

CETANA news

human resources for myanmar's future



VISITING CETANA STUDENTS IN THAILAND

by beth bogie
vice president, cetana

One of the great pleasures on each trip to Myanmar is stopping in Thailand to visit Cetana students working on master's degrees at Thai universities. We enjoy hearing about their varied interests and learning about their new experiences.

Kyaw Moe Aung, for example, is studying telecommunications at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) outside Bangkok. "Moe" has a bachelor of engineering degree in electronics from Myanmar's General Institute of Technology, Yangon campus. For a time, he worked with telephone companies in Myanmar and more recently with Cybertech, the Myanmar Internet provider of email service to about 10,000 customers. He and two women students – Phyu Phyu Lin in Women and Gender Studies and Moe Thet Nwai in an MBA program – expressed their pleasure over the international environment at AIT and the quality of their courses.

Sheila Tun Kyaw, Neilta Thain and Htoo Htoo Wah are in the Assumption University program for the Teaching of English as a Second Language (TESL). Sheila had been a teacher of English for nine years at the Karen Baptist Seminary, Yangon, and will return there to teach. "I've learned I was a bad teacher," she said,

laughingly. "I didn't know any methodology."

Dr. Kyaw Win Sein and Dr. Tha Zin Oo are enrolled in the public health program at Mahidol University, home of Thailand's oldest and most distinguished medical school. Kyaw Win Sein previously worked five years for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Myanmar, and, after that, with Population Services International, a U.S. non-governmental organization (NGO) engaged in social marketing and social franchising – for example, popularizing anti-drug behavior, educating local doctors to give condoms for HIV, and providing inexpensive medicines for HIV and tuberculosis with funding from the Packard Foundation. He wants to return to Myanmar to work in community development. Dr. Tha Zin Oo was previously a doctor in a small clinic in Myanmar.

SPRING 2004



AIT STUDENTS (LEFT TO RIGHT) PHYU PHYU LIN, MYO THET NWAI AND KYAW MOE AUNG

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DR. KYAW THAN: MENTOR TO CETANA STUDENTS IN THAILAND

Warm, wise and caring describe Dr. Kyaw Than, since 1994 Professor in Mahidol University's international doctoral program in Religious Studies, and since 2000, mentor to Cetana students in Thailand. He brings to his mentoring role a lifetime of experience in working with young people as a teacher and as a father of four sons and two daughters.



DR. KYAW THAN

His first teaching post was at the University of Rangoon in his native Burma, while he earned his master's degree in history, following his undergraduate studies. He went on to the University of Geneva, Switzerland, and then earned his doctor of divinity degree from the Southeast Asia Graduate School of Theology, a conglomerate of theological institutions in Southeast Asia.

Dr. Kyaw Than has an international reputation as an ecumenical scholar and teacher. From 1950 to 1973, he served in the leadership of international ecumenical organizations. Today, he seeks an even wider dialogue among religions of Christianity, Buddhism and Islam.

In 1973, he returned to full-time teaching, with a series of appointments at Yale University, Selly Oak Colleges in Birmingham, England and Myanmar Institute of Theology, before joining the Mahidol Graduate Studies Faculty in 1984. He returns regularly to teach in Myanmar as a way of "giving back to his country."

Dr. Kyaw Than clearly relishes his mentoring role and feels it is especially important when Myanmar students first arrive in Thailand. He and his wife, Si Si, meet the students and let them know they are available to turn to. They introduce Thai customs and food, explain how to be discriminating when there is so much available to them, and discuss money and health issues.

In short, they provide something immeasurably important outside the academic

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All of these students are in the Bangkok area. To reach three more, we fly to Chiang Mai, an ancient capital of northern Thailand and cultural heartland of the country. There we find Cynthia Tay Law, Zin Mar Win and May Sandar Win, all three women enrolled in the TESL program at Payap University. On completing her thesis this term, May Sandar Win will return to teach at Cetana's English Proficiency Center in Yangon.

Since the mid-1990s, 15 other Cetana students have earned master's degrees in Thailand. Most have returned to Myanmar to share their new knowledge and experience. (Two are doing additional studies elsewhere before they return.)

A major factor in Cetana's partnering with these universities, out of the more than 70 in Thailand, was the existence of excellent programs taught in English, which would not require students from Myanmar to learn a third language.

These universities draw many international students and faculty – 1,800 foreign students from 49 countries at AIT; about 1,800 from 56 countries at Assumption; about 23 countries represented at Payap; and at Mahidol, a leader in "internationalizing" education in Thailand, an enrollment from 45 countries.

The enthusiasm we find in Cetana students in Thailand confirms our belief in the value of



PAYAP STUDENTS (LEFT TO RIGHT) ZIN MAR WIN, MAY SANDAR WIN AND CYNTHIA LAY LAW.

DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF CETANA,

The Cetana Scholars program is working well. At the end of this term, 13 graduates will have returned to Myanmar and entered leadership positions. This is our core program, and it is only possible with your financial support. Thank you!

As we look to leadership needs for the future, English literacy underlies much, and Cetana responded with Myanmar's first tri-lingual dictionary for children. An English-Myanmar-Karen dictionary is awaiting final approval from the Myanmar Publications Board. Two more versions, one in Kachin and the other in Shan, are in production. (See a sample in the illustration below.)

The Scholars program, the English Proficiency Center in Yangon, the Book Project to build libraries in Myanmar, and now Cetana Publications are contributing to the educational possibilities for the people of Myanmar. Those projects are possible because you gave. And we hope you will continue giving, because we all believe in Myanmar's future. Thank you.

John Young, Executive Director



FIVE OF THE 13 CETANA ALUMNI IN YANGON AND THEIR EMPLOYERS: (LEFT TO RIGHT) NAW EH YWA, TOTAL OIL COMPANY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT; KHIN MAY SHIN, WORLD VISION MYANMAR; THANDAR SWE, SAVE THE CHILDREN U.S.; ROCKY SEIN DWE, CETANA ENGLISH PROFICIENCY CENTER; AND DR. HLAING MIN SWE, CARE MYANMAR.

MORE ON CETANA DIRECTORS

Cetana directors bring varied backgrounds to the work of the Foundation. We continue to introduce them to our readers in each issue.

dr. leon boothe, Professor of History and President Emeritus of Northern Kentucky University, is noted for his teaching of international relations, especially American diplomatic history, and for growing and managing universities. His teaching career began at the University of Mississippi, where he became Assistant Chairman of his department. Through the 1970s, he served as Dean of George Mason College in Virginia, bringing it from 1,700 undergraduates to a university of 12,500 undergraduates and graduate students. In 1980, he became Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost of Illinois State University, and was recognized for enrollment management, minority recruitment and program expansion in tight economic times. Beginning in 1983 and for the next 13 years, while President of Northern Kentucky University, he saw enrollment increase by 50 percent.

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cetana news



learn (v) to find out; to come to know
 learned သင်ယူသည်၊ ကြားသိသည်
 learnt မာလိ
 learning

Children learn many things in school.
 ကလေးများသည် ကျောင်းတွင် အရာတော်တော်များများကို သင်ယူကြသည်။

"Kalay mya-thee chaung dwin aya taw taw mya mya goh thin yu ja thee."
 ဖိသန်တဖန် မာလိတံ အါမဲလော ကိုန့်လီ၊
 "potha t'pa ma-loh ta a-mie luh choh nei law."



developing human resources in Myanmar (Burma)
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lloyd james, now retired, served from 1950 to 1964 as Treasurer and Attorney of the American Baptist Mission in Burma. During those years, he also was an adjunct teacher of Homiletics, History and New Testament at Myanmar Institute of Theology, as well as associate pastor for one year at Immanuel Baptist Church in Yangon. In 1964, he and his wife returned to the United States, and until 1986, he served on the staff of the Board of International Ministries (B.I.M.) of American Baptist Churches. In retirement he and his wife served as Special Service Workers for the B.I.M. in Hong Kong from 1988 to 1990, and on several occasions as volunteers at a hospital in Haiti.

dr. victoria morss, for 15 years, worked in international economic development for the U.S. Agency for International Development and for private consulting firms. An expert on workforce planning, evaluation, cost-benefit analyses and management of foreign aid programs, she has written extensively on economic development in Third World countries. Her interest in Burma grew out of a trip there on a cultural exchange program sponsored by the State Department. She subsequently made many visits to Burma for various business activities. While there she became involved in early childhood education and authored the first Burmese-English children's dictionary. ○

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TRAVEL TO MYANMAR

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



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