# **DIRECTORY OF POLICY INSTITUTES IN MYANMAR**

**SEPTEMBER 2016 VERSION** 



# **Policy Institutes**

Independent or partly independent organizations engaging in research and other work to support policy processes, through various entry points, from identifying priorities, to building evidence and conducting evaluations. Policy institutes provide a public good in the form of information for the public about the government, and for the government about public interests.

Characteristics of policy institutes:

- Independent or partly independent organizations. Some are affiliated with government departments, political parties or interest groups.
- Often have progressive aims such as promoting development, human rights, equality, and justice.
- Often strategically located in capital cities.
- Sit on the supply side of the supply and demand chain of information and the evidence-base in policymaking.

Note: Not all organizations listed in this directory are policy institutes. However, due to their engagement with aspects of the policymaking process, they are included in the directory.

For any corrections or additions to the directory please email The Asia Foundation at country.myanmar.general@asiafoundation.org.

# **MYANMAR POLICY INSTITUTES**

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# Advancing Life and Regenerating Mother Land (EcoDev/ALARM)

### **Focus Areas**

Natural resource management

### **Contact Information**

Phone: (+95)1 230 5540, +95 (1) 230 5689 | Email: alarm.myanmar@gmail.com Address: Building E, Room No. 306, Nanattaw Street, 6th Quarter, Kamayut Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

EcoDev/ALARM approaches environmental protection by educating and empowering local communities and sees local natural resource management as a key ingredient underwriting current decentralization efforts. ALARM has been contributing to community, rural and livelihood development, poverty eradication, environmental conservation and decentralization nationwide, engaging in many policy dialogues, particularly in Poverty Reduction, Land and Environmental Reforms, since the early 1990s. ALARM embed capacity-building at all levels of implementation, combining evidence-based research, strategic implementation, and policy advocacy.

# Alliance for Gender Inclusion in the Peace Process (AGIPP)

### **Focus Areas**

Women's rights, peace and security

### **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (9) 450 551 138 | Email: info@agipp.org | Website: http://www.agipp.org Page: https://www.facebook.com/AGIPP-Alliance-for-Gender-Inclusion-in-the-Peace-Process-782937511834115/ Address: No-99/B, Myay Nu Condo, Room-608, Myay Nu Street, Sanchaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

AGIPP is a Myanmar civil society alliance formed by national organizations and networks working on women's rights and gender inclusion, as well as those working on peace and security in Myanmar. It was formed by eight leading national organizations and networks including Women's Organisation Network/WIN-Peace (WON), Mon Women's Network (MWN), Gender Equality Network (GEN), Women's League of Burma (WLB), Gender and Development Institute (GDI), Kachin State Women's Network, The Nyein (Shalom) Foundation and Women and Peace Action Network (Shan State). The Alliance is focused primarily on national policy change. It plans to engage in state-level policy processes on request or demand from relevant women's rights and peace organizations; and as part of agreed strategies to realize national policy change. AGIPP seeks to secure greater participation of women in future peace negotiations and ensure outcomes of the peace process are inclusive of gender perspectives.

# **Animation and Resource Centre**

**Focus Areas** Social research methods

### **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (9) 431 150 21, +95 (1) 221828 Address: 178 (A), Thein Phyu Street (2nd floor), Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Animation and Resource Centre was founded in 2013 by Dr. Walter Fernandes from the Northeastern Social Research Centre in Guahati, Assam. Dr. Fernandes is an expert on Burmese refugees in India and the Northeast dynamics. A priest, he belongs to a Christian organisation but designs his own strategies for research activities in Burma. His organisation solely focuses on providing training in social research methods and assisting Burmese researchers in conducting surveys.

# Another Development (AD)

### **Focus Areas**

Human rights, multiculturalism, decentralization and federalism, rural economic development and social enterprise, and E-government/E-citizenship

### **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (1) 514394 Page: https://m.facebook.com/anotherdevelopmentAD/ Address: No. 62, 6th Floor, Nyaung Tone Street, Sanchaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Another Development is a policy institute/think tank, aiming to be part of the solutions to the problems and conflicts affecting Myanmar via advocating effective public policy change through a holistic approach. AD's motto is "Dignity, Cooperation and Prosperity". There are five theme areas that AD will focus on: human rights; multiculturalism; decentralization and federalism; rural economic development and social enterprises; and E-government and E-citizenship. The themes are addressed through three different approaches: strategic communication, research and policy advocacy, and consulting and professional services. All thematic areas and departments are cross-cutting. The target audiences are governments (local and national), media, businesses and local communities. The communication strategy for each target group will be crafted differently.

# Bayda Institute

### **Focus Areas**

Good governance, rule of law and economic growth

### **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (9) 250 514 073 Email: baydainstituteoffice@gmail.com, bayda.institute@gmail.com | Website: www.baydainstitute.org Address: Building 20, Room 201, Laydauntkan Road, Zawana, Thingangyun Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Under its vision: "A nation where consensus democracy and social justice flourish", Bayda Institute's strategic goal is to facilitate and inform the transformation of majoritarian and homogenizing tendencies in Myanmar into cultures of mutual respect that relate to each other through consensus. Key activities are (a) Training for political leadership and (b) Research on political issues and social sciences.

# Burma Centre for Ethnic Studies (BCES)

### **Focus Areas**

Ethnic studies, peace and reconciliation, democracy, human rights, federalism

# **Contact Information**

Email: info@burmaethnicstudies.net | Website: http://www.burmaethnicstudies.net/about.html

The Burma Centre for Ethnic Studies (BCES) was founded in 2012 and is an independent think tank and study center generating ideas on democracy, human rights and federalism as an effective vehicle for "Peace and Reconciliation" in the Union of Burma. The main objectives of the Burma Centre for Ethnic Studies are: (a) To promote Peace and Reconciliation; (b) To promote the ideas and practices of democracy, human rights and federalism; (c) To promote constitutional knowledge, the rule of law and good governance; (d) To expand and consolidate the network of organizations and leaders to promote autonomy and internal self-determination within a federal arrangement as a means of addressing and ending ethnic armed conflict in the Union of Burma.

# **Burma Studies Centre (Yangon)**

### **Focus Areas**

Politics, economics, culture, history, society and ethnic affairs

### **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (9) 428 134 230, +95 (1) 514 537 | Email: burmastudiescentre@gmail.com Address: No 501, Building (D), Anawyahtar Housing, Kamaryut Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Burma Studies Centre was founded in January 2015 to systematically research and intellectually study the politics, economics, culture, history, society and ethnic affairs of Myanmar, and to engender the intellectual space of Myanmar affairs. The center conducts research for the following key functions:

- 1. As a resource center for the history and cultures of Myanmar;
- 2. Not only for the Burman people but also for other ethnic communities;
- 3. Knowledge exchange space in the field of Myanmar Studies for both local and international people;
- 4. Organizing and participating in local and international seminars, conferences on Myanmar affairs and
- 5. Research and opinion papers (gray literature) publishing (e.g. Paper 1 of Myanmar Affairs in 2015).

# **Centre for Development and Ethnic Studies (CDES)**

#### **Focus Areas**

Democracy, federalism and peacebuilding

#### **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (9) 256 207 630, (+95) 5 450 015 512 | Email: info@cdes.org.mm Website: www.cdes.org.mm; Address: No. 3C5, Yankin Centre, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Centre for Development and Ethnic Studies (CDES) is an independent think tank and study centre founded in 2012 to generate ideas on democracy, human rights and federalism as an effective vehicle for "Peace and Reconciliation" in the Union of Burma/Myanmar. The main objectives of CDES are: to promote peace and reconciliation; to promote the ideas and practices of democracy, human rights and federalism; to promote constitutional knowledge, the rule of law and good governance; and to expand and consolidate the network of organizations and leaders to promote autonomy and internal self-determination within a federal arrangement as a means of addressing and ending ethnic armed conflict in the Union of Burma/Myanmar. The organization engages in research on democratic principles, human rights and federalism; organizes policy studies, forums and conferences to advance public policy for peace and development; and develops new strategies and communication networks to strengthen communication between ethnic areas and the central Burma/Myanmar.

# Center for Economy, Environment and Society (CEES Myanmar)

### **Focus Areas**

Environmental preservation, international relations, economic cooperation, CSR

### **Contact Information**

Email: cees.myanmar@gmail.com | Address: 1st Floor, No. 62, Shan Kone Street, Sanchaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

The main activities of CEES include research and analysis, knowledge dissemination, and capacity building. CEES is carrying out a series of policy-oriented research and analysis projects with a special focus on balancing economic development, environmental and social objectives. CEES undertakes these activities in cooperation with government agencies, civil society organizations as well as with local and international experts and development partners. CEES also helps to promote dialogue and coordination between the different stakeholders involved and hence contributes to balance conflicting needs and interests. It makes this possible by conducting consultation meetings, seminars with local and international experts/consultants, and by

publishing research findings and policy papers. The organization is also developing a web portal that will enable dialogue, troubleshooting, and information exchange. The center also provides capacity development trainings for both the public and private sector. This includes reinforcing innovative governance initiatives for public, private and civil society organizations, increasing the understanding for viable policy options in responding promptly to emerging national developments, improving efficiency and effectiveness of people participating in policy formulation, strategic implementation, international relations, economic cooperation, regional integration, corporate social responsibility, social protection, and environmental preservation.

# Centre for Economic and Social Development (CESD)

# **Focus Areas**

Macroeconomic reform, labour and social policy, food security and rural development and governance

### **Contact Information**

Phone:+95 (1) 654 770 | Fax: +95 (1) 654 771 | Email: CESDcommunications@gmail.com | Website: https://myanmarcesd. org/,

Address: 27 Pyay Road, 6 1/2 Mile, Hlaing Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

The Centre for Economic and Social Development is one of Myanmar's leading think tanks supporting evidence-based policy making. The Centre undertakes participatory policy research studies related to economic reform, poverty-reduction, sustainable development, and good governance in Myanmar. It also provides training and education services for key institutions and organizations contributing to the ongoing process of reform in Myanmar.

# Enlightened Myanmar Research Foundation (EMReF)

### **Focus Areas**

Socioeconomics, political economy, political parties, parliaments, rule of law, access to justice

# **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (1) 562439 | Email: info@emrmyanmar.org | Website: http://www.emref.org/

Address: Head office: Wing (3), Room(A305) Thitsar Oo Yin Housing; 3rd Street, 8th Quarter, South Okkalar Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Branch Office: Building (3), Ground Floor, Dammaryone Street, 15th Quarter, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

EMReF is an independent non-profit research organization working with the vision of the development of evidence-based policymaking and the revitalization of a culture of independent research in Myanmar. EMReF is dedicated to conducting research on such focus areas including socioeconomics, political economy, political parties, parliaments, rule of law, access to justice, social assessments, and other development related studies. The mission is to provide evidence, information and recommendations for different stakeholders such as international and local organizations in the development field, civil society, political parties, government ministerial departments in support of developing evidence-based equitable, inclusive and feasible policies and programs. In addition to the research, EMReF lately is making strong efforts in disseminating accredit analysed data to the public through a website called "My PILAR".

# Environmental and Economic Research Institute Myanmar (EER.i)

### **Focus Areas**

Environmental policy management, natural resource management, agro-business, agro-economics and soil chemical analysis

# **Contact Information**

Email: info@eerimm.com | Website: http://www.eerimm.com

The Environmental and Economic Research Institute is sponsored by the Keio University and Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) of Thailand, and is headquartered in Yadanarpon cyber city near Pyin Oo Lwin.

# Euro-Burma Office (EBO), Yangon

### **Focus Areas**

Ethnic nationalities, human rights, development and security

### **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (9) 978864533 I Email: myanmar@euro-burma.be, phyu@euro-burma.be I Website: www.euro.burma.eu Address: Pearl Condo Complex, Block D, 15th Floor, N. 1503, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

EBO works with decision-makers, ethnic armed organizations, civil society organizations and members of the international community. Working on the basis that development (poverty eradication), human rights and security (peace) are all intertwined and interdependent. EBO's activities include:

Encourage and strengthen the capacity of decision makers (the executive, army, parliament, civil service and political parties) to seek a more inclusive and democratic solution to peace through engagement processes with other stakeholders to develop policies and strengthen democratic practices.

Facilitate ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) to consult amongst themselves; provide information, training and resources to develop policies and strategies for negotiations; and to implement their agreement with the government. The program will also build the capacity of EAOs to interact with the general public and political parties to strengthen collaboration and cooperation in support of a position to negotiate with the government.

Strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations and (especially ethnic) media by facilitating access to information, training and funding to enable them, especially women and youth, to participate in the peace process and have a more active role in social and political processes.

Provide the international community, foreign governments and INGOs with information on developments within Myanmar to help develop their policies to support democratization and to help coordinate their response and involvement in the peace process.

# Gender Equality Network (GEN - formerly the Women's Protection Technical Working Group)

### **Focus Areas**

Women's empowerment

### **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (1) 546 671 (Ext: 205), +95 (1) 860 3142 | E-mail: gen.myanmar@gmail.com Address: No. 1, Wingabar Road, Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

GEN aims to contribute to the articulation and reinforcement of social practices and cultural norms that favor gender equality, and changing those that discriminate against women. The organization promotes women's participation in leadership and public life, and supports women to have the capacity and opportunity to effectively exercise their roles in all sectors. The organization addresses gender-based violence through increasing awareness and support to stakeholders for implementation of effective evidence-based mechanisms and strategies to prevent and mitigate violence against women and girls. Institutional strengthening is also key for GEN to continue to be a dynamic and cohesive network of skilled and confident members who are able to work effectively for women's rights and gender equality.

# Independent Lawyers Association of Myanmar (ILAM)

### **Focus Areas**

Rule of law and access to justice

### **Contact Information**

Email: tarkawde@gmail.com | Page:https://www.facebook.com/ILAM-MDY-REG-Independent-Lawyers-Association-of-Myanmar-Mandalay-Region-1606493682943263/

Independent Lawyers' Association of Myanmar is a non-profit organization for all lawyers living in Myanmar. The association aims to become the first national, independent, professional organization of lawyers in the country; to promote the interests of the legal profession; to develop and uphold professional standards; and to improve access to justice and the rule of law, according to its invitation to the inauguration ceremony. ILAM brings together several thousand lawyers. It includes a Legal Reform Subcommittee working on ways to reform existing and/or create new laws and policies to strengthen the RoL, the independence of the judiciary and laws which govern the legal community.

# Inya Institute

### Focus Areas

Research on social sciences and humanities as they are related to Myanmar; training and mentoring courses; production of

### **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (9) 420 001 058, +95 (9) 250 640 948 | Email: contact@inyainstitute.org | Website: http://www.inyainstitute.org; Address: Bahosi Ein-ya Apartment 24, 4th Floor, Building 38 Bogyoke Aung San Street; Lanmadaw Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Inya Institute is a Yangon-based higher learning institute dedicated to advancing the social sciences, the arts and humanities as they relate to Myanmar. It is a non-political, non-religious, non-profit, and non-degree granting organisation. It seeks to build research and intellectual capacity for young local researchers, to foster scholarly exchange between local and international researchers, and to create original scholarship for international and local scholars. It further aims to raise the general public's understanding of the country's multi-faceted cultural legacy.

# **Kaw Lah Foundation**

### **Focus Areas**

Human rights, democracy, and the environment

# **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (9) 455 413 986 | Email: kawlahfoundation.myan@gmail.com Address: No. 239, 2nd floor, Ngu Wah Street, Lower Kyee Myin Dine, Alone Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Kaw Lah Foundation was founded in late 2012 with the purpose of contributing to a peaceful and just community, with dignity, trust, mutual understanding, and a love of the natural environment. To achieve this, the Kaw Lah Foundation supports livelihood initiatives and capacity building approaches to identify and implement participatory and sustainable approaches to development.

Examples of the organization's work so far includes working with the Karen Youth Network of Community Committee (KYNCC) to provide training on democracy, human rights, and environmental issues, as well campaigning and awarenessraising on internally displaced people as a result of a dam on the Dae Loh river. In addition, the organization has developed model paddy fields and organic vegetable farms, as well as support for microfinance and the installation of solar power powers for schools and healthcare centers. The broad variety of Kaw Lah Foundation projects reflects the approach of tailoring support to each community's specific needs and requests.

# Myanmar Alliance for Transparency and Accountably (MATA)

### **Focus Areas**

Natural resource governance

### **Contact information**

Phone: +95 (1) 503 374 | Email: mata.nationaloffice@gmail.com, mata.comofficer@gmail.com

Myanmar Alliance for Accountably and Transparency (MATA) is the civil society focal point with the government for the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). It is quite advocacy focused but do conduct research for policy engagement with national and sub-national government bodies.

MATA supports civil society actors to collaboratively advocate for transparency and accountability in all sectors across Myanmar. More than 400 civil society organizations, civil society networks and individuals from the whole country of Myanmar are involved in MATA as members.

It was formed as a mechanism for civil society coordination with the EITI process. However, it is just one example of the initiatives we support to build openness in natural resource management across the country. The Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) is another example of an initiative that MATA tends to help facilitate in Myanmar. This is an EU Action Plan which aims to support improvements to forest governance around the world.

# Myanmar Centre to Empower Regional Parliaments (MCERP)

### **Focus Areas**

Democracy, human rights, citizens' rights, ethnic rights, the rule of law, justice and equality

# **Contact Information**

"Myanmar Center to Empower Regional Parliaments (MCERP)" is founded in November 2015 and intended to empower Members of State/Regional Parliaments (MRP) in their legislative works, improve the relation and cooperation between the constituents and their MRPs, and assist in civic involvement in the democratization process.

# Myanmar Development Resource Institute and Centre for Strategic and International Studies (MDRI-CSIS)

### **Focus Areas**

Public administration, political science, and business management

### **Contact Information**

Phone : +95 (1) 122 2576, +95 (9) 253 868 224-3 | Email: htet.nmh@gmail.com Page: https://www.facebook.com/Myanmardevelopmentresourcesinstitute/ Address: No.27, 6½ miles, Pyay Road, Hlaing Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

The Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) is a training institution based on public administration, political science and business management. CSIS also contributes to the enrollment of students in PhD programs, master's programs, and diploma and certificate programs. The organization partners with Aldersgate College from the Philippines.

# **Myanmar Education Consortium (MEC)**

#### **Focus Areas**

Education

### **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (1) 375 739, 375 747, 375 791, 375 796, 375 801 Ext. 131, +95 (9) 858 6672 Email: info@myanmareducationconsortium.org | Website: www.myanmareducationconsortium.org Address: 5th Floor, Wizaya Plaza, No. 226, U Wisaya Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, 11201, Myanmar.

Myanmar Education Consortium (MEC) works on strengthening the education systems with partners to improve education for marginalized children in Myanmar - those who are not fully served by the government system - whether due to access, language, poverty or exclusion, for instance due to disability. MEC supports complementary basic education services – community-based, faith-based and ethnic education systems – through funding to partners to deliver services and organizational support to build effective organizations. The program promotes inclusive, evidence-based policy dialogue through networking and knowledge sharing. MEC is managed by Save the Children and supported by the Governments of Australia, UK and Denmark.

# **Myanmar Egress**

**Focus Areas** Democratic governance

### **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (1) 665 482, +95 (1) 656 840, +95 (1) 656 841 Email: info@myanmaregress.org | Website: http://www.myanmaregress.org/ Address: No.35 ,Corner of Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road and Min Dhama Road, Mayangon Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Myanmar Egress is a nonprofit organization, committed to state building through positive change in a progressive yet constructive collaboration and working relationship with the government and all interest groups, both local and foreign. The main objectives of the organization are to promote civil society organizations in the country and to help young people to prepare to face the challenges of political deadlock in the country and globalization in the world.

# Myanmar Environment Institute (MEI)

### **Focus Areas**

Environment science and sustainable development

### **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (9) 420 109 463, +95 (9) 514 4005; +95 (9) 376 382 | Fax: +95 (9) 552 901 Email: mei@enviromyanmar.net, enviromyanmar@gmail. | Website: http://enviromyanmar.org/ Address: Building C, Room 005, Delta Plaza, Shwe Gone Dine Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

MEI intends to develop human resources in environmental science and sustainable development of the country with a team of geoscientists, engineers, biologists, ecologist, geographers, sociologists, and economists working across traditional disciplines to provide knowledge of environmental science. The MEI department employs local and international professors and lecturers and offers basic and advanced training courses in environmental science and management in classrooms and laboratories equipped with standard teaching materials. It spearheads research projects in microbiology, geology, ecology, environment, biodiversity and socio-economic aspects related to environment. MEI plans cooperation agreements with other international universities in order to effectively participate in the country's sustainable development and to enhance higher education in Myanmar.

# Myanmar Federation of Persons with Disabilities (MFPD)

### **Focus Areas**

Rights of the persons with disabilities

### **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (9) 252 643 420, +95 (1) 218 115 | Email: myanmarcouncil.pwds@gmail.com Address: 13(B), U Kyaw Dun Zan Street, Kayin A Myo Thar Ward, Kyi Myin Dine Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

The Myanmar Federation of Persons with Disabilities (MFPD) was established in June of 2014 as a result of the National Conference on Disabilities. After 2015 March election of MCPD, the name has changed to Myanmar Federation of Persons with Disabilities. It focuses on the rights of the persons with disabilities. The Mission of MCPD is to promote the rights and full participation of persons with disabilities through advocacy, education, and awareness-raising in Myanmar. The council, which represents 15 disabled peoples organizations (DPOs), was elected from the general assembly of 550 persons, representing more than 40 regional and national DPOs and NGOs.

# Myanmar Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS)

# **Focus Areas**

Gender, women's rights, peace and security

# **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (9) 252 301 389 | Email: marmarcho@gmail.com | Address: Mayan Gone Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Myanmar Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) was founded in 2015 to accelerate the 2030 Agenda, building momentum for the effective implementation of the new Sustainable Development Goals in Myanmar, especially goal number five – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. The organizations also focuses on women participation in peace and political processes. It has developed capacity building programs on gender awareness, gender research, transformative feminist leadership, and women for sustainable development. The organization also engages in curriculum development, trainings, public seminars and the dissemination of policy briefs and policy advice.

# Myanmar Independent Living Initiative (MILI)

# **Focus Areas**

Rights of persons with disabilities

# **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (9) 450 067 247 (Business Session) , +95 (1) 966 9133 (Office) Email: info@mili.org.mm ; admin.manager@mili.org.mm | Website: http://www.mili.org.mm Page: https://www.facebook.com/myanmarili2015; Address: No.17/19, Thar-yar-aye Street, Ward-3, Mayangone Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

MILI is a national organization of persons with disabilities and has been working for equal rights, inclusion and independent living of people with cross-disabilities in Myanmar. MILI has been promoting the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities at all levels, and specifically promoting disability inclusive elections, disability inclusive business, disability inclusive education, disability inclusive employment, disability inclusive arts, disability inclusive buildings, disability inclusive disaster risk reduction and disability inclusive development. Moreover, MILI is actively involved in and contributing towards the drafting of a new National Disability Law and establishment of the National Council of People with Disabilities in Myanmar.

# Myanmar Institute of Politics and Policy (MIPP)

# **Focus Areas**

Politics and public policy

# **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (9) 252 301 389 | Email: mipp.myanmar@gmail.com Address: 209/13, Kyautalone Road, Taunggyi Township, Shan State, Myanmar.

Myanmar Institute of Politics and Public Policy (MIPP) is a non-governmental, non-profit, independent "think and do tank", founded in 2015 by a group of academics and professionals who have passion and dedication to engage in democratization processes and evidence-based policymaking in Myanmar. Since its establishment, MIPP has developed training programs in political science, public policy and political research, and initiated diploma programs in politics and policy studies.

Occasionally, MIPP provides trainings and public seminars for CSOs and political stakeholders and has built up a vast local network throughout Myanmar. MIPP is expanding its programs and focusing on implementing activities in the areas which include empowering civil society to engage in policymaking processes, and promoting democratic citizenship and federal education.

# Myanmar Institute of Peace and Security Studies (MIPSS)

# **Focus Areas**

Peace, conflict and security

# **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (9) 252 301 389 | Email: mipss.myanmar@gmail.com Address: 209/13, Kyauktalone Road, Taunggyi (Main Office), Myanmar.

MIPSS was founded in 2013 by a group of academics and professionals who want to engage in Myanmar's peace process and promote human security in Myanmar. MIPSS represents an independent and academic body that stands as an operational and functional institution aimed at facilitating peace and reconciliation in Myanmar.

# Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS)

#### **Focus Areas**

International relations and foreign policy

### **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (1) 228 833 Fax : +95 (1) 220 415 | Email: myanmarisis@gmail.com | Website: www.myanmarisis.org/ Address: c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Yangon Office, Sagawa Street, Dagon Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

MISIS was first formed on 2nd July 1992 by the State Law and Order Restoration Council of Myanmar under Cabinet Notification No. 37/ 92 with the then Minister for Foreign Affairs as its Chairman. In the following years, MISIS was reconstituted several times also with cabinet decisions due to changes in its membership and other developments. MISIS aims to act as an academic institute concerned with strategic studies and research work on current regional and international issues. MISIS's is tasked to contribute timely inputs, views and recommendations for the formulation of policies and decisions on bilateral and multilateral issues with the aim of serving Myanmar's national interest.

# Myanmar Knowledge Society (MKS)

#### **Focus Areas**

Political science, human rights and social sciences

### **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (1) 683 198, +95 (9) 730 669 18, +95 (9) 9 723 435 61 Email: info.mksociety@gmail.com | Website: http://www.mksociety.com/en Page: https://www.facebook.com/MyanmarKnowledgeSocietyMKS Address: No. (107), 7th floor, 42 Middle Block, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

The mission of MKS is to strengthen the democratic society through the contribution of knowledge on politics, history, culture and social science. MKS's key activities are the publication of books and journals, Political Science Books Series, Literary Books Series, Myanmar Study Journal (History and Culture), and The Journal of Politics (Democracy and Human Rights Journal). The institute also conducts public outreach activities and provides political science training to young scholars, activists, intellectuals and the public under the objectives: 1) To introduce young people, political ideologies such as human rights, liberal democracy, and social justice; 2) To enhance the capacities of both national and regional governments, parliamentarians, political parties, political activists and the general public alike; and 3) To raise awareness of human rights and democratic values and principles.

# National Network for Education Reform (NNER)

#### **Focus Areas**

Education

### **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (9) 254 078 838, Email: nner.mmr@gmail.com, edubur@gmail.com Page: https://www.facebook.com/NNER.mmr

NNER's main activities are education policy and research including: (a) High level advocacy for national education policy – advocating to parliament and government; (b) Public based education research; (c) Public outreach activities, having held two

national education conferences In 2013 and 2015; and 25 regional education workshops within 2 years; and (e) participation in national level four-parties dialogue for national education law (four-parties were parliament, government, student unions and NNER) in 2015.

# Nyein (Shalom) Foundation

### **Focus Areas**

Peace, governance and development

### **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (1) 536 692, +95 (1) 510 487 Email: shalommyanmar@gmail.com | Website: http://nyeinfoundationmyanmar.org/ Address: No. 99-A, 8th Floor-C, Shwe Padauk Condo, Myay Nu Street, Sanchaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Nyein Foundation is a leading NGO in the area of peacebuilding, civil society development and trauma response. It has the following programs: 1) Governance Program, 2) Peace Process Support Program, 3) Emerging Leaders Support Program, 4) Development for Peace Program, and 5) Social Integration for Peace Program. Its primary areas of focus are peacebuilding and civil society involvement in public life. It is accredited with the Myanmar government and is directly involved in the peace process both as policy-shapers in their own right building on its work over many years as well as in direct support and technical advisory roles to the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team (NCCT) and Political Dialogue.

# **Open Myanmar Initiative (OMI)**

# Focus Areas

Governance

# **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (1) 534 080 | Email: office@omimyanmar.org | Website: http://omimyanmar.org/ Address: No. 82, Yangon-Insein Road, Thukha Street, 9 Quarter, Hlaing Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

OMI is a broadly open non-political NGO conceived as a think tank and research center as well as education and training center with the vision of promoting the right to information and education - an imperative to get each and every citizen engaged in Myanmar's transition towards the future where peace prevails and democracy prospers. The main objective is to bridge the social and economic differences created by many decades of dictatorship in Myanmar, to contribute to the reform process in Myanmar and to national reconciliation. OMI pays utmost attention to cooperation with the representatives of Myanmar ethnic minorities, who regularly participate at trainings and contribute also to the research activities and the organization's ambition to spread knowledge to all regions of Myanmar, including ethnic states, in line with the motto "Pull Down the Wall of Ignorance".

# Pyidaungsu Institute (PI)

### **Focus Areas**

Peace, reconciliation, and federalism

# **Contact Information**

Date Founded: August, 2013, Leadership: Dr.Sai Oo & Country Representative

Phone: +95 (9) 972 044 270 | Email: yangon@pyidaungsuinstitute.org | Website: http://en.pyidaungsuinstitute.org Address: No.11(B), Ariya Maggin Street, (Pan Ze/Thit Thi Ze), Section (14), Yankin Yyauk Kone, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Pyidaungsu Institute was founded in order to provide impartial and independent spaces for building common understanding, resources and assistance to communities in peace- and nation-building. PI's main activities include: (a) Conducting insightful research in line with the dialogue topics identified by the stakeholders; (b) Creating and serving as common spaces in order to promote common understanding of political dialogue; (c) Assisting stakeholders in developing the Framework for Political Dialogue; (d) Promoting stakeholders' political visions and concepts with reference to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement; (e) Organizing public forums and seminars to critically look at the ongoing peace building proceedings; (f) Forming partnerships with organizations and institutions that are interested in promoting a lasting peace in Myanmar.

# **Renaissance Institute (RI)**

### **Focus Areas**

Parliamentary affairs, electoral affairs, economics, finance and business, macro-economic management, and development

### **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (1) 544 198, +95 (9) 731 444 90, +95 (9) 798 437 329 Address: (79) A, Kyaikkasan Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Renaissance Institute is a non-profit organization and its key activities are policy research, capacity development, and advocacy. It is dedicated to strengthening political understanding and to promoting civil society organizations and people's empowerment, electoral affairs and parliamentary affairs. The Renaissance Institute conducts trainings and courses on politics, economics, management, organization and IT for future leadership including youths. RI undertakes independent and problem-oriented research on economic, financial and business issues facing the country, and provides advice on macroeconomic management, development and future economic perspectives.

# Research Institute for Society and Ecology (RISE)

# **Focus Areas**

Social change and reconciliation, peace process, justice, rule of law and sustainable development

### **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (58) 21818, +95 (9) 255 708 934 | Email: rise.kayin@gmail.com No.9/34, Yadanar Dipa (9) Ward, Kyar Inn Taung Paw Street, Hpa-an Township, Kayin State.

Research Institute for Society and Ecology is a local based non-governmental organization, established in February 2015 but has its roots in the Thanlwin Power Youth for Development (TPYD) since 2008. Under its vision: "for a change in community/ nation views and values that uphold unsustainable and violent structures of society, towards spiritual, green and justice society with healthy democratic institutions and pluralistic Pyidaungsua of Myanmar"; RISE's strategic goal is to develop a model of inclusive governance co-created in Kayin State that upholds social change and reconciliation, peace, justice, rule of law and sustainable development. RISE's focus area is especially in Kayin State. The organization works with decision-makers, ethnic armed organizations, civil society organizations, faith based and community leaders at the state level. Key activities include: (a)

Dialogue in preparation of a peace settlement and good local governance; (b) Building confidence and personal relationships between stakeholders; (c) Create a safe and neutral environment; (d) Resource and assistance for building equal capacity for interlocutors; (e) Establish a practice of joint problem solving; (f) Start identifying key needs and interests of stakeholders; and (g) Obtain consensus about the format and remit of peace-negotiations.

# Sandhi Governance Institute

# **Focus Areas**

Governance and public policy

### **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (9) 730 742 19, +95 (1) 380 151 Email: sandhi-info@sandhigovernanceinstitute.org | Website: sandhigovernanceinstitute.org Address: No(317/6B) Sea Green Tower, Corner of Mahabandhula Street and Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Sandhi Governance Institute was founded by two public policy graduates in 2007 and it was registered as a private consultancy firm in 2008. Since that time, it has been conducting various development, governance, public policy and political trainings. In additions, it also carries out research on youth and employment opportunities, political parties and civil society. The organization's main purpose is to build capacity and leadership skills of young people from political parties and civil society organizations. To this end, Sandhi is implementing following activities: (1) providing essential information, (2) organizing trainings, (3) networking with other appropriate organizations, (4) providing financial and organizational development support to community-based organizations which are doing youth empowerment activities for marginalized youths, and (5) conducting social research.

# Scholar Institute (SI)

**Focus Areas** Education and governance

# **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (9) 420 035 03. 671 | Website: www.scholarinstitute.org Address: Ka Wi Ponnya Street, Myinttar Nyunt, Tamwe Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

In 2004, a conversation club to create a space for youths where they can practice English, share news and information, and prepare for pursuing a quality education abroad was organized. Finding value in the meetings the members of the conversation club expanded the group and opened the Scholar English Language Center (SELC) in 2006. After one year of teaching at the English Language Center in Yangon, the teachers further developed the initiative into rural areas. For almost ten years, the organization was based on volunteerism and from the beginning of 2014, the organization was developed into a professional organization but not losing the volunteer spirit with full time and part time staff, volunteers, and organizers. The Scholar Institute has been standing as a civil society organization with four main concrete programs: The Scholar Education Learning Center, the Civic Education Program, the Rural Education Development Program, and the Governance Program. Through these four main programs, Scholar Institute is fulfilling its mission of "Building an Enabling Environment for Youths and Women in Consolidating Democratic Principles and Practices."

# Social Policy and Poverty Research Group (SPPR)

### **Focus Areas**

Social policy, poverty, migration, microeconomics, social protection, and inclusive livelihoods

### **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (9) 421 166 635 Email: shadysame@gmail.com, kyawzaw1981@yahoo.com Website: http://www.spprg.org/ | Page: https://www.facebook.com/MSPPR Address: Room 4D, 3rd Floor, Myaing Hay Won Street, Ward 4, Mayangone Township, (8) Mile, Yangon, Myanmar.

The Social Policy & Poverty Research Group was established as a collaboration between the Department of Social Welfare, Action Aid Myanmar, The Leprosy Mission Myanmar, and HelpAge International (Myanmar). The agreed objectives of the group are as follows: 1) To conduct research into social policy and poverty issues in order to strengthen the evidence base for policy development by government and non-government actors in the fields of social policy and poverty reduction, 2) To promote and build capacity for effective, evidence-based policy development by government and non-government actors, and 3) To develop research capacity in Myanmar, in government and non-government actors, to enable long term, sustainable research to continue to inform policy development.

# Spectrum (Sustainable Development Knowledge Network)

#### **Focus Areas**

Natural resource management, budget transparency, human rights, and sustainable development.

### **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (1) 516 941 | Email: spectrum.program@gmail.com, spectrum.operation@gmail.com Address: Room C, 9th Floor, Myaynigone Plaza, Sanchaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Spectrum was formed to help improve the abilities of, and the coordination, cooperation, and sharing of information, experiences, and knowledge between, government and non-government organizations as well as the private sector, social groups and small community-based organizations, and other organizations for development in Myanmar, using principles of sustainable development, considering social, environmental and economic aspects. The organization's objectives include: A) To promote economic justice for the poor, through routes such as improved natural resource management, natural resource revenue transparency, and budget transparency; B) To promote the rights of vulnerable groups, with a particular focus on human rights, indigenous rights and the rights of women and children; C) To focus on "do no harm" approaches to development, and improving negative impacts resulting from displacements, migration in and out of areas, environmental impacts and health and gender specific impacts; D) Use a focus on communication improvements to assist in the promotion of sustainable development – through running training and network meetings, translation of key documents, journalism training and media support and support of publications; E) Support civil society groups to better assist in holistic development; and F) Use, commission, import and disseminate research that helps with sustainable development thinking and practice improvement.

# Tampadipa Institute of Myanmar (TI)

#### **Focus Areas**

Public policy

### **Contact Information**

Email: khin.z.win@gmail.com

Tampadipa Institute has been working on policy advocacy and capacity building since 2006. It was the first domestic voice for the lifting of sanctions. Tampadipa Institute has also been working on health care (particularly HIV/AIDS), conflict resolution, agriculture and rural development, and foreign relations. It has facilitated food security activities in the post-cyclone Nargis

recovery period. At present, the organization is facilitating inputs for bodies of the new state, particularly parliament, with a view to institution building and lobbying. With the stated intention of nurturing features of democracy– facets like pluralism, inclusiveness, recognition of minority views, and a multi-party system – Tampadipa has established relations with a broad range of political parties. TI has been carrying out public pre-consultations on the draft national land use policy since November 2014. It is perhaps the first of its kind in Myanmar, and represents an open, public, democratic process. At present, Tampadipa Institute focuses on: analyses of the current Myanmar situation; land, rural development and poverty; religious issues within Buddhism and in its relations with other religions; ethnic issues and federalism; Myanmar's relations with neighboring countries especially China and India, and with the US and European countries.

# Than Lwin Citizen Empowerment Program

### **Focus Areas**

Governance

### **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (9) 791 623 490 | Page: https://www.facebook.com/ThanLwinCitizenEmpowermentProgram Address: Room No. 138/140, First Floor, 49th Street, Pazauntaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Founded in August 2012., the vision of the Than Lwin Citizen Empowerment Group is to provide a platform to package and disseminate democratic ideas, knowledge and practices among the citizens of Myanmar and to sensitize and educate citizens on Myanmar's institutional endeavors and their constitutional rights, duties and responsibilities, their role in preserving rule of law and to effectively engage in the democratization process of Myanmar. Than Lwin's activities include capacity building of citizens, CSO and political parties, and conducting workshops and forums. The group is focused on land law and management, current affairs, and leadership and team building.

# The Salween Institute for Public Policy (SI)

### **Focus Areas**

Governance and ethnic nationalities

# **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (9) 978 101 8876, +95 (9) 253 969 161 Email: information@salweeninstitute.org | Website: http://www.salweeninstitute.org/

The Salween Institute is an emerging policy think tank, established by academics and policy analysts from conflict-affected ethnic nationality communities who have gained post-graduate education in the social sciences in North America and Australia. The founding members of SI have come together out of shared beliefs that equality and the right to self-determination for all ethnic nationalities are fundamental to building a peaceful and prosperous Myanmar, and that cultivating a strong intellectual foundation is crucial to fostering much-needed social cohesion among the country's pluralistic societies. To this end, the Salween Institute seeks to develop practical policy options to tackle the country's complex socio-economic and political challenges and to equip local communities with necessary information and tools to constructively participate in the making of public policies impacting their lives. SI works in three key areas include analytical work, community empowerment and advisory services. The institute has dedicated visions to inform citizen on key policy issues and empower individuals and civil society organizations around the native country. SI has been actively and deeply engaged in various grassroots empowerment activities rooted in the diverse communities of Burma/Myanmar.

# The Tagaung Institute of Political Studies

# **Focus Areas**

Transitional politics and civil-military relations

### **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (9) 779 688 955 | Email: tagaunginstitute@gmail.com | Page: facebook.com/tagaunginstitute Address: Room (4), Building (7), Ground Floor, Mya Kan Thar Housing, Mya Kan Thar Road, Kamaryut Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

The Tagaung Institute of Political Studies focuses on civil-military relations, transitional politics and public participation in transitional and intellectual movements and its key activities are research and intellectual talks. The institute was formed to build knowledge of Burmese society by producing good analytical research on politics in Burma/Myanmar. The organization aims to educate and interact with the public by organizing political and policy seminars, workshops and lectures, and disseminating new perspectives on transitional politics through the institute's findings and position papers.

# The Yangon University of Economics (Yangon Institute of Economics)

### **Focus Areas**

Economics, business, and statistical issues related to the Myanmar economy

### **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (9) 421 126 061 | Website: http://yueco.edu.mm/about-yueco/

Address: Ywarthargyi, Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

The institute's main activities are to educate and interact with the public by organizing political and policy seminars, workshops and lectures and to disseminate new perspectives on transitional politics through the institute's findings and position papers. The university was established as a professional institute to train economists, statisticians, accountants and management personnel, and to conduct research.

# Yangon School of Political Science (YSPS)

### **Focus Areas**

Political science

### **Contact Information**

Phone: +95 (9) 250 371 901 | Email: yangonschool@gmail.com Page: https://www.facebook.com/Yangon-School-of-Political-Science-332409810154072/info?tab=page\_info

Founded in 2011, the School aims to deliver knowledge to transform Burma into a free, just and tolerant society with an informed, liberated and empowered citizenry. Key activities include a master's program, research, seminars, visiting lecturers, and regular classes for political education. The organization is envisaged as a politically independent not-for-profit civil society initiative with a twofold objective: 1) providing and facilitating the education of a younger, new generation of Burmese so that they will think and act democratically as citizens and scholars; and 2) making its educational initiative and political outreach accessible to as many communities as possible across different regions of the country. YSPS is also in the process of moving towards a more research-based agenda, with the goal of providing policy research for the new government.

For any corrections or additions to the directory please email The Asia Foundation at country.myanmar.general@asiafoundation.org.



Improving Lives, Expanding Opportunities

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