



A New Day In Myanmar/Burma? Cetana's Vital Training Centers



Aung San Suu Kyi meeting with **Lois Dickason Young**, a founder and past president of Cetana, and **Ba Win**, a friend of Cetana and vice president of Early College Policies & Programs for Bard College to discuss the importance of improving the education system in Myanmar/Burma.

PLEASE USE THE COUPON ON PAGE 4 OR VISIT CETANA.ORG TO MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION.

Dear Friends of Cetana,

When I was teaching an English conversation class in the Cetana Kyaing Tong Learning Center in Shan State, a student asked me, "What do you think about the political situation in our country?" After I had composed myself, I replied, "Would you have asked me that question three months ago?" The reply was, "of course not." The annual President's Program Oversight trip to Myanmar/Burma was full of surprises.

It is easy to feel that the Burmese spring has come in the middle of Winter. Everyone had something to say about the recent events and frequently there was a plea for improvement in education. The excitement of learning is evident as the students bound into our classes with an enthusiasm that one imagines that they would reserve for going to recess.

Look at the photo of Aung San Suu Kyi and the photo of my buddy, the novice monk. Their dreams for their country and its people are dreams that Cetana can help to realize.

We are an experienced, respected, locally-anchored organization that is fulfilling dreams, day by day. And we are poised to do more. Seeing our teachers and staff work with the students, the meaning of Cetana is clear - giving without thought of recompense.

It is difficult to think that we are not repaid many fold for our work with Cetana. Our gifts, yours and mine, are generously repaid in our work of "dream realization."

What can you do to help? How much can you give? Could you underwrite a scholarship; large for a scholar in the United States, or small for a student in Yangon? Does your employer have a matching grant program? What friends can you introduce to Cetana? Could you organize a fund raising event where you live? Can you put us in touch with a foundation, fraternal organization or faith group that may want to help?

—CHENAULT SPENCE, PRESIDENT



THREE OF CETANA'S VITAL TRAINING CENTERS



Cetana's English Proficiency Center (CEPC) is our flagship program located in downtown Yangon where we conduct five levels of instruction for around 100 students during a typical three-month term. Many of our students are high school graduates awaiting acceptance to college. The method of instruction incorporates critical thinking at all levels and encourages conversation through dialogue with the teachers and among the students.

Cetana Academic Program for English, (CAPE), located on the outskirts of Yangon, is housed at the Myanmar Institute of Theology where it serves students in the Liberal Arts Program. English language instruction in state high schools does not prepare students to be able to work in a college environment. This intensive English language curriculum, in this and other Cetana programs, is essential for students who want professional careers.



Cetana Social Science Degree Program (CSSDP) is operated in collaboration with Open University of Hong Kong, Cetana offers promising students the opportunity to study social science, academic writing and presentation skills. Students are principally employees from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who take leaves of absence for the 16-month-long course that awards an AA degree. Twenty-five students were in the first graduating class, and several have returned to their NGOs with substantial promotions based on their new-found talents and skills; others have taken positions with NGOs that would normally go to foreigners.

KYAING TONG LEARNING CENTER'S FIRST BIRTHDAY

GALA ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Cetana's third learning center and our first outside the city of Yangon opened in January, 2011 in Kyaing Tong, a city in the far east sector of Burma, in Shan State. It's a mountainous, isolated region, a 4-hour flight from Yangon.

The festive celebration began with songs led by KTLC's founder and director, Cynthia Paul. Two separate celebrations were needed to accommodate Cynthia's more than 100 students: one for the small children and one for the university students and professional people from the community. At both parties students wore a wide variety of their Ethnic dress - Shan, Lahu, Ahka, Ann, and Wa.



This one-year anniversary marks an impressive accomplishment and the realization of a vision that Cynthia has for the young people of Kyaing Tong. Ever the entrepreneur, Cynthia saw the need for quality English language instruction. After studying at the Cetana English Proficiency Center in Yangon and receiving a Master's degree in English as a Second Language in Thailand with a Cetana scholarship, she approached Cetana with a plan to return to Kyaing Tong to open a school. With a generous \$10,000 grant from Cetana donor Emily Fisher, Cynthia established her school.

After just a year, the school is brimming with students -- from the tots as young as 6 years old, to university students who attend one of the state-sponsored universities and members of the professional community. At every level, the students are eager to learn and Cynthia makes it fun. Space limitations -- both in terms of the classroom and for the ever-present motorcycles -- restrict her ability to accept more students.

The learning center is very much a team effort between Cynthia and her husband, Teddy, a university graduate who manages to do all the background work that keeps the operation afloat, repairing video and sound equipment, making sure the room is arranged for teaching and taking care of the myriad details that allow Cynthia to concentrate on her lesson plans and teaching. Their teamwork extends to parenting their 4-year-old son Kyar Bilaw, which means Pyayson, or "perfect" in Burmese and Nar Dar Sweet their year-and-a-half-old daughter. Both son and daughter are proficient in the "Touch your Chin, Touch your Ears, Touch your Nose" game Cynthia plays as an engaging and painless way to teach children the English names for parts of the body.

TRIBUTE FOR ALUMNI

Cetana alumni conducted a service to honor Jean Dickason and John Young at the Yangon Learning Center on December 17th, 2011. They came together in joyous song and expressed heartfelt tributes for the work that Jean and John did over so many years and what this work meant to them. The gathering gave an opportunity to review the history of Cetana, with which they were so closely involved. The Cetana alumni served the guest a delightful lunch after the ceremony.



From a song for Cetana composed by alumni for the ceremony...

Sun, send your warm light to shine on Cetana. Moon, send your magic at night. Breezes, blow softly and whisper in Cetana; Let there be peace, truth, and light.



90 Mount Lucas Road,
Princeton, NJ 08540

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 305
Chatham, N.Y.



Cetana Educational Foundation
90 Mount Lucas Road
Princeton, NJ 08540
www.cetana.org

In the new Myanmar/Burma, education, together with critical thinking is a key to personal and professional achievement.

I want to add my support to Cetana's efforts to bring these gifts to the young people in Myanmar/ Burma so that they, in turn, may help their country to advance.

Enclosed is my contribution:

Cetana Educational Foundation is a 501 (c)3 tax-exempt organization

\$100_ \$500_ \$1,000_ Other ____

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Signature _____

You may also make contributions through the web site, www.cetana.org.

Please enquire if your employer has a charitable giving program that will match your contributions to Cetana.

To make an ongoing pledge to Cetana please contact: sumayacoonners@cetana.org