

CETANA news

human resources for myanmar's future



TWO WOMEN WIN CETANA SUPPORT FOR MASTER'S STUDY AT MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY

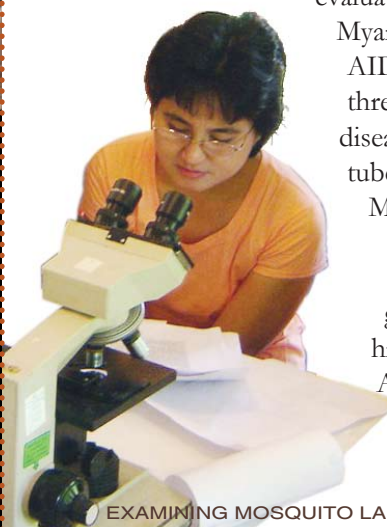
Young, dedicated Myanmar professionals seeking to increase their knowledge and capabilities in a setting of international ideas and experience are often among those who win the support of Cetana Educational Foundation. Two such students earlier this year entered Mahidol University, in Bangkok, Thailand's leading university in teaching and research.

DR. AYE THIDA, experienced in the treatment of HIV/AIDS patients, is in the one-year Master's in Clinical Tropical Medicine program, and is co-funded by Cetana and the Burmese Medical Association of North America. On her return to Myanmar, she will teach four sessions for general practitioners on four of the country's major diseases.



DISCUSSING
TROPICAL FEVER

Her longer-term goal on her return is to evaluate HIV trends in Myanmar, where HIV/AIDS is one of the top three national priority diseases, along with tuberculosis and malaria. More than 340,000 people are infected and the number is growing at one of the highest rates in East Asia and the Pacific. She also hopes to establish and implement new



EXAMINING MOSQUITO LARVA

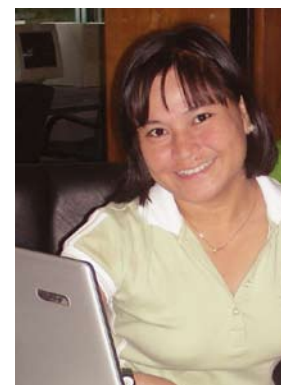
programs, such as income-generating projects, orphan assistance programs, and community-support projects that will assist people living with HIV/AIDS.



DR. AYE THIDA (LEFT) AT WORK IN LAB

Before coming to Mahidol, Dr. Thida was a Project Officer for Medicin du Monde in Kachin State, working in particular in the field of HIV/AIDS. She trained and supervised clinical staff, helped to develop the research component of the project, and supervised the delivery of home-based health care for people who were unable to attend the clinic.

MYAT THUZAR THEIN, who has worked since 1992 as a Program Officer in Agricultural Planning in the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, has been given a leave of absence to obtain her Master's degree in Mahidol's two-year Natural Resources Management Program, under grants from Mahidol and Cetana. Her thesis will focus on sustainable agriculture and rural development in



MYAT THUZAR THEIN

FALL 2007

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 U.S. Internal Revenue Service. **CETANA** is a Burmese word meaning "goodwill, benevolence without recompense; service to others or one's country."

Myanmar's dry zone area. She is studying land and soil degradation and the development of desert conditions.

This is not the first time she has undertaken advanced study. In 2000, she received a Diploma in the field of Integrated Rural Regional Development Planning in Israel. And in Myanmar, she has participated in rural development courses funded by the Food and Agricultural Organization and the United Nations Development Programme.

The international experience at Mahidol is part of the educational experience for both women. Dr. Thida's 23 classmates are from 11 countries. Students share their own clinical observations from their own countries and learn from each other.



Both women express a great commitment to Myanmar. Says Myat Thuzar Thein, "I will contribute my knowledge and experiences in assisting to conserve our environment and for [the] sustainability of natural resources in Myanmar."

In her application to Cetana, Dr. Thida said, "...I want to set up a training and research center for STI (Sexually Transmitted Infections) and HIV...the field that I am interested in and the most necessary program in Myanmar."



MYAT THUZAR THEIN (RIGHT) MEASURES WATER SAMPLE FOR DISSOLVED OXYGEN

B.K. KEE FOUNDATION AWARDS \$30,000 TO CETANA

The B.K. Kee Foundation of Burlingame, California, has approved a \$30,000 grant to Cetana Educational Foundation for the support of a two-year scholarship for one student in Women and Gender Studies at the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, Thailand. This particular course of study prepares students to participate in grassroots healthcare work as well as to initiate new healthcare models.

The B.K. Kee Foundation's focus is to support non-profit organizations in the United States and Southeast Asia engaged in promoting greater equity in global health and education. The Foundation also has an interest in medical research at U.S. universities.

Stan Sze, President of the B.K. Kee Foundation, has visited some of the Cetana work in Yangon. He writes: "We, at the B.K. Kee Foundation, are very excited to partner with Cetana Educational Foundation on this project and look forward to working together to make a small difference."

DR. KYAW THAN HONORED WITH MEDAL OF KING BHUMIBOL

Dr. Kyaw Than, Professor of Religious Studies at Mahidol University's international doctoral program, and caring Burmese mentor with his wife, Si Si, to all Cetana students at schools in the Bangkok area, was honored recently at an international conference by Thailand's HRH Princess Sirindhorn with a commemorative medal brooch for the 80th anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol's birth. Dr. Kyaw Than was among a select few to be so honored, including the President of Mahidol University and one European and two U.S. professors attending the conference. The image of the Privy Seal on the medal was surrounded by 80 diamonds to signify King Bhumibol's age.



DR. KYAW THAN

Dr. Kyaw Than has an international reputation as an ecumenical scholar and teacher. Today, he seeks an even wider dialogue among the religions of Christianity, Buddhism and Islam.

CETANA ALUM WINS FULBRIGHT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH STUDY AT UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

Dr. Hlaing Min Swe, 37, a 2002 Cetana scholar, has received the prestigious Fulbright scholarship for two years in the Master's in Public Health program at the University of Texas—



DR. HLAING MIN SWE

Houston. There, he has begun studies aimed at increasing his already wide knowledge of health education and health promotion in the field of HIV/AIDS. He is especially interested in learning more about how to bring about behavioral change through the education of individuals and communities.

In 2002, Hlaing Min Swe earned a Master's degree in Clinical Tropical Medicine from Mahidol University. He credits the support from Cetana, which made possible his studies at Mahidol, with "helping not only to launch him in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention and care, but also promoted his professional and academic advancement." While at Mahidol, he gained insights into the HIV program in Thailand and acquired clinical research experience with Thai HIV patients.

From Mahidol to the job he has just taken temporary leave from as Program Manager (HIV/AIDS) at Save the Children in Myanmar, he has worked continuously on HIV/AIDS needs. For example, he set up a clinic for STD and HIV patients as a member of Mediciens Sans Frontieres/Holland (Doctors Without Borders) in Muse near the Chinese border. He started a Program for Youth and High Risk Groups with CARE International in Myanmar. And, through UNICEF Myanmar, he provided technical support to partner organizations on prevention of mother-to-child transmission.

He hopes to take home from the University of Texas state-of-the-art health education and health promotion theories and concepts for designing better programming in Myanmar.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT CETANA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION CAN BE FOUND AT www.cetana.org

Dear Cetana Friends,

From Bangkok to Boston, five new students have begun their studies as Cetana scholars. For them these days are filled with anticipation and anxiety as they deal with language, customs, weather, books, and not least of all, where to find good Burmese food!

Five 2007 graduates are beginning another kind of adventure as they return home. The current situation reinforces Cetana's passion for providing students with a quality education that prepares them to make a contribution in their country.

The continued growth of our scholarship program is very satisfying. Its support has received a significant boost from two major new grants. One is a scholarship for two undergraduates to attend Suffolk University, Boston, initiated by a donor who spent part of his childhood in Myanmar. Another is a grant from the B.K. Kee Foundation, supporting a graduate student at the Asian Institute of Technology in Women and Gender Studies.

In Myanmar, a new English language training program, Cetana Academic Programme for English (CAPE), located at Myanmar Institute of Theology, has successfully concluded its first term.

At home, our U.S. board is receiving fresh ideas, energy and expertise from four new members: Abby Pratt, Robert Berg, Chenault Spence, and Neale Secor.

We ask you to join your commitment to ours. We have the students...we have the opportunities. For the resources, we need you.

Sincerely yours,

Ethelyn Pankratz, Executive Director

THE CETANA FAMILY

Dr. Aye Thida, Myat Thusar Thein and three other new students join five existing undergraduate and graduate students currently being supported by Cetana Foundation, in the U.S., The Philippines and Thailand. In addition to these 10, three Cetana graduates in the U.S. are remaining long enough to obtain advanced training and degrees before returning home. There are now 47 alumni, 33 of whom have returned to Myanmar to share their knowledge and leadership skills. This growing family of diverse, highly educated, committed young people now totals 57.

CETANAnews

developing human resources in myanmar (burma)
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FIVE CETANA ALUMNAE IN MYANMAR (EMPLOYER), L-R:
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CO. OF KOREA), EI EI CHAW (UNIAP), DEBORAH LING
(WORLD VISION), THANDAR SWE (WORLD CONCERN).

CETANA DICTIONARIES A FIRST IN MYANMAR

Cetana has created the first trilingual children's dictionaries in Myanmar, combining each of the major ethnic languages – Karen, Kachin, Chin, and Shan – with English and Myanmar (Burmese).

These charmingly illustrated dictionaries are in considerable demand. UNICEF's educational program is distributing the Karen-English-Myanmar edition and its Kachin equivalent to schools in remote parts of the country.

The Karen version is also being snapped up by refugee agencies in the United States to distribute to the 10,000 Karen refugees newly settled in the U.S. in 2006. An additional printing is also being distributed to schools and libraries in refugee camps inside Thailand along its border with Myanmar.

Two thousand hard copies of the Karen-English-Myanmar dictionary are sold out and are being reprinted in soft cover. Three thousand Kachin-English-Myanmar hard cover editions are in print, as well as a Chin soft cover version.

Now, Cetana is seeking funding for the Shan edition. The cost of this first printing is \$4,000.

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THE MYTHICAL
BURMESE HINTHA
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DRAWINGS from *Burmese Lacquerware* by Sylvia Fraser-Lu, The Tamarind Press, Bangkok, 1966.
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