University Scholarship Programme - Myanmar
Mekong Sub-Regional Leadership Development Programme
University Scholarship Programme, Myanmar

Our Myanmar University Scholarship Programme has been operating since 2006 to respond to the urgency of the disadvantaged living in remote rural areas, who lack financial support to pursue higher education after high school. Through this programme, we aim to facilitate inclusive development by imparting to students from impoverished households opportunities to achieve Bachelor’s degrees, and prospects of better employment. This creates pathways for leaders and specialists working towards the development of their country.

Due to limited education facilities and quality of education in the persistently conflicted nation, the Myanmar awardees are supported to undertake their studies in reputable universities across Thailand. Nevertheless, with current recognition of positive education reforms under way in Myanmar, we are piloting a domestic scholarship programme for the students to enter top universities in their own country.

Child’s Dream grants full scholarships (100% coverage of tuition fees, living costs as well as essential learning supplies).
University Scholarship Programme, Myanmar

By granting university scholarships to academically strong individuals, we aim at achieving more equally distributed advancement options in Myanmar human resources. Scholarships are granted to students who demonstrate perseverance in their studies, and who show high motivation and commitment to contribute to the development of their own disadvantaged communities.

Together with the university scholarship programmes we run in Laos and Cambodia, we additionally aim to create lasting positive relationships and networks among our students and alumni who will be future leaders, influencers and decision-makers within the countries of our targeted area - the Mekong Sub-region.

Our Vision: With the advantage of higher education, youth can improve their skills and knowledge, have access to better employment, and serve as strong future contributors, positive-change makers, and leaders in the development of their own communities and Myanmar as a whole.
Guiding Principles

- Promoting the development of the countries from which the individuals come
- Supporting the development of the educational system in the country of origin
- Prioritising students who aim to have a positive multiplier effect (i.e. teachers, social workers, public health workers, communicators, policy makers)
- Prioritising studies who will have a direct impact in their countries after graduation and when entering the labour market
- Prioritising students who study in their country of origin, acknowledging that some students may be forced to study abroad due to factors such as lack of education facilities or quality of education
- Promoting social reconciliation; addressing unbalanced ethnic, gender, and/or class issues
- Being as objective as possible in the selection of future leaders and change makers according to clear criteria.
Selection Criteria

- Maximum age 30 at the time of application to our scholarship programme
- High school diploma formally enabling applicants to access bachelor programmes at universities in Thailand and Myanmar
- Good academic achievements, and a solid track record
- Applicants must meet requirements and admission criteria of universities as well as their chosen major
- High motivation and perseverance to diligently study in 4-year programmes
- Demonstrated commitment to develop their communities and country either by leadership abilities or specific skills
- Ideally, some voluntary or full-time/part-time work experience
- Underprivileged background and proven need for financial support.
Our Myanmar Scholarship Programme in Numbers*

Programme launched 2006
Scholarships granted so far 277
Current number of active students 91
Alumni 155
Success Rate 85%

Cost per student (over 4-year study programmes) USD 35,000
(donors are expected to commit to funding for four years leading to an undergraduate degree, payments can be effected annually).

Annual intake is approx. 20 candidates. Gender balance is emphasised, with a current gender ratio of 1 woman: 1 man in this merit based scholarship programme.

*December 2018
Alumni Tracking and Survey

Alumni employment analysis (2018)

97% of alumni who replied to our survey are working. 53% are working in Community Based Organisations (CBOs) or International NGOs. This group works in a wide variety of very relevant fields such as in peace building initiatives, on gender topics, in environmental organisations, in educational institutions, in the field of public health, to name but a few.

In their professional roles, these alumni contribute greatly to capacity building in Myanmar. Some work on grass-root level (e.g. Consultant in a fertilizer sector improvement project), some on policy level (e.g. National UNDP Officer supporting parliamentary strengthening of 14 Myanmar regions and state parliaments).
### Examples: Myanmar alumni profiles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Mr. MTW</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ Graduated with a BA in Communication Arts from Bangkok University, 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ 06/2010-08/2010: volunteer at HURFOM-Human Right Foundation of Monland, Sangkhlaburi, Thailand</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ 09/2012-12/2013: promoted to Programme Manager, Scholarship and Student Support, Thabyay Education, Yangon, Myanmar</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ since 11/2011: Mehm Kan Kyi Education Network, Founder and part-time Director, Mawlamyine, Mon State, Myanmar</td>
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<td>▪ since 01/2014: Education Liaison Officer at World Education; represents World Education in Myanmar under the programme for local empowerment</td>
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<td>▪ 08/2017-08/2018: University of Hong Kong, Master of Education, focus on &quot;Higher Education&quot;, Hong Kong SAR</td>
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<th><strong>Ms. KCT</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Graduated with a BA in Marketing from St. John's University, Thailand, 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ 03/2011: Master in Inter-Asia NGO Studies (MAINS) in Sung Kong Hoe University, Seoul/Korea</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ 05/2012-11/2013: Asia Network Service Inc. (Canada), Marketing Officer, Yangon, Myanmar</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ 12/2013-12/2014: Area Manager with Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ since 01/2015: Country Director, Child's Dream Myanmar (registered as local NGO since 2017), Yangon, Myanmar</td>
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