

## Annual report of the National Library of Myanmar

Period covered by this report: 2016-2017 Fiscal Year

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**Name of library:** The National Library of Myanmar

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### 1. RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT:

- The National Library of Myanmar is a governmental organization established under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture. The National Library Law is under process that is now drafting and revising with the cooperation of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Attorney General and Special Group of legislation from Parliament. The draft law includes terms of references of the National Library of Myanmar, Legal Deposit and National bibliographic agency. It also includes TOR of National Library Administrative Board for overall supervision of the National Library.
- Although the National Library Law is under process, the National Library receives one copy of each local printed publication by the Printers and Publishers Registration Law 1964 and then by Printing and Publishing Law 2014.
- The National Library has relationship with other government institutions and private organizations for collection development and library services. Resource sharing programmes and preservation activities are done between the National Library and university libraries as well as with some special libraries to assist users.

## 2. FACTS AND FIGURES:

- The National Library of Myanmar was established by the Ministry of Union Culture in 1952 by the name of State Library. In 1964, Revolutionary Council Period, it was named as the National Library. The significant dates for the National Library of Myanmar are as follow:
  - 1952 June 1 - Opened as “State Library” in Jubilee Hall, Yangon under the Ministry of Union Culture
  - 1962 June - Moved to the second and third floors of the building at No. 166, Pansodan Road, Yangon
  - 1964 - Changed the name as “National Library”
  - 1964 August - Moved to the third floor of City Hall, Yangon
  - 1965 January 4 - Opened the Reading rooms
  - 1984 August - Moved to the parts of Six Storeys Building, Strand Road, Yangon
  - 1995 July 15 - Laid down the foundation plan for new building for National Library at No. 18/51A, corner of East Horse Racing Road and Lay-daung-kan Road, Tarmwe TSP.
  - 2002 June 17 - Moved the National Library to the new building in Tarmwe TSP for providing library services
  - 2008 May 2 - The National Library building in Tarmwe TSP was destroyed by the Cyclone Nargis
  - 2008 August 8 - Moved the National Library to No. 85A, ThirimingalaYeiktha Lane, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin TSP for providing library services
  - 2009 - Foundation Stone was laid down for the National Library in Nay Pyi Taw
  - 2013 - National Library (Nay Pyi Taw) was opened to public
  - 2016 - Historic building in downtown Yangon was approved to be used as National Library (Yangon) by the President
- Budget allowance for the National Library is controlled by the Department of Historical Research and National Library. For collection development of library resources, average annual budget is 150 million Myanmar Kyat (15000 USD). All expenses of the library are provided by the government annual budget.
- According to the organizational set up, there are total 120 staffs in National Library (Yangon) and National Library (Nay Pyi Taw) but 60 staffs are already appointed. Among them, 35 staffs gained post-graduate diploma degree on library and Information Studies (DLIS) and master degree (MLIS). Due to the organizational set up, there are two directors in two national libraries.

- The total collections of each national library are as follow:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Volumes</b>
Printed books	82798
Serials	183137
Gazetteer	991
Books on Myanmar Collection	5642
Thesis	2224
Children Collection	13589
ASEAN & UN	3655
Private Collections	20985
Manuscripts (palm-leaf manuscripts, etc.)	10419
Non-printed books (map, etc.)	1
Music Disc	1332
<b>Total</b>	<b>324804</b>

- As the location of the National Library (Yangon) is out of public view, the Branch Library was opened at the National Museum (Yangon) in downtown. Both libraries have average 50 users per day. It's very few numbers to compare with other national libraries in Asia and Oceania. We are expecting to increase users when the National Library (Yangon) will be moved to new place in downtown.
- As the National Library of Myanmar is still a reference library due to its single depository collection which is needed to be permanent preservation as national literary heritage. If the National Library Law is enacted, the depository collection will be increased and the circulation function will be conducted.

### **3. A BRIEF GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS:**

Last year, the President H. E. Mr. HtinKyaw agreed the historic building in downtown to be used as the National Library (Yangon) in order to easily access by the public. The building was used to be Burma Oil Company by the British since 1907 and then Oil and Gas Enterprise by the Government until 2005.

The draft National Library Law was discussed and revised by the Special Team of Law Affairs and responsible persons from the National Library of Myanmar.

First Executive Board Meeting of CONSAL XVII was held in Yangon, Myanmar on 25-26 July 2016. Second Executive Board Meeting of CONSAL XVII was recently held in Yangon, Myanmar on 8-9 May 2017. It was attended by Heads of the national libraries and responsible persons from library associations of Southeast Asian countries and discussed the matters for 17<sup>th</sup> CONSAL which will be organized in 2018 in Myanmar.

**4. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN BUILDING AND MANAGING COLLECTIONS:**

As the vision of the National Library of Myanmar is “to be a center of Myanmar literary heritage”, it collected and maintained ancient manuscript collections throughout the country. Within the last year, about 8000 volumes of palm-leaf manuscripts were transferred from the Department of Archaeology.

These manuscripts are now preserved at the National Library (Nay Pyi Taw) and data processing and conservation tasks are being conducted.

**5. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS:**

The National Library of Myanmar opens to public and provides user services in its reading rooms. In January 2017, the National Library (Yangon) organized the children library programme with senior cartoonists and children library service providers.

At the Branch Library in the National Museum (Yangon), spaces are provided for youths and students to discuss the lectures and share the information they have.

**6. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER SERVICES:**

The Library also provides databases from the eTekkatho project which is committed to providing a free digital library of research and learning resources to students, academics and librarians in Myanmar. It is a virtual collaboration between The University of Manchester and participating partner institutions in Myanmar.

**7. NOTES ON YOUR COLLABORATION WITH OTHER LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS IN YOUR COUNTRY:**

The National Library of Myanmar is building network with university libraries and other institutions for collaborative programmes of digitizing ancient manuscripts, sharing collection, participating library seminars and forums, etc.

The National Library had cooperated with National Archives Department for preservation project of ancient manuscripts by microfilming. After that, when ICT developed, in collaboration with Yangon University Library, digitizing of

palm-leaf manuscripts especially subject on traditional medicine from the National Library of Myanmar has been conducted.

At the museology course conducted by the National Museum, the National Library has offered lecture on preservation and conservation, and storage for objects.

#### **8. NOTES ON INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION:**

The National Library of Myanmar has participated in CONSAL (Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians) annually. In 2018, Myanmar will host the CONSAL XVII which is expected by participation of nearly 500 people from the library field. Back to back with CONSAL XVII, the National Library of Myanmar will host 26<sup>th</sup> CDNLAO. The proposed date of the CONSAL XVII is 2-5 May 2018. In this regard, 26<sup>th</sup> CDNLAO will be held on 1 May 2018.

As an ASEAN member, the National Library of Myanmar organized ASEAN librarians' forums by ASEAN fund and ministry's fund respectively. It also participated in the ASEAN projects concerned with library since 2002.

Apart from that, the National Library of Myanmar has been trying to be IFLA Member.