

## **Ethnic and Religious Diversity in Myanmar**

A national and international conference organised by the Myanmar Institute of Theology (MIT) and the Protestant Faculty of Theology/University of Muenster (WWU)

Yangon, 5-8 Feb 2019

### **Tue 5 Feb 2019**

#### **Conference Opening**

16.30 - 18.30        Words of Welcome

Ethnic Diversity in Past and Present - A Historical Perspective  
Samuel Ngun Ling (President MIT, Yangon; Principal Project Partner)

Ethnicity and Religious Diversity in the Context of the Research Project  
Madlen Krueger (University of Muenster; Principal Researcher,  
Germany)

### **Wed, 6 Feb 2019**

#### **I. Ethnicity in Myanmar**

09.00 - 10.00        Buddhist Protectionism and it's Impact on Multicultural Coexistence in  
Myanmar  
Alexander Horstmann (South-East Asian Studies, Tallinn University,  
Estonia)

10.00 - 10.30        Tea/Coffee

10.30 - 11.30        Ethnic Minorities and the Myanmar Government - A Historical and  
Political Perspective  
Nehginpao Kipgen (Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS);  
Jindal School of International Affairs, India)

11.30 - 12.30        Faith Networks and Social Capital in the Karen, Kachin, and Chin  
Borderlands  
Ashley South (Center for Ethnic Studies and Development; Chiang Mai  
University, Thailand)

12.30 - 13.30        Lunch

13.30 - 14.30 Ethnic Conflict and Peace: An Analysis on the Creation of Ne Win's Burmanized Imagined Community and its Impact on Peacebuilding  
Saw Eh Htoo (Payap University Chiang Mai, Thailand)

## **II. Ethnic and Religious Diversity in Islam**

14.30 - 15.30 Islam in Myanmar and Ethnic Diversity  
U Myint Thein (Al-Azhar Islamic Institute of Myanmar; Peace Cultivation Network, Yangon)

15.30 - 16.00 Tea/Coffee

16.00 - 17.00 Oral History of Inter-Religious Life across Myanmar  
Matt Schissler (Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan, USA)

17.00 - 18.00 Supper

## **Thu, 7 Feb 2019**

## **II. Ethnic and Religious Diversity in Islam**

09.00 - 10.00 Muslim Communities in Yangon  
U Nyunt Maung Shein (President of Islamic Religious Affairs Council of Myanmar, Yangon)

10.00 - 10.30 Tea/Coffee

10.30 - 11.30 Religious Pluralism Vs Ethno-Religious Nationalism in Myanmar  
Myo Win (Smile Education and Development Foundation, Yangon)

## **III. Ethnic and Religious Diversity in Christianity**

11.30 - 12.30 Cohabitation in Multi-Ethnic and Multi-Religious Contexts - A Christian Perspective  
Hans-Peter Grosshans (University of Muenster; Project Convener, Germany)

12.30 - 13.30 Lunch

13.30 - 14.30 Kachin Ethnic, Religion and Civil War in Myanmar Buddhist Country  
Layang Seng Ja (Kachin Theological College and Seminary; Kachin State)

Cultural Event

**Fri, 8 Feb 2019**

**III. Ethnic and Religious Diversity in Christianity**

- 09.00 - 10.00 Indian Christian Communities of Myanmar. Why no Politicisation?  
Marja-Leena Heikkila-Horn (Mahidol University International College, Thailand)
- 10.00 - 10.30 Tea/Coffee
- 10.30 - 11.30 Kachin Ecumenism and its Implication for Building the Concept of  
Unity in Diversity in a Pluralistic Society  
Lahphai Awng Li (Theology Department, Myanmar Institut of  
Theology, Yangon)

**IV. Ethnic and Religious Diversity in Buddhism**

- 11.30 - 12.30 Religion and Identity with Particular Emphasis on Buddhism  
Perry Schmidt-Leukel (University of Muenster, Project Convener)
- 12.30 - 13.30 Lunch
- 13.30 - 14.30 Buddhism and its Impact on Myanmar State and Society through  
History up to the Present Day  
Khin Zaw Win (Director of Tampadipa Institute, Yangon)
- 14.30 - 15.30 Ethnic-Religious Identity and Visual Culture  
Klemens Karlsson (RCSD, Chiang Mai University, Thailand)
- 15.30 - 16.00 Tea/Coffee
- 16.30 - 17.00 Religious Pluralism across Shanland: Some Ethnographic Accounts  
Jane Ferguson (Australien National University, College for Asia and the  
Pacific, Australia)
- 17.00 - 18.00 Concluding Discussion
- Night Farewell Dinner