

2017 Awardees



Dr. Khin Chit
Ministry of Health and Sports

Daw Yi Yi Cho
Ministry of Natural Resources & Environmental Conservation

Daw Mai Mai
Kachin Youth Organization

Daw San San Maw
Myanmar Red Cross

Daw Naw Ei Ei Min
Promotion of Indigenous and Nature Together

Daw Hla Hla Yee
Legal Clinic Myanmar

U.S. Embassy Yangon
Women of Change Awards
2018

March 22, 2018
86 Pyay Road, Hlaing Township
Yangon, Myanmar

The U.S. Embassy's Women of Change awards recognize Myanmar women who have contributed substantially to Myanmar's development. The award highlights the work of women who have made a lasting impact on their communities but who may not have been recognized previously.

Ambassador Scot Marciel is honored to give the 2018 Women of Change Awards to these change-agents who are experts in fields as diverse as public health, women's participation in the peace process, and the rights of indigenous peoples and people with disabilities.

Karen Women's Organization (KWO) is an ethnic women's organization of over 60,000 members supporting gender equality, indigenous people's rights, and women's participation in the peace process. Today we commend the KWO for their brave stance against the violence against all civilians in Rakhine State and throughout Myanmar. The KWO fights for the rights of all people, not just the Karen. Among their successes are increasing women's role in decision-making within the Karen National Union, revising domestic violence laws, and providing leadership training for young women. Accepting on behalf of the KWO: Naw Hser Hser and Naw Wah Khu Shee.

Dr. Thet Thet Mu is the Deputy Director General for Health Information at the Ministry of Health and Sports. She is a champion for the use of quality health data for evidence-based policy and decision-making, a crucial component of any democracy. She led Myanmar's first-ever Demographic and Health Survey, and ensured that the survey represented the geographic and ethnic diversity of Myanmar. This effort involved groundbreaking engagement in conflict-affected areas, and generated crucial data and evidence that is helping policy-makers better understand issues related to inequity in topics such as urban health access, domestic violence, nutrition, and vaccination coverage.

Daw Aye Thinzar Maung is an Executive Committee Member of the Myanmar Federation for Persons with Disabilities (MFPD) and Chairperson of their Education Committee. In addition to raising awareness about disabilities, she advocates for government reforms to support disabled peoples' full participation in Myanmar. She recently played a leading role in working with the Ministry of Education to change university admissions guidelines to ensure that people with disabilities have equal access to higher education. MFPD is currently working to implement Myanmar's 2015 Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.