

CETANA news

human resources for myanmar's future



CETANA BRINGS TOGETHER EXPERTS ON BURMESE ARTS IN UNUSUAL PUBLIC PROGRAM

"What a stunning day!" two men exclaimed as they left the Nassau Presbyterian Church in Princeton, New Jersey. They were commenting on an all-day "Symposium on the Arts of Burma," presented by Cetana Educational Foundation on April 1. Six recognized authorities on traditional and contemporary art from Burma (Myanmar) spoke to an enthusiastic crowd from as far away as Oregon, Georgia, and New Mexico.

Curators came from the Southeast Asian collection of The Walters Gallery, Baltimore, Maryland; the Textile Museum, Washington, D.C.; and the Asian Arts collection of Denison University Museum, Granville, Ohio.

Outside of academic circles, presentations on the art of Burma are virtually non-existent. "We felt that by letting people know of the exquisite art work of Burma, they would learn something about the country," said Lois Young, co-chair of the event.

Lilian Handlin, Harvard-based historian, talked about early art of Burma, the wall paintings within the 11th-to-13th-century Buddhist temples of Pagan (Bagan), ancient capital of Burma. Dr. Handlin has studied these "painted

libraries" each winter for the past ten years. "Craftsmen created a pictorial language to literally visualize Buddhism," she said.

Daw Tin Tin Aye, an independent researcher and Pagan specialist who spent many years in Pagan as an experienced guide, talked about the Jakata tales told in these paintings. They were the layman's Bible, "more relevant to daily life and easier to comprehend than the complicated philosophical concepts of Buddhism."

Sylvia Fraser-Lu, author of numerous books and articles on Burmese hand-crafted objects, spoke on the "Beauty in Everyday Things, Burmese Crafts." Crafts continue to have an honored place in national life, she said, whether an exquisitely carved teak open-work screen,

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AUDIENCE LISTENS ATTENTIVELY TO SPEAKERS AT SYMPOSIUM.

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."

SPRING 2006



L TO R: SPEAKERS ON THE ARTS OF BURMA WERE GILL PATTISON, DAW TIN TIN AYE, LILIAN HANDLIN & DAVID W. FRASER.



...CETANA BRINGS continued from page 1 stoneware jars for water collection, mats and baskets for myriad uses, or lacquerware for serving food.

David W. and Barbara G. Fraser, Burmese textile specialists and museum consultants, have curated exhibitions and written books and articles on woven textiles. They presented slides of the traditional clothing worn by some of the 135 ethnic groups who live in the Burma hills surrounding central Burma. At a Chin feast of celebration, for example, a red and white blanket can only be worn by someone who has killed a tiger.

Catherine Raymond, Director of the Center for Burma Studies at Northern Illinois University, which was selected in 1986 to be the national center for the collection, care and exhibition of the arts of Burma, spoke about the need to preserve and protect Burmese Buddhist art and manuscripts, perhaps conducting this work within Burma in the future.

Gill Pattison, owner of the River Gallery, a contemporary art gallery in Yangon, in 2002 moved to Myanmar with her family and began to seek out artists of contemporary works in Burma. Such an art movement had begun to take root in Burma in 1967, without knowledge of international trends or any domestic art market. The first Myanmar contemporary work to sell outside Myanmar did so in 1990. Today, 15 to 20 artists have shown works abroad in Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand and a few in the West.

This gathering of specialists, scholars, artists, and interested members of the public brought new knowledge, insights and many new friends to Cetana. Proceeds from the event will help Cetana support education for Myanmar students at colleges and universities in Asia and the United States.

STUDENT WITH BRAIN SURGERY THANKS CETANA FOR HELP

Last November, just as she was preparing to submit and defend her master's thesis at Assumption University, Bangkok, Sheila Tun Kyaw, a Cetana student, learned she would have to undergo surgery twice for a brain tumor, which was found not to be malignant. Cetana responded with funds to extend her stay through surgery, recuperation and the successful defense and revision of her thesis.

Recently Sheila wrote Cetana: "I am very thankful to God for the love and concern Cetana has shown me.... [The funds] were a blessing for me to meet the needs of the expenses in taking care of my health in addition to the expenses for board and lodging.... As I have finished revising [my thesis] and have submitted it, I am leaving for Myanmar this Thursday. Thanking you, Sheila"





DEAR FRIENDS OF CETANA,
As the new Executive Director of Cetana, I found my recent trip to Myanmar enlightening and energizing. That is due in part to the gracious hospitality of the people and the beauty of the country. But beyond that, I was moved to see the Cetana students who have returned to take up new responsibilities with spirit and hope. Some are in the business sector, some teaching, and some in non-governmental organizations (NGOs). They make up an impressive array of young, bright Myanmar citizens.

It was encouraging to see the evolution of the Cetana English Proficiency Center (CEPC). The Center has now moved to brighter, more accessible quarters in the downtown Yangon YMCA. This move will allow the Center's reach to expand, insuring a steady flow of graduates more able to communicate in English in whatever direction their lives take them. The faithful guidance of Daw Alvinah Tapa throughout the years of the Center's growth will bear fruit long after her well-deserved retirement this year.

The collaboration that is occurring, both formal and informal, with a broad array of other agencies, is also affirming. Cetana is playing an interactive, supportive role with educational organizations and with a number of vital grassroots programs serving orphans and children and adults with disabilities.

The contribution of Myanmar volunteers serving on the Myanmar Cetana Advisory Board and its committees in Yangon is also gratifying. Our partnership with them is invaluable.

Myanmar students continue to need training abroad. The students applying for scholarship assistance far outdistance our ability to provide such aid. We encourage you to continue to invest with us for the future of Myanmar's young people and, if at all possible, to increase your giving to meet the rising needs.

*Sincerely yours,
 Ethelyn Pankratz*

REMINDER: With extraordinary gains in certain sectors of the financial markets since the beginning of the year, specifically oil and oil services, metal and mining shares and emerging market equities, bonds and mutual funds, now might be a good time to consider a gift of appreciated securities to Cetana. By transferring securities directly to Cetana, you avoid capital gains taxes while receiving a charitable deduction for the full value of the donated securities.

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.

BRIEFLY>>>

> Five more Cetana graduates have returned to Myanmar, bringing the total returned to 24. Cetana is supporting 17 active students this year, including one new student, Aung Ko Thet, studying for a master's in Natural Resources Management at Mahidol University, Bangkok. Altogether, Cetana has supported 53 students.

> Cetana has a new partner in the Burma Medical Association of North America. BMA-NA is sending books and journals to Myanmar through the Cetana Book Project.

> The 1st Stock Art Gallery in Deerfield, New Hampshire, operated by Daniel Bush and Burmese wife Soe Soe, will donate a portion of the proceeds to Cetana from an upcoming exhibit of photography, "Burma Rediscovered," by Don Gurewitz, April 29 - July 23. More information at 603-463-5716, or www.stockart.com. Mr. Gurewitz will also give a slide talk on June 11 with 300-plus images of Myanmar.



CETANA NEWS

developing human resources in myanmar (burma)
CETANA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
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MARJORIE ROSENBLUM RETURNS FROM CONSULTING ASSIGNMENT

Marj Rosenblum has completed eight months of significant achievement as Cetana part-time consultant on both student and teacher development in various spheres of education in Myanmar. A talented English teacher from the Philadelphia area, she made recommendations for the Cetana English Proficiency Center (CEPC), gave valued suggestions for the new CEPC Library, and taught an innovative class in essay-writing and critical thinking.

Working with Anna May Say Pa, Principal of Myanmar Institute of Theology (MIT), Marj also developed a program to create a second CEPC at MIT when funds become available.

She taught a series of English classes at the Capacity Building Institute (CBI) whose students are staff of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Myanmar.

With typical energy and commitment, she also assisted students from MIT preparing young people from three villages to perform in dances and singing for Thingyan, Myanmar New Year's celebration in April.

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



THE MYTHICAL
BURMESE
HINTHA BIRD
REPRESENTING
LOYALTY

Design: Lyons Design / Photos: John Young / Border: Burmese Lacquerware,
by Sylvia Fraser-Lu, The Tamahind Press, Bangkok: 1996