

Kayah State CSO Forum (Aug 2014)

Overall Objectives and Thematic Clusters:

Civil society let state level CSO forum was organized under the theme of “CSO Role to Promote in Kayah State Building” and related issues that associated with the CSO role were explored as Thematic Cluster. Altogether in six areas particularly development projects, land, drug, woman and child, peace process and rule of law were focused at the forum.

Against the overall theme of “Enhancing CSO role in Kayah State Building”, the overall objectives of the CSO Forum were;

- To rise strong voice of CSOs for promoting in state building
- To give CSOs of diverse backgrounds a chance to express their views
- To promote participation and decision of CSOs in related issues
- To provide an opportunity for CSO networking
- To engage collectively between CSOs and government counterpart

Problem Statement

Drug Issue

As some armed groups have been involved in poppy plantation, opium production, drug and stimulate tablets trafficking, the number of youth and students who abuse drug and stimulate tablets have been increasing and there was weakness in effective execution of punishment. There has been no rehabilitation center in Kayah State for who were the victims of drug.

Women and Child

There has been weakness in coordination among government, CSOs and public in protecting women and child rights, implementing and practicing CEDAW. There have been no grantees for security and safeties of the women. Discrimination and violence against women have appeared by somehow in day to day life.

Peace Process

There has been weakness in linkages among CSOs in peace process. No encouragement by the government to CSOs involving in the peace process. Moreover, public participation in peace process also very much limited because of the Article-17/1-2 still exists. Government has been extending military camps together with collecting soldiers. Less transparency and low trust between government and armed groups have created delay in implementation status for cease fire agreements.

Development Projects

Qualified human resources in executive, judiciary and legislative sectors that play very critical role in implementation of State development process are limited. Development project should be carried out through active participation and agreement of the public. There has been weakness also in transparency and cooperation of government. Moreover the quality of government staff and service delivery in Health, Education and Social sector have been poor. Social and economic lives of local residents have been affected and delay in ongoing peace process through extraction of natural resources for the development reasons.

Rule of Law

In the curriculum of basic education, law subject has not been included as one of the rule of law programmes. Responsible government servants' efforts in protecting safeties of citizens' life complying with the citizen rights have been weak. Lack of transparency especially in protecting citizens' rights and benefits, inquiring for public agreements and sense of accountability in implementing mega development projects have been created misused of authorities, corruption and discrimination. Moreover, allocation system of budget between union level and state level has not been cleared to the public and there is no independent justice power at all.

Land Issue

Basic policies and land user rights to protect the lands which have been owned according to the custom of local/resident ethnics are still lacking. There was no in depth explanations and awareness raising about land related laws, rules and regulations to the public and continuous land grabbing by the military from the local residents have been happened without complying with the law. Current existing land related laws have weakness in protecting local residents' lands.

Kayah State CSO Forum 2014

Outcome Statement (23 August 2014)

Under the Theme “ Promoting CSO Role in Kayah State Building “ Kayah State CSO Forum 2014 took place for three days in the Loikaw City Hall, Kayah State from 21 August to 23 August 2014 successfully . 156 representatives from 70 CSOs, CBOs and government departments and invited guests participated. This forum was jointly organized by CSOs in Kayah (Kerinni) State and UNDP.

Discussion points during in the forum days were mainly based on the (6) topics namely, women and child, development projects, peace process, land issues, rule of law and drug issues.

In the each and every topic, it was found that current situation and issues faced in Kayah State were education, health, rule of law and general social related concerns and in order to improve the situations the role of government officials and department servants are very crucial . Especially it is urgent requirement for assisting in accordance with the lawfulness to the people who were affected from land grabbing.

It was also concluded that the problems found through the discussion on above 6 topics were weakness in rule of law and lack of legal awareness in public servants and public as well.

Therefore, forum participants would like to suggest the State Government and responsible government officials to conduct legal awareness raising programmes to the public of Kayah State in order to follow and abide the law, rules and regulations precisely, to solve the land grabbing problems without affecting the benefit of any peoples, to lead in organizing seminars and review workshops on peace process by creating whole community involving in the process.

Especially, Forum participants issued the statement that firmly demanding the Kayah State Government and government department concerns to recognize the role of CSOs including women, youth and religious organization and it was suggested to coordinate with the CSOs in the implementing process that were demanding in the above sections.

Kayah State CSO Forum 2014

Mon State CSO Forum (July 2014)

The statement of Civil Society Organizations Forum in Mon State

27th of July 2014

Shwe Myint Mo Tun Hotel, Mawlamyine

Civil Society Organizations Forum is organized by Civil Society Organizations in Mon State with the helps and supports of UNDP, the lead of forum's committee. The forum was held for two days from 26th to 27th of July 2014 at Shwe Myint Mo Tun Hotel, Mawlamyine, Mon State.

The purposes of Civil Society Organizations Forum are

- To improve the capacity of Civil Society Organizations.
- To cooperate the Civil Society Organizations in Mon State.
- To acknowledge the importance of Civil Society Organizations in the Nation reforming Agenda.

There were 287 representatives of 203 Civil Society Organizations in Mon State attended the forum and they all shared their activities, weaknesses, difficulties and challenges from each of their organizations. The Forum was discussed by 8 groups. The discussions were about the development of the Civil Society Organizations to be part of the Nation reforming agenda and activity. They also discussed about the future plans or agendas for the organizations.

According to the Civil Society Organizations, when they were identifying their difficulties and challenges, they found out that sometimes, they could solve their problems by their own but for their communities' development, the Civil Society Organizations faced problems with the authority while they were trying to help the communities. In some places, the authority interfered and doubted on the works of CSO. Sometimes, because of the existence of the authority restriction on the CSO, their works delayed. Therefore, they discussed about the needs of the authority to help and to build trust on CSO. So, in the forum,

they hoped they already created a better solution and situation between the authority and CSO.

Because of the difficulties and challenges that the CSO were facing in the communities, they drew some future agenda for the CSO to solve the problems by their own. The agendas were:

- To give trainings to CSO to improve their capacities.
- To identify the methods of fund raising for the needs of CSO to be sustainable.
- To identify the methods of building a network between the CSOs in the community.
- To have an openly discussion between the people and the CSO in the community in order to be a good citizen in the Nation reforming Agenda.

The forum also found the way to help the CSO to get the origin of the situation in the future.

To support and achieve those agendas, two representatives are needed in every township to have a better communication route and Civil Society Organization network (temporarily) had been formed by the Civil Society Organizations forum. They would try slowly and slowly to have a strong network between them.

Civil Society Organizations forum is the changing era of the nation and the process of development. The forum helped the people to have their own voices for the advantage of the people and the nation. In the future, for the community, we issued that Civil Society Organizations forum must be held continuously.

The proposals from the Civil Society Organizations Forum to the Cabinet in Mon State

The Civil Society Organizations Forum was held at Shwe Myint Mo Tun Hotel, Mon State, Mawlamyine from 26th to 27th of July 2014. The forum was organized by Civil Society Organizations in Mon State with the attendance of 287 representatives from 203 organizations. The representatives of the organizations were discussed about the activities,

the weaknesses, the difficulties and the challenges of the organization and so they had formed a network successfully.

For the CSO to identify the problem that they are facing in the community, they discussed about how to solve the problems by their own when they are dealing with the difficulties and challenged. And, they also discussed about how the authority must help and support the CSO in the community.

Especially, in some places, the authority interfered and doubted on the works of CSO. Sometimes, because of the existence of the authority restriction on the CSO, their works delayed.

Therefore, there is still a weakness for authority in helping and serving their duty either for the people or for the CSO in the community. Those acts can damage the trust on both the authority and the CSO. Hence, we would like to propose the Cabinet of Mon State to fix those problems as much as you can.

Like these CSO forums and discussions, they can get the voice of the CSO clearly and therefore, we also would like to suggest that the authority should give a permission to the related department of the responsible people who are working very closed to the people, should attend and discover the forum.

At the present, from the CSO forum, an organization network was successfully formed to achieve the agendas which were drew by the CSO forum.

In the agendas, besides the organization network, the CSO will help the people's health, education, law and awareness discussion. The forum also helped the CSO to find the method of fund raising and capacity improvement training must be given in the future.

To do all of these, the CSO will absolutely need the support of the authority and therefore, we sincerely want to propose the Cabinet to give the CSO all the needs they require for the people in the community.

Civil Societies' Forum For Peace(Mon State)
27-28. January 2015
Shwe Myint Mo Htun Hotel, Mawlamyine

Brief Report/Statement

The Mon state civil societies' forum for peace, working in collaboration with the Mon state civil society organizations, by the support of CSFoP and UNDP was held on 27th to 28th January, 2015 for two days at Shwe Myint Mo Htun Hotel in Mawlamyine, Mon State.

The Mon state civil societies' forum for peace was conducted with the following purposes:-

- To identify public opinion and civil society on the concept of peace and peace-building process
- To make the people more aware of the current peace process in Myanmar
- To promote the role of the public and civil societies' participation in the State peace-building process
- To be responsible for more efficient supports with the link between civil society organizations to on another, the connection with Civil society organizations and the media for the peace-building process

The Forum was attended by (163) representatives in total; (135) from Mon state, (6) from Karen State and (5) from Tanintharyi Region. In addition, 5 representatives from government agency, Member of Parliament, political parties and 23 representatives of INGO participated.

In the forum, the concepts of peace and peace-building, the current situation of state peace building process were discussed. Moreover, the role of public participation in the state Peace-building process, peace and the role of women, Peace and Youth, peace and sustainable development, Peace and the rule of law, Peace and land issues, Peace and the Media, Peace and ceasefire monitoring sectors which are related to peace building, especially in the current state peace-building process, the opinion, perspectives of Mon state civil societies and their desire were also discussed and identified.

When discussing on the topic of **Peace** and the role of **women**, in a country's war, war-affected women and children are most vulnerable and the incidents of violence against women in our area had experienced. Now, depending on different gender, based on the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 which is decided to stop discrimination and suppression against women, peace and security for women project is being implemented.

In the discussion on **Peace** and **youth** sector, the youths were pioneers of the State's development process. However, sometimes youth had been exploited therefore the youths should be encouraged having opportunity to participate in the future political and peace process.

In discussion on the topic of **peace** and **sustainable development** sector, the outcomes showed that if there is creation of opportunities for sustainable development to the people, they can own the good basis which is needed to stand in line with human dignity and it will support peace. However, the implementation of development-oriented mega projects should be implemented through transparency and accountability, abstain from harming Natural environment, do no harm on the local people's health, Cultural heritage and their customs.

In discussion of the **peace** and the **rule of law**, the rule of law is essential for peace, however, there is currently a weak rule of law in action. People need to know about the law and the legal rights of a given knowledge are still weak, and therefore less access to legal protection. In summary, when there is no man above the law, the rule of law is completed.

In discussion on the topic of **land issues**, there were many problems of land issues in Mon region documented in the 4 reports which were released by Human Rights Foundation of Mon land. To be able to solve the problems of land issues that occurred in the past, although the Puidaungsu Hluttaw formed an inquiry commission intended to ensure no harm to the people due to land confiscation and other lands issues, the commission could not solve the problem. At present, there are many land issues to solve is still remaining.

In discussion on **Peace** and the **media** section, they have been encountered shortage of journalists in their region. Currently, with the purpose of media development, journalists had collectively formed Southern Myanmar Journalist Network (SMJN). In order to bridge the information for all, it is needed to perform upgrade from Online Radio to become the Community Radio. And with the role of Media development in the region, the public opinion and the people perspectives together with peace process should be concentrated and emphasized for supporting the local good governance.

In discussing the **peace** and **civilian ceasefire monitoring** sector, currently civilian ceasefire monitoring committee has been formed and the Mon State civil society organizations play in leading role attempting to operate its works, the representatives discussed and identified differently.

We believe that Mon state civil societies' forum could reflect and identify the important of public voice in the time of State transition and progressive changing process for state building during the workshops. We also believe that we are performing a vital role for state building therefore, as civil society representatives, we urge to the following;

1. To emphasis and include the suffering and desire of women who suffered from violence as well as conflict affected practically in peace talk in the Peace-building process

2. To hold such forums as today in different states and regions owing to attaining with the same aspirations and mutual understanding for peace for those who attended today forum as they learned the real situation of peace process being implemented practically
3. To perform in accordance with the local community's desire and opinion and through transparency when implementing Development project
4. To encourage and promote the activities of educational and entertainment activities of youth for promoting public awareness which are portrayed with the essence of peace
5. To encourage and perform constantly to the media development activities due to it is a vital role for public voice promotion sector in peace process
6. To work together and find the ways forward on the future plans from the current conditions of ceasefire agreement gained by encouragement of the government and the ethnic armed groups on which ceasefire monitoring works implemented by the civil society organizations.
7. To accelerate awareness raising activities in order to make the rural people and the farmers aware of land laws so as to reduce the conflicts due to land confiscation. Such points shown above were discussed and identified together therefore; we announce that we urge the government and the ethnic armed groups who are being involved in the peace process to get steadfast and strong ceasefire agreement quickly through compromising, negotiation with mutual respect, value and equality.

Civil Societies' Forum for Peace (Mon State)
Date: 28.1.2015



Myanmar South East Region Civil Society Organizations Peace Conference

Statement

The civil society organizations in Kayah State, Kayin State, Mon State and Taninthari Region from the South East of Myanmar held the Myanmar South East Region Civil Society Organizations Peace Conference in Mawlamyine, Mon State from 21st to 23rd September, 2015. This conference gathered 445 participants including the ministers of Mon and Kayin state governments, members of parliament, ethnic armed groups, senior negotiating team leaders and members, leaders from ethnic armed forces such as KNU, PNLO and KNPP, representatives from 14 UN agencies and INGOs and 114 civil society organizations.

At this conference, the civil society organizations from Kayah State, Kayin State, Mon State and Taninthari Region discussed the progress of the peace processes in their respective states and regions as well as presented the paper expressing the opinions of the CSOs in these states and regions about the peace process. In addition, CSOs had the chance to learn and gain knowledge relating to PEACE from national and international experts.

As an outcome of this conference based on the papers presented by the CSOs, knowledge about peace process shared by national and international experts, the roles taken by the CSOs in the peace process and the impacts associated with the ongoing peace process on the CSOs, the following statement is issued to provide recommendations to the concerned organizations after open and transparent discussions and exchange of views among participants.

1. The role of civil society in national level political dialogues

(a) To open channels or create a way for civil society organizations to participate in national level political dialogues to support in facilitation, documentation, logistics, research

2. The role of civil society in civilian protection and monitoring of ceasefire process

(a) To accept the independent civil society monitoring teams and recognize their importance in specific states/regions by the organizations on both sides

- (b) To provide official ways to access information about the outcomes of the agreement for the independent civil society monitoring teams
- (c) To find ways for the independent civil society monitoring teams to coordinate with international monitoring teams as part of their capacity development and to recognize this coordination

3. The Peace Process and civilian protection

- (a) To engage the returnees/refugees/IDPs in planning and implementation of resettlement/reintegration and rehabilitation programmes to make sure that their desires and needs are met
- (b) To implement the resettlement/reintegration and rehabilitation projects only after negotiating and making agreements with the host communities to avoid negative impacts on their traditional land tenures and welfare and to clear land mines and other explosive remnants of war in advance
- (c) To take effective measures for prevention of violence against the women and children in the conflict- affected areas

4. The Peace Process and Projects implementation on Large Capital Investment

- (a) To suspend the large national and international capital projects and not to start new ones during the Peace Process
- (b) To do the environmental and social impact assessment of building infrastructure, implementing large development projects and extracting natural resources and to minimize the negative impacts
- (c) In implementing large projects, to seek advice and agreement from the people and CSOs and to be accountable and transparent by making the clearly defined frameworks known to the people

5. The Peace Process and land management

- (a) To include customary and ancestral right to land in the land laws
- (b) To give back the lands grabbed for a particular project to the original (customary) owner if that project cannot be implemented as planned
- (c) To make adjustments in land management by consulting the land management procedures and practices of the ethnic armed groups

6. The Peace Process and drug trafficking issues

- (a) At state/region level, to establish anti-drug work groups (comprised of the government officials, ethnic armed group members and CSOs) as groups which have power to take actions against corrupt civil service personnel and corruptions
- (b) To include knowledge about drugs and drug laws in the school curriculums, to implement drug education programmes and to establish rehabilitation centres for drug users on a large scale
- (c) To help market the crops grown as opium replacement and to create job opportunities

The civil society organizations in the South East of Myanmar agreed and decided in unison that they shall work together as one to achieve genuine peace and to serve the communities in an effective and successful way.

Myanmar South East Region Civil Society Organizations also called on the organizations participating in the peace process to pave the way for genuine peace which can guarantee the well-being of the people ultimately to establish a peaceful prosperous federal union.

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23/09/2015

Mawlamyine

**Myanmar South East Region Civil Society Organization Peace
Conference**

Action Plan adopted by the States and Region

Initial Plan of Action

Presenting and discussing the Statement and the Action Plan of the Conference

The Conference Organizing Committee and other representatives will meet the respective state and regional governments and the ethnic armed groups – New Mon State Party, Karen National Union and Karenni National Progressive Party to explain and discuss the outcome documents of the Conference - the Statement and the Action Plan. Likewise, they will meet with Union Peace Working Committee and the Ethnic Armed Groups' Senior Delegation in Yangon to explain and discuss these documents.

Kayah State

1. To make continuous efforts until Kayah State Civil Society Network (KSCSN) becomes a network recognized by the government
2. To present and discuss the findings of Kayah State Peace Monitoring Network (KSPMN) at the KSCSN meeting held on quarterly basis
3. To link with civil society organizations currently taking part in negotiation of the peace process to provide support and cooperation
4. To share information about the outcomes of the Conference to CSOs in the respective regions
5. To establish strong peace monitoring networks in the South East of Myanmar with an ultimate goal to become a big network covering the whole region and to arrange to meet at least two times a year

Kayin State

1. To establish a state level CSO network and to participate in the peace process
 - a) to meet and discuss with the CSOs in Kayin State
 - b) to compile the objectives and action plans of the specific CSOs
 - c) to establish the CSO networks at the township level
2. To listen to the people's voices
 - a) to organize meetings up to the village level where the issues relating to peace will be discussed
 - b) to implement the Listening Project

- c) to implement Public Dialogue Programme
- 3. To organize prayer ceremonies by the religious leaders for peace process
 - a) to organize prayer ceremonies for peace by respective religions
 - b) to meet religious leaders from all religions and pray for peace
- 4. To make information available to the public
 - a) to publish local journals and newspapers
 - b) to set up a community radio station after receiving trainings

Mon State

1. To raise awareness about the peace process up to the grass-root level
2. To strengthen the Mon State CSO Network
3. To unite the CSOs which can take part in political dialogue
4. To develop capacity to strengthen the ceasefire monitoring teams
5. To secure funding to sustain the activities relating to the peace process
6. To mobilize more CSOs to take part in environmental conservation, prevention of natural disasters and rehabilitation
7. To make necessary preparations for CSOs to be able to take part in and observe the peace talks if conducted at the state level
8. CSOs to conduct legal awareness sessions for the people
9. To organize dialogues on the land laws from the ward/village level up to the state level, with participation by government departments, CSOs and the people
10. To conduct women empowerment programmes up to the village level
11. To make efforts to establish community radio stations in respective areas

3. Taninthari Region

1. CSOs conduct surveys to get the data about the land problems

2. CSOs draft the land use bill in coordination with legal experts and to submit it to the Hluttaw through members of parliament
3. To link all the CSOs in Taninthari Region to make a CSO network come into existence
4. CSOs help the local people to make evidence for their land and property legally strong
5. The government, CSOs and youths work together to raise awareness about the dangers of drug abuse
6. To conduct community dialogues sessions on peace and politics among the public
7. To organize peace conferences of the regional CSOs at region level at least twice a year
8. To share updated information about the political situation to the public
9. To monitor human right violations, prepare reports and work with the relevant human rights organizations
10. To support the members of parliament to be able to debate in abolishing the laws which are not locally relevant and in making relevant local laws
11. To coordinate with the organizations concerned to shut down industrial zones which can cause environmental degradation and to organize campaigns for environmental conservation
12. To establish networks at district and region levels for monitoring of the peace process and to monitor both sides whether they observe the terms and conditions in the NCA
13. To make information about the peace process through various media channels including Community Radio

23/9/2015

State Hall, Mawlamyine

