MYANMAR/BURMA UPDATE 2013
Debating Democratisation in Myanmar/Burma

Friday 15 – Saturday 16 March 2013
Leonard Huxley Theatre, Building 56
Australian National University
DAY 1: Friday 15 March 2013

9.00am: Conference opens
Opening remarks:
Andrew MacIntyre, Dean, ANU College of Asia & the Pacific
Winston Set Aung, Deputy Minister, Ministry of National Planning & Economic Development, Myanmar

9.15 - 11.00am: Political & economic update
Political update: Morten Pedersen, Senior Lecturer, University of New South Wales
Economic update: Anders Engvall, Research Fellow, Stockholm School of Economics,
Soe Nandar Linn, Research Associate, Myanmar Development Resource Institute
Discussant: Trevor Wilson, Visiting Fellow, Department of Political & Social Change, ANU College of Asia & the Pacific

11.00 - 11.30am: Morning tea break

11.30am - 1.00pm: Democratisation in the big picture
“Why were we surprised? Comparative versus case specific perspectives on Burma’s democratic experiment”, Dan Slater, Associate Professor, University of Chicago
“Thinking about transitional justice in Myanmar”, Ian Holliday, Professor, University of Hong Kong
“What does the rule of law have to do with democratisation (in Myanmar)?” Nick Cheesman, Lecturer, Australian National University
Chair: Paul Hutchcroft, Director, School of International, Political & Strategic Studies, ANU College of Asia & the Pacific

1.00 - 2.30pm: Lunch break

1.30 - 1.45pm: Launch of ‘Exiled to Nowhere: Burma’s Rohingya’
A photo exhibit by Greg Constantine

NOTE: Lunch & the exhibit launch will be held at the atrium of the Hedley Bull Centre (Building 130)
DAY 1: Friday 15 March 2013 (continued)

2.30 - 4.00pm: From resistance to reengagement
“From exile to elections”, Daw Than Than Nu, Secretary-General, Democratic Party (Myanmar)
“Sidelined or re-inventing themselves? Exiled activists and democratisation in Burma/Myanmar”, Kerstin Duell, Myanmar programme manager, Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Singapore
“The return of Burma’s diaspora and its role in social, economic and political reform”, Cheery Zahau, Institute of Chin Affairs
Chair: Marc Purcell, CEO, Australian Council for International Development

4.00 - 4.30pm: Afternoon tea break

4.30 - 6.15pm: Parliament, elections & the public
“Myanmar’s parliament: From scorn to significance”, Tom Kean, Editor, Myanmar Times
“The electoral system reform discussion in Myanmar (Burma)”, Kyle Lemargie, Senior Programs & Research Specialist, International Foundation for Electoral Systems
“Understanding recent labour protests in Myanmar”, Kyaw Soe Lwin, PhD candidate, City University of Hong Kong
“Farmers’ networks and Myanmar’s land law: New dynamics of active citizenship”, Tamas Wells, PhD candidate, University of Melbourne
Chair: Susan Harris-Rimmer, Director of Studies, Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy, ANU College of Asia & the Pacific

6.30 - 7.30pm: Film showing
‘Dreams of dutiful daughters’, by Ma Khin Mar Mar Kyi

7.30 – 9.30pm: Conference dinner, at the Great Hall, University House
DAY 2: Saturday 16 March 2013

9.30 - 11.00am: Prospects & problems for the economy

“Priorities for development sequencing in Myanmar”, Winston Set Aung, Deputy Minister, Ministry of National Planning & Economic Development, Myanmar
“Burma’s economic reforms: Visions from the past, lessons for the future”, Sean Turnell, Associate Professor, Macquarie University
“The Dutch disease in Myanmar”, Min Ye Paing Hein, PhD candidate, University of Wisconsin

Chair: Peter Warr, Head, Arndt-Corden Department of Economics, Crawford School, ANU College of Asia & the Pacific

11.00 - 11.30am: Morning tea break

11.30am - 1.00pm: Ethnic politics in transition

“Cooperation, contestation, conflict: Ethnic political interests in Myanmar”, Nicholas Farrelly, Research Fellow, Australian National University
“Democratisation in Myanmar and the fate of Arakan”, U Oo Hla Saw, General Secretary, Rakhine Nationalities Development Party
“State terrorism and international compliance: The Kachin armed struggle for political self-determination”, Seng Maw Lahpai, Kachin researcher

Chair: Ed Aspinall, Professor, Department of Political & Social Change, ANU College of Asia & the Pacific

1.00 - 3.00pm: Lunch break

1.15 - 3.00pm: Burmese-language panel, ANU postgraduate students
(Full details available on separate programme)

Sai Kham Maung, PhD submitted, Dept. of Anthropology; Si Thura, M.Public Health candidate, Ma Khaing Khaing Soe, PhD candidate, Crawford School; Myat Khet Nyo, M.Public Policy & Diplomacy candidate; Chit Win, PhD candidate, Dept. of Political & Social Change; Khin Maung Yin, M.Public Policy candidate, Crawford School; Thein Than Htay, M.Public Health candidate

Chair: Ma Khin Mar Mar Kyi, Burmese studies convenor, Asian Studies Department, School of Culture, History & Language, ANU College of Asia & the Pacific
DAY 2: Saturday 16 March 2013 (continued)

3.00 - 4.30pm: The role of security forces

“The soldier and the state: The Tatmadaw and political liberalization in Myanmar”, Maung Aung Myoe, Associate Dean, International University of Japan

“’Praetorianism’ in post-junta Myanmar: Revisiting the political intervention of Burmese armed forces in the 2010s”, Renaud Egretteau, Research Assistant Professor, University of Hong Kong

“Obstacles to police reform in Burma”, Andrew Selth, Research Fellow, Griffith University

Chair: Monique Skidmore, Pro Vice Chancellor (International), University of Canberra

4.30 - 4.45pm: Conference closes