

Statement by H.E Brig-General Kyaw  
Myint, Deputy Minister for Social  
Welfare, Relief and Resettlement to the  
East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial  
Meeting

(Tokyo, Japan, 2006)

Union Of Myanmar

- It is a great privilege and an honour for me to deliver and address on this auspicious occasion of The East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting. First of all, on behalf of the delegation of Union of Myanmar and on my own behalf, I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to the Government and to the people of Japan for hosting this important meeting.

- Throughout Myanmar History, Myanmar women have worked shoulder to shoulder with me in politics, economics and social affairs as well as in religion, literature and arts. A saying goes in Myanmar that "While a husband bears his burden on his shoulder, the wife carries it on her head".

- According to Myanmar Buddhist Law, married couples have equal rights and shares to own their separate properties in case of inheritance and even in divorce. Furthermore, there is no need for a Myanmar woman to change her name, her religion and her lineage after getting married.

- To build Myanmar into a modern and developed country, our Government considers women, who comprise more than half of Myanmar population of (54) million, as a national asset and relies upon them as a national resource. Bearing in mind this necessity, to arise the momentum of gender equality, development and peace for women, a Myanmar delegation attended the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995.

- In order to follow up the programmes contained in the Beijing Declaration laid down by the conference, Myanmar formed the Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs (MNCWA) on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1996 to initiate and promote activities for the advancement for Myanmar Women.

- Nowadays, to extend women's development activities throughout the national and to serve the interests of the State and people, the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation was founded on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2003.

- At present, there are over (2) million members of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation throughout the country. As that Federation encompasses the whole country, it is carrying out all the development affairs of the entire gender bloc of Myanmar women.



- As is widely recognized and accepted, education plays the pivotal role in promoting the social and advancement of women. We believe that high level of education and skills promotes women's self-reliance, confidence and their decision making capabilities. Hence, Myanmar is striving for the advancement in education in all spheres.

- I am pleased to informed that in Myanmar according to the 2004 survey, women's literacy rate is 92.9%. Especially in the education sector, Myanmar women have demonstrated clearly, their intellectual and decision making capabilities and energies. It can also be seen that in Myanmar education, the number of female civil servants is greater than the number of male civil servants. According to the 2004 data, women teachers make up 55.22% of primary, 79.66% of secondary and 69.85% of tertiary teaching staff. At present, there are many women professors working at their respective universities in Myanmar. Among the total number of professors, 70.58% are women.

- In the health sector, the Ministry of Health, is striving for the health development and is giving top priority for maternal and child health care, reproductive health, and in expanding new hospitals, dispensaries and maternity-clinics. There is no discrimination between male and female in health-care and medical treatment. Myanmar woman doctors and nurses are working shoulder to shoulder with men with great effort in the health sector. According to the 2005 data, among the total of health professionals, 53% are women.

- The existing laws of Myanmar provide equal rights to men and women in all economic activities. Woman workers enjoy equal rights with male workers in wages, salaries, occupational safety, health, working hours, working condition, social protection, social security and insurance.

- The number of young women workers has also increased due to the development of the country's economy and the advancement of new technology. Since Myanmar is an agricultural country, previously women only had economic opportunities in agricultural sector. But now the number of women working in factories, services and companies have increased. In the private sector, there are organizations led by Myanmar women who are successful in business. Moreover, there are companies and hotel's run by Myanmar

- According to the 2003 statistics, in the private sector, the female work force is 35.34%. The number of Myanmar women at the higher ranking level of government services has also increased.
- With regard to prevention and protection for women and children in Myanmar, my country, as a State party to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

- The Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC). The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (TIP). The Protocol to Combat the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air (SOM) is making concerted efforts in line with these conventions. To effectively implement the tasks against trafficking in persons as a national duty, the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law was enacted on 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2005. According to the Law, the Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons was also formed.

- Once again, I would like to express my deep and sincere thanks to the host country, Japan, for the excellent arrangements and warm hospitality extended to our delegation. In conclusion, I am confident that we will collaborate to upgrade the momentum of implementation for the advancement of women and gender equality not only in the ASEAN Region but also in the East Asia Region.















**THANK YOU**

# Union Of Myanmar

## Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs

Myanmar National Working Committee for Women's Affairs

Women and  
Education

Women and  
Health

Violence Against  
Women

Women and  
Economy

Women and  
Culture

Women and  
Environment

Women and  
Media

The Girl-Child

Legal Advisory  
sub-committee

International  
Relations

# Union Of Myanmar

## Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

### Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs

