, Computer Center, Myanmar Institute of Theology (MIT), Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies (BARS)

sai nawng hkio

Cetana Support: Assumption University, M.B.A. > Present: World Vision – prevention of trafficking

naw pa saw htee

Cetana Support: AIT, M.B.A. > Present: Now working in Singapore; former Researcher, Design, Monitoring and Evaluation, World Vision, Myanmar

khin khin kyi

Cetana Support: Linfield College, Oregon, B.A., Music > Present: Music teacher in the BARS program, MIT

mu mu kyi

Cetana Support: AIT, M.B.A. > Present: Trainer, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Thailand; previously with Capacity Builders Institute (NGO), Myanmar

phyu phyu lin

Cetana Support: AIT, M.A., Women and Gender Studies > Present: Assistant lecturer in business and in gender courses, Myanmar Christian Institute of Technology; has M.B.A.

myo thet nwai

Cetana Support: AIT, M.B.A. > Present: General Manager, J & J Timber Co., Ltd. (Korean) wood products manufacturing and trading

aye aye ohn (UBCHEA)*

Cetana Support: Assumption Univ., M.A., TESL > Present: English teacher, MIT / BARS program

cynthia tin oo, (md)

Cetana Support: Harvard University, M.P.A. > Present: President, Yin Thway Foundation; Global Education Leadership Council of Save the Children (US); Cetana Board of Directors

tha zin oo (md)

Cetana Support: Mahidol University M.A., Public Health

kyaw win sein (md)

Cetana Support: Mahidol University, M.A., Public Health

khin mae shin

Cetana Support: Assumption University, M.B.A. > Present: MicroCredit project, World Vision; Cetana Advisory Board

hlaing min swe (md)

Cetana Support: Mahidol University M.A., Tropical Diseases > Present: HIV/AIDS Prevention, UN Development Programme

thandar swe

Cetana Support: Assumption University, M.B.A. > Present: Manager, Rural Development, Project MicroCredit, Save the Children, (US) ; completed one-year economic development program, Williams College, Mass., U.S., 2005; Cetana Advisory Board

htoo htoo wah (UBCHEA)*

Cetana Support: Assumption University M.A., TESL > Present: Teaching English, BARS program, MIT

nance aye aye yu

Cetana Support: AIT, M.B.A. > Present: With German company, Myanmar

nah eh ywa

Cetana Support: AIT, MA, Rural Development > Present: Community development assistance manager in border regions, Total Oil Co.

ALUMNI PLANNING TO RETURN TO MYANMAR

may nwe nwe aung

Cetana Support: AIT, M.A., Women & Gender Studies > Present: Regional Disaster Risk Management Programme Officer, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent, covering Myanmar and Southeast Asia

naw wah wah htoo

Cetana Support: AIT, M.A. Engineering > Present: Working for Thai company while her husband completes his AIT studies

thet mar win

Cetana Support: Linfield College, Oregon, B.A., Political Science > Present: Finishing M.A. in International Studies, U. of Oregon; will pursue Ph.D. in Education Leadership

*United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia. UBCHEA has engaged Cetana Foundation to manage its grants to scholars from Myanmar.



DEAR FRIENDS OF CETANA,

As we enter our 12th year, I'm pleased to introduce you to Ethelyn Pancratz, who will become our Interim Executive Director as Cetana Educational Foundation moves from an all-volunteer operation to one that is professionally run (see article). Ethelyn brings us in-depth experience in leading non-profits, and a keen interest in Myanmar.

She will take over from John Young, who has managed all the details of our growing organization with grace and competence since its inception. His contribution has been invaluable – and, he will continue to contribute.

As you will see in this issue, our alumni returning to Myanmar with diverse kinds of training are multiplying. But so are needs, such as training in speech, occupational and physical therapies and special education. On my June visit, we discovered programs in Malaysia in these fields. Cost: about \$2,500 a year per student.

We are experiencing an overwhelming interest in our programs, but our response can be determined only by the level of support from you, our donors. We hope you'll consider covering all or part of a student's costs, a gift of securities or a gift in your will. Contributions, of any size, are, of course, always welcome.

*Thank you for all you do.
Jean Dickason*

SPECIAL NEWS: The Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005, which the president recently signed into law, raises the current federal income tax charitable deduction limit from 50 percent of adjusted gross income to 100 percent of AGI. For donors who have given to the 50 percent limit, this change offers new donation opportunities. And while Cetana would not wish to siphon money away from hurricane relief, the higher giving limit makes no distinctions between charities. But note, please, the higher deduction opportunity lasts only until 31 December 2005. Important: If you think this opportunity might be right for you, please consult with those who advise you on such matters before you act.

FINANCIAL MARKETS STALLING? CONSIDER A STOCK GIFT TO CETANA

By John Cederholm, Treasurer

With devastating hurricanes driving energy prices higher, and consumer confidence lower, now is a good time to consider a gift of appreciated securities to Cetana. By transferring securities directly to Cetana, you avoid all capital gains taxes while receiving a charitable deduction for the value of the donated securities.

Typically, when reviewing a portfolio for possible stocks to donate, stocks are chosen that have been held the longest and have grown often to several times the original investment. They frequently represent a disproportionately large percent of the overall portfolio and are obvious candidates for pruning.

Not so obvious, and frequently overlooked, are stocks purchased fairly recently which have experienced unexpectedly rapid appreciation. Just in the past year most energy stocks have enjoyed such gains. The shares of home builders and other interest rate sensitive companies have likewise vastly outperformed the recent bull market. Some such holdings may not yet be long term for tax purposes (held for a full year), but their extraordinary moves may suggest that they are candidates for sale. Gifting such stocks eliminates the short-term capital gains liability, and anxiety, while providing you with a charitable deduction and Cetana with much-needed funds to enhance its programs.

Because this bull market, which began in the spring of 2003, is now of about average length for post-World War II bull markets, and according to some pundits is showing its age, now may be an excellent time for a careful review of your portfolio.

To donate securities, please instruct your broker to deliver the selected shares to Cetana Educational Foundation, account #2003-7083, at PNC Investments, DTC # 0768 (tel: 800-762-6111). Please also notify Cetana of your gift at cetana1@verizon.net, or 609-924-0667.



CETANA NEWS

developing human resources in Myanmar (Burma)
CETANA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
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Cetana is fortunate in finding an interim leader of Mrs. Pankratz's experience. Officially retired, she currently is Deputy Director of The Oregon Partnership, Inc., a drug and alcohol prevention non-profit; Chair of a Board overseeing an Ecumenical Campus Ministry at Portland State University; and a member of the Metro Regional Board of Guardianship Advocacy and Planning Services, whose work with people who are mentally retarded she led for many years.

In the past, she has directed the work of an array of organizations serving children, the handicapped, and the developmentally disabled, as well as chairing two tri-county United Way campaigns.

Her wide community leadership and organizational ability will be of great assistance to Cetana as it moves to a larger, increasingly active support of the people of Myanmar.

TRAVEL TO MYANMAR

THOSE INTERESTED IN EXPERIENCING MYANMAR FIRSTHAND ARE INVITED TO JOIN JOHN AND LOIS YOUNG WHEN THEY TRAVEL IN JANUARY TO VISIT CETANA EDUCATION PROJECTS AND TO ENJOY MYANMAR SIGHTS AND HOSPITALITY.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT CETANA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.CETANA.ORG

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Decorative border from Burmese Lacquerware, by Sylvia Fraser-Lu,
The Tamand Press, Bangkok: 1996.



THE MYTHICAL
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