

President U Thein Sein hails Bandung spirit at Asian African Summit



President U Thein Sein delivers speech at 60th Asian African Summit. www.aacc2015.id

Summit 60 years ago in Bandung, the city of Asian African Unity, the president added.

Following World War II and at the beginning of the cold war, countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America were struggling for independence and shared the common desire to establish international relations based on equality and mutual respect, while promoting economic development, he said.

The president continued that he was proud to be from one of the five countries that initiated the first Asian African Summit held on 24 April 1955.

At the first summit, leaders of participating countries decided to lay down the Bandung (See page 3)

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NAY PYI TAW, 24 April — President U Thein Sein left Jakarta for Bandung on Friday morning to attend the 60th anniversary Asian African Summit.

The summit, held at the Museum of Asian African Summit in Gedung Merdeka, Bandung, aims to strengthen cooperation between the two continents and promote worldwide peace and prosperity.

Indonesian President Mr Joko Widodo welcomed the leaders in a speech, while Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe delivered an address on behalf of African nations.

Afterwards, President U Thein Sein gave a speech on behalf of Asian countries.

In his speech, President U Thein Sein said it was a

pleasure to speak on the 60th anniversary of the Asian African Summit held in 1955. The entire people of

the Republic of the Union of Myanmar extended their warm greetings, he said.

The long-lasting

friendship and successful relations between Asia and Africa originated from the first Asian African

Sanitation program targets hygiene practices in rural areas

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 24 April— The Myanmar Red Cross Society will soon launch a water and sanitation programme to improve hygiene for people in the country's dry zones, MRCS president Prof Dr Tha Hla Shwe said Thursday.

Under the project, water supply and sanitation facilities will be installed in targeted areas—Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing regions, as well as Kachin and Kayin states—where many people have poor hygiene knowledge.

The community-based programme is also aimed at improving the quality of life of rural people through increased access to safe and sustainable communi-

ty-managed water.

"Over 200 well-trained volunteers from the MRCS are ready to implement the project," Dr Tha Hla Shwe said.

Dr Naing Naing of MRCS said raising awareness of environmental health and public participation will be crucial to the success of the project.

Upon completion of the three-year plan, about 70,000 residents from over 50 villages will have access to rural water supplies and sanitation facilities, he added.

The programme runs from 2015 to 2017 with the financial assistance of Korean Red Cross, (See page 9)

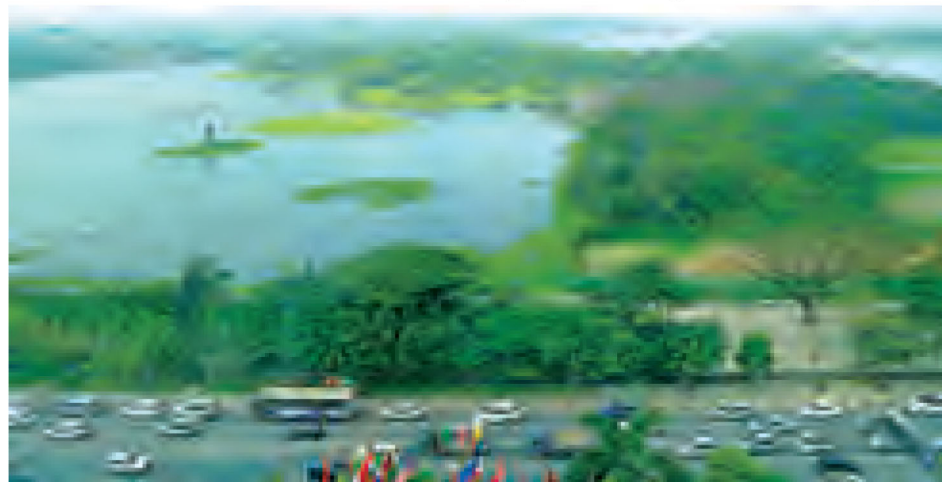
Workshop promotes sustainable urban planning for Yangon

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 24 April — The Yangon City Development Committee will host a workshop to promote an EU-funded project on sustainable urban mobility planning for the city on 27 April, the YCDC and project partners said Friday.

U Aung Khine Tun, senior external relations coordinator of Italian humanitarian organization CESVI, one of the project partners, said the workshop will be held at Yangon City Hall. It will present the main components of the project, entitled "Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning" to relevant stakeholders and promote it, as well as YCDC activities, to the public, he said.

The project aims to strengthen the capacities of the city and promote citizen participation in ensuring a sustainable urban environment.



Vehicles drive on Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road in Yangon, where road safety is being prioritised under an EU-funded project on urban mobility.

PHOTO: YE MYINT

The European Union will provide 884,325 euros for the project, comprising 75 percent, while other project partners will contribute the remaining 25 percent.

The project, which started on 1 February 2015, will run until January 2017, targeting two pilot townships—Tamway and Thimgangyun—in Yangon.

The YCDC is implementing the project in cooperation with the Italian City of Turin and two Italian NGOs—Information Technology for Humanitarian Assistance Cooperation and Action and CESVI.

The YCDC and project partners said the project will improve YCDC's strategic planning capacity through

the transfer of good practices and models encourage community participation in decision-making and dialogues with local authorities.

Lessons learned from Europe may be applicable in Myanmar, particularly on road safety, which is a current priority for the EU, they added. — GNLM

