



MYANMAR PEACE AND GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP

REGION

Asia

COUNTRY

Myanmar

DURATION

November 23-26, 2016

PARTNERS

Centre for Development
and Ethnic Studies
(CDES)

FUNDER

DeFehr Foundation



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the PROJECT...

aimed to equip ethnic leaders and other peace process stakeholders with an enhanced understanding of the fundamentals of democratic governance within a federal system and enhanced knowledge and skills to participate in the peace dialogue and subsequent stages of the peace process in Myanmar.

Targeting leaders of Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs), ethnic political parties and civil society organisations, a Workshop on Peace and Governance was implemented from November 23 to 26, 2016. This included a half-day Peace Forum on November 25 that provided the wider community with an update on the progress of the peace process in Myanmar. The Parliamentary Centre played a key role in the design of the activities and provided inputs by sharing experience from Colombia's peace negotiations and the functioning of Canada's federal system of governance.

the BACKGROUND...

of the project: Myanmar has been suffering for decades under a civil war among the country's various ethnic groups, fueled by the lack of agreement on the constitutional fundamentals and model of governance. Following many rounds of negotiations, a National Ceasefire Agreement was signed on October 15, 2015 marking a key milestone of a long multi-stage peace process. The agreement stipulates that Myanmar would develop a federal system of governance, but the signatories (the Government, the Military and the Ethnic Armed Organisations) have yet to elaborate and reconcile their concrete views on the nature of this system.

the ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ◆ The Peace and Governance Workshop and the Peace Forum had a combined audience of over **225 participants**. This included more than 60 leaders of Ethnic Armed Organizations, leaders of ethnic political parties, the National League for Democracy, the Union Solidarity and Development Party, civil society organisations including women's groups, representatives of the development community, etc. An even wider Myanmar audience was reached through the coverage of the Peace Forum by major newspapers and several TV channels.
- ◆ In addition to sharing international experience, the workshop facilitated group exercises that provided the participants in the workshop with an opportunity to **discuss and formulate their own views** and positions on key aspects of a federal governance model adequate for Myanmar.
- ◆ The Workshop was the first instance where the participating leaders of Ethnic Armed Organisations, ethnic political parties and civil society organisations were part of a **joint activity** that helped them develop a better understanding of each other's views and positions, and engage in discussions on how the differences in their views can be reconciled.

◆ The participants of the Workshop on Peace and Governance were exposed to lessons learned from Colombia's peace process, including a detailed account of the costs of peace versus the costs of conflict. They had an opportunity to develop an **enhanced knowledge and skills** to participate in the peace dialogue and subsequent stages of the peace process in their own country.

◆ The workshop allowed participants to engage in a discussion of a draft EAOs position paper on **Myanmar's model of federalism** that was developed by the Political Sector Working Group of Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement in order to help the leaders of the EAOs in consultations with people from their own ethnic groups.



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