

## THAILAND

2 – 29 July 2017

### MEDIA MONITORING REPORT # 169

#### ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

##### Low-cost clinic reopened in Kyaukkyi

Burma News International, 25 July 2017

The Ther Ray Dao Pae Rehabilitation and Development Association, a community-based organization, relaunched the clinic on July 22. It had initially opened in June 2016, but shut soon after due to a lack of certified medical personnel in the area, according to clinic manager Saw Mann Shin



“We have reopened this clinic with doctors assigned by the Department of Public Health. The doctors and nurses hold official licenses. The clinic now offers an ultrasound service, which was not available in Kyaukkyi township before. We expect the clinic to reach the level of a teaching hospital [once we receive permission],” he said.

To boost the medical capacity in the remote location, the clinic aims to teach more local health care personnel once they build up the training center.

The Ther Ray Dao Pae Rehabilitation and Development Association’s clinic is supported by Earth Mission, a US-based Christian non-profit. The clinic provides services on a cut-rate, or “affordable” fee scale, according to the staff.

The clinic currently operates with 11 staff members, including three local doctors, and several international volunteers.

Link: <http://www.bnionline.net/news/karen-state/item/3285-low-cost-clinic-reopened-in-kyaukkyi.html>

##### Mon State government to sponsor traditional Karen ‘wrist tying’ ceremonies

Burma News International, 29 July 2017

A Mon State official has pledged K16 million (US\$11,800) for a traditional Karen wrist tying ceremony, an event celebrating Karen culture and unity.

“We are emphasizing development, and trying our best to support tradition and culture,” said Saw Myint Khine, Mon State’s Karen Affairs Minister.

The annual wrist tying ceremony is celebrated on the full moon day of Wagaung to ward off evil spirits. This year, the full moon day of Wagaung falls on August 7.

The state funding will be dispersed among 18 venues in Mon State which plan to hold wrist tying ceremonies, Saw Myint Khine added.

This is the first time the Mon State government has allocated funding for the wrist tying event. In past years, the state government has sponsored Karen New Year ceremonies, and Karen literature courses.

“Last year’s ceremony cost around K2 million. The Karen Literature and Culture Committee paid for the costs,” said Saw Tar Paung, secretary of Mawlamyine township’s Karen Literature and Culture Committee.



Link: <http://www.bnionline.net/news/karen-state/item/3306-mon-state-government-to-sponsor-traditional-karen-wrist-tying-ceremonies.html>

### **Semi-Govt bank to provide more housing loans in Myanmar**

Eleven Myanmar, 2 July 2017

Construction and housing development bank (CHDB), a property-focused lender under a public-private partnership scheme, has planned to open more housing saving accounts and provide loans to low-income people in Myanmar from this year onwards, according to its executives.



Hla Myo Tint, assistant manager at the bank’s Housing Mortgage Department, said more than 17,000 housing saving accounts have been opened so far and among them, over 3,000 people have been eligible to buy low cost housing and mid-range apartments implemented by the

Construction Ministry’s Department of Urban and Housing Development and some construction companies.

Hla Myo Tint said it was a non-profit oriented initiative by the government to fulfill the housing need of middleclass and low-income families. The

bank aims to support both construction businesses and the families.

“People can buy a flat by making 30 per cent down payment. The remaining 70 per cent of the payment can be settled in 10 years. If they wish to, they can also settle the remaining payment within a few years. Now we are thinking of extending the loan period to 20-30 years, depending on the property price they have to settle,” he said.

He explained that no collateral was needed to request a housing loan but the bank would keep all the documents regarding the possession of the apartment until the borrower could settle the money he owes the bank.

According to Hein Wai Naung, assistant manager at CHDB, the bank now has 10 branches in major cities including Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Mawlamyaing, Patheingyi and Magwe, and will expand to other cities soon.

Link: <http://www.elevenmyanmar.com/business/10357>

### **Thailand clears \$133 mln loan for long-delayed Dawei economic zone**

Reuters, 30 May 2017

BANGKOK, June 30 (Reuters) - Thailand and Myanmar finalised terms of a 4.5 billion baht (\$133 million) loan to kick-start long-delayed development of Myanmar's Dawei Special Economic Zone, Thailand's transport minister said on Friday.

The two countries signed an agreement in 2008 to build the zone in Myanmar's southeast. But the multi-billion dollar project has been mired in difficulties, including widespread local opposition and problems mobilizing funding for its construction.

Thai Transport Minister Arkhom Termpittayapaisith met with Myanmar's Commerce Minister Than Myint on Friday to finalize conditions of the loan, which will have an interest rate of 0.1 percent, with a 10-year grace period and a 30-year repayment timeframe.

Last year, Japan signed on as a third partner along with Myanmar and Thailand, a move some hoped would boost investor confidence in the long-delayed project.

According to Thailand's government, Myanmar is now responsible for the construction of a 138-kilometer (86-mile) road from Dawei to the Thai-Myanmar border, while ITD will develop a small port, a power plant, a reservoir and an industrial estate. (\$1 = 33.9400 baht) (Reporting by Panu Wongcha-um; Editing by Amy Sawitta Lefevre and John Stonestreet)

Link: <http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFL3N1JR4GK>

### **Disability no longer handicap for college entrance: ministry**

Myanmar Times, 30 June 2016

Restrictions on the disabled to pursue a college education will be removed and they will be eligible to apply to study in institutions of higher learning, said U Aung Aung Min, deputy director general of the department of higher education.

The Minister of Education and the Myanmar Federation of People with Disabilities agreed at a meeting in February that people with disabilities should be accepted in education colleges.

More than 2.3 million people in Myanmar have some form of disability, according to the 2014 census.

"If the application of a school is rejected because of a disability, a complaint with firm evidence can be lodged with the federation and other organisations that are active for the disabled," said U Myat Thu Win, general secretary of the federation.

"If the disability is serious, they will be rejected, but if the disability is not serious, they will be accepted. In the past, they did not accept people with webbed fingers, but now they will. We have an agreement with the education minister," he added.

According to the Ministry of Education, there are 23 education colleges nationwide that offer a two-year diploma course. After another two years of training, the graduates will be appointed as teachers in basic education schools.

Myanmar became a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of Person with Disability on December 7, 2011. In June 2015, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw adopted the Disability Rights Law.

Link: <http://www.mmTimes.com/index.php/national-news/yangon/26619-disability-no-longer-handicap-for-college-entrance-ministry.html>

### **New DIY contraceptive now available in Myanmar**

Myanmar Times, 29 June 2017

A Do-It-Yourself contraceptive injection was launched for the first time in Myanmar by the Ministry of Health and Sports and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) at Nay Pyi Taw.

According to the UNFPA, the initiative targets women living in remote and conflict affected zones, including ethnic minorities and internally displaced people.

The initial project will be implemented in Chin State, Kachin State, Mon State, Rakhine and Shan State and 3000 midwives from 60 townships will be trained in the use of the contraceptive injection.

They then teach women how to use the new device.

The contraceptive injection will be distributed to reach communities and will be supported by government and non-governmental organisations, including the Marie Stopes International, the Population Services International, and ethnic health organisations.

The advent of this modern DIY contraceptive injection will allow women to have the choice of self-injecting either on the skin of the arm or leg at home and is effective for three months, a news release by UNFPA said.

The new contraceptive will help women prevent unwanted pregnancies and also assist in reducing maternal deaths, according to the UNFPA.

Link: <http://www.mmmtimes.com/index.php/national-news/yangon/26587-new-diy-contraceptive-now-available-in-myanmar.html>



### **Myanmar announces 10 prioritized areas for investment**

Xinhua Net, 28 June 2017

YANGON, June 28 (Xinhua) -- Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) has announced 10 areas which will be prioritized for investment by both local and foreign entrepreneurs, Myanmar News Agency reported Wednesday.

The 10 prioritized areas for investment include agriculture, livestock and fishery, export promotion, import substitution, power, logistics, education, health care, affordable housing construction and establishment of industrial estate, said a statement of the MIC.

Myanmar's new Investment Law was enacted in October last year by the parliament and the cabinet approved the related investment rules and regulations in March this year aimed at giving easier access to business activities in the country.

According to official statistics, total foreign investment in Myanmar hit 70.35 billion U.S. dollars in 1,246 projects up to March this year since late 1988 whereas Myanmar people's domestic investment reached 13.191 trillion kyats (9.69 billion U.S. dollars) as of the same date.

The country expects over 6 billion U.S. dollars of annual foreign investment in fiscal year 2017-18 which began in April.

Link: [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-06/28/c\\_136400678.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-06/28/c_136400678.htm)

### **Independent power producer to light up 52 villages in Ayeyarwaddy**

Myanmar Times, 4 July 2017

Plans are underway for an independent power producer to provide electricity to 52 villages in Ayeyarwaddy Region, which is not connected to the national grid, said regional Electricity, Industry and Transportation Minister U Win Htay.



Currently, the present capacity of power in the Ayeyarwaddy Region could only serve 17 per cent of the requirements of household and industry. There are also villages that are not connected to the national grid system.

“The regional government has chosen 52 villages from three village tracts in 26 townships in the Ayeyarwaddy Region.

“If electricity can be generated through the IPP system in two, five or 10 years, not only will the 52 villages have access to power supply, but also the small and medium enterprises [SMEs] and businesses in those areas,” said U Win Htay.

In the Ayeyarwaddy Region, there are various kinds of methods to generate power, such as bio gas, rice husk, solar, wind and the hydro energy, but the regional government has conducted a study because the places where electricity production can be done in the region may be different.

Currently, the government has yet to sign a contract with power companies in the energy sector in the region. However, there are three firms which are conducting studies on power generation.

Link: <http://www.mmtimes.com/index.php/business/26667-independent-power-producer-to-light-up-52-villages-in-ayeyarwaddy.html>

### [Solar panels light up thousands of homes in Kayin State](#)

Burma News International, 10 July 2017

Over 11,000 rural households in Kayin (Karen) State are set to newly receive electricity thanks to a long-awaited solar panel program.

Under the National Electrification Project (NEP), the World Bank and the Department of Rural Development are installing heavily subsidized solar panels, which were sold to villagers at a fraction of the real cost. The panels are being installed atop more than 11,000 households in five townships throughout the state, according to an official from Kayin State’s Department of Rural Development.

The department’s director, U Nay Oo, told KIC News that the project is targeting rural villages in Hpa-an, Hlaingbwe, Kawkareik, Kya-in Seikkyi and Thandaung townships that are currently not connected to the national power grid.



Solar panels are installed free-of-charge on religious buildings and places relating to education and health. The installation at all 11,442 homes is expected to be completed by August, he added.

Under the NEP project, three types of solar panels are offered: Villagers buying solar panels worth K300,000 pay K90,000 in three instalments, while those buying solar panels worth K480,000 pay K150,000 in three instalments, and solar panels worth K520,000 cost the villagers K210,000, in three payments of K70,000.

Link: <http://www.bnionline.net/news/karen-state/item/3230-solar-panels-light-up-thousands-of-homes-in-kayin-state.html>

### [Gov't plans to spend Ks 5.6 billion for Mon State education buildings](#)

The Global New Light of Myanmar, 12 July 2017

THE Education Ministry intends to spend Ks5.598 billion in Union funds for school-related construction projects in Mon State for the 2017-2018 academic year.

Dr. Cho Cho Myat Aung, assistant director of the state education office, said the budget is Ks917 million more than 2016-17, with plans for 105 new construction projects including school structures, offices, staff residences and laboratories. She added that the education office spent Ks204 million for textbooks for 200,000 basic education primary students, including 4,346 Mon national schools students, the current academic year.

Mon State currently has 14,043 education staff and 400,000 students attending 1,455 basic education schools and 132 Mon national schools.

Almost 70 schools have been converted to higher grade level schools during this academic year.

Link: [https://issuu.com/myanmarnewspaper/docs/12\\_july\\_17\\_gnlm](https://issuu.com/myanmarnewspaper/docs/12_july_17_gnlm)

### [Mon State establishes investment committee](#)

Mon News Agency, 15 July 2017

The Mon State Investment Committee started on July 7 and is headed by Chief Minister U Aye Zan, with U Myint Lwin, deputy director of the Mon State Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, as secretary. The seven-member committee will meet twice weekly.



State and region-level investment committees are permitted to review investments worth less than \$5 million (K6 billion) without first seeking permission from Nay Pyi Taw. Investments above that threshold need to go through the central-level MIC, according to the MIC Notification Letter 11/2017, announced in March.

State and regional investment committees are supposed to be set up around the country, each one led by the respective chief minister.

“We need to scrutinize the companies that are investing in the state and decide on whether

their projects should be allowed,” said U Wunna Kyaw, Mon State Minister of Planning, Finance, Immigration and Population, and a member of the investment committee.

The new Mon State committee plans to hold workshops to help explain and implement investment rules and regulations put into place by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

Link: <https://www.bnionline.net/news/mon-state/item/3253-mon-state-establishes-investment-committee.html>

### [Myanmar opens arms for the first foreign company to build an oil and gas supply base](#)

Mizzima , 13 July 2017

MOSB Limited (MOSB), has received approval from the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) on 11July, 2017 to build and operate a supply base in Mon State, with the endorsement from the Ministry of Energy.

The establishment of a supply base will support the fast-growing oil and gas industry in Myanmar and provide necessary infrastructure, health, education and employment opportunities to those in the region. This will further advance the industry by reducing travel distances and increasing efficiency.

MOSB is committed to the growth of Myanmar and to supporting the communities in Mon State. As part of the project, MOSB will invest in the development of wide-ranging infrastructure and

improvements to existing transportation and telecommunication linkages. Additionally, MOSB has plans to provide educational, medical and social services to enhance the network for business growth and economic development which will ultimately benefit the entire country.

U Zaw Min Oo, Village Head of WaeKa Li Village, Mon State said, “I am very happy and welcome this project because I believe it will support the local community to improve transportation, education and health as well as electricity which we need now. Our local people will not need to leave the village and travel far for jobs as the project will create a lot of job opportunities for us. This project will definitely improve our standard of living in many different ways.”

This will be the first foreign permit for a Supply Base for Myanmar, approved by the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

Link: <http://www.mizzima.com/business-domestic/offshore-supply-base-receives-mic-approval>

## LAW AND GOVERNANCE

### Reform coming to civil service: Aung San Suu Kyi

Frontier Myanmar, 11 July 2017

NAY PYI TAW — State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has told senior bureaucrats that an overhaul of Myanmar’s bloated and sclerotic civil service is on the horizon, following the launch of a public administration reform roadmap on Monday.

At a launch of the government’s Civil Service Reform Strategic Action Plan (2017-2020) in Nay Pyi Taw, Aung San Suu Kyi said the era of shirking tasks and lifetime tenure was incompatible with the country’s democratic era.

“Civil servants are accountable to the government elected by the people. When they implement the government’s action plans, they need to carry them out fairly, dutifully, intelligently, alertly and actively” she said.

The action plan, drafted by the Union Civil Service Board with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme, is the culmination of nine months of consultations with the public and civil society to discuss the public sector’s current shortcomings.

Speaking on concerns over low remuneration in the nation’s ministries, Aung San Suu Kyi said that the government needed to delay raising salaries until such a move was fiscally sustainable

“There is no way to solve this problem at once,” she said. “When it comes to increasing the salary rate, we’ll have to gradually increase them after serious considerations for sustainability in the long run, in accord with the Union budget.”

Link: <http://frontiermyanmar.net/en/reform-coming-to-civil-service-aung-san-suu-kyi>



## PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

### First Karen National Police Force Day to be held this year

Karen News, 6 July 2017



The Karen National Union (KNU) will celebrate its police force, inaugurating the first annual ‘Police Day’ on September 9, according to an official from the KNU’s Interior and Religious Affairs Department.

“The KNPF has been active for 20 years, but the public does not know them. They are only slowly gaining public recognition,” said P’doh Saw Ah Toe, head of the KNU’s Interior and Religious Affairs Department.

“We will raise the public’s awareness about our police force and its future plans. We haven’t decided on the venue yet,” he added.

The department discussed Police Day with the KNPF during the latter’s first central-level meeting held in Hpa-an, Karen State from June 28 to 30.

During the two-day meeting, the KNPF reviewed tasks carried out since the KNU’s 16th Congress and set down future plans, including holding KNPF Day and staging central and district level police trainings and legal trainings. Over 60 representatives from the KNPF attended.

The KNPF was established on September 9, 1991 during the KNU’s 10th Congress.

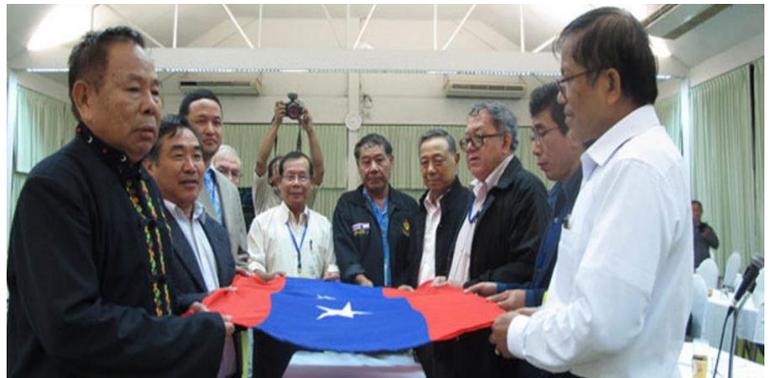
Link: <http://karennews.org/2017/07/first-karen-national-police-force-day-to-be-held-this-year.html/>

#### **Four Ethnic Armed Groups Leave UNFC**

The Irrawaddy, 3 July 2017

CHIANG MAI, Thailand — four ethnic armed groups resigned from the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC) at the council’s conference in Thailand’s Chiang Mai.

The UNFC accepted the resignation of the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO), the Ta’ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) and the Wa National Organization (WNO), according to Khu Oo Reh, general secretary of the UNFC.



The KIO, TNLA, and MNDAA formed the Federal Political Negotiation and Consultative Committee (FPNCC), also referred to as the northern alliance, led by the United Wa State Army (UWSA) in April. The WNO merged with the UWSA in June before the UNFC conference.

KIO vice-chairman General N’Ban La said at the opening of the conference on June 20 the four groups withdrew because of the political situation.

“Local conditions and the military’s pressure and divisive rule are pushing armed groups in the northern area [of Myanmar] to stick together. That’s why we need to resign from the UNFC,” he told the conference.

There are five groups left in the UNFC—the New Mon State Party (NMSP); the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP); the Lahu Democratic Union (LDU); the Arakan National Council (ANC); and the Shan State Progressive Party (SSPP), which is also a member of the Wa-led FPNCC.

Link: <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/four-ethnic-armed-groups-leave-unfc.html>

#### **KNLA leaders warn soldiers to remain cautious of the ceasefire**

Burma News International, 6 July 2017



On Karen armed forced day this week, one ethnic armed group leader sounded a cautionary note, instructing soldiers to recall that a ceasefire is not the same as peace, while urging them to remain “alert”.

“The ceasefire is a political game,” said Lieutenant General Saw Baw Kyaw Heh, speaking at an event commemorating the 68th Karen Armed Forces (Kawthoolei Army) Day on July 5.

He said all soldiers must stay alert in case of a ceasefire breakdown, or in case the peace process stagnates. He also warned of an as yet “uncertain” outcome.

He added that all Karen groups are responsible for ensuring national security.

In a separate message delivered at the ceremony, the chief of staff of the Karen National Union – the political wing of the KNLA – General Saw Johnny, also delivered a warning shot. He said soldiers must remember that Kayin (Karen) State is still in limbo and reiterated that the state has not yet achieved peace.

The Karen Armed Forces Day has been observed on July 5 every year since 1956, when the KNU held its second national congress and established its constitution.

Link: <http://www.bnionline.net/news/karen-state/item/3221-knla-leaders-warn-soldiers-to-remain-cautious-of-the-ceasefire.html>

### **Majority of Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee Complaints are Territorial Disputes**

The Irrawaddy, 6 July 2017

YANGON — the Union-level joint ceasefire monitoring committee (JMC) said almost 70 percent of the complaints it has received were territorial disputes that would soon be assessed by verification teams.

The JMC’s role includes monitoring the ceasefire implementation for signatories of the nationwide ceasefire agreement (NCA).

The JMC held its 11th regular meeting from July 3-5 in Yangon’s National Reconciliation and Peace Center office. The meeting focused on issues related to monitoring the ceasefire implementation, complaint verification, local participation in ceasefire monitoring, and the development of standard operating procedures (SOPs).

Since its formation in late 2015 following the signing of the NCA in October of that year, the JMC established state- and regional-level joint ceasefire monitoring sub-committees in five locations in Karen, Mon and Shan states, and Bago and Tanintharyi (Tenasserim) divisions. It is still in the process of forming its state-level complaint verification teams.

A JMC spokesman said it would hold further workshops on territory demarcation, as some ethnic armed groups had clear statements regarding boundary lines in their bilateral ceasefire agreements with the government while others did not.

“The groups have different understandings of the territory demarcations. Their complaints center on this so it is important to consider how we handle this,” Dr. Sui Khar said.

The JMC will also develop a computerized complaints management system, as it receives more verbal complaints than written ones.

Link: <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/majority-joint-ceasefire-monitoring-committee-complaints-territorial-disputes.html>

### **Ethnic armed groups discuss cooperating at Chiang Mai meet**

Burma News International, 14 July 2017

Leaders from ceasefire signatory and non-signatory ethnic armed groups are meeting in Chiang Mai this week to discuss cooperation on the peace process.

The meeting involves representatives from both the Delegation for Political Negotiation (DPN) – a body under the auspices of the non-signatory coalition the United Nationalities Federal Council – and the Peace Process Working Team (PPWT), which is comprised of the eight signatories to the nationwide ceasefire agreement (NCA).

Khu Oo Reh, leader of the DPN, said potential for collaboration in several areas will be discussed.

“We are holding this meeting to review and amend [the process] together and to try to establish consensus since it is very important for this process to have approval from both sides,” he said.

The two-day meeting will cover issues surrounding the Panglong Handbook, the framework for political dialogue including the papers on defence and security, joint ceasefire monitoring, terms of reference and the UNFC’s eight-point preconditions to signing the NCA.

This is the third meeting between the DPN led by Khu Oo Reh and the PPWT led by P’doh Saw Kwel Htoo Win.

Link: <https://www.bnionline.net/news/network-media-group/item/3248-ethnic-armed-groups-discuss-cooperating-at-chiang-mai-meet.html>



## OTHERS

### [Bilateral committee to discuss Thailand’s new employment rules](#)

Frontier Myanmar, 11 July 2017

Myanmar and Thailand have agreed at high-level talks to establish a committee to address labour problems arising from the kingdom’s new migrant worker rules, the *Bangkok Post* reported on July 8.



The decision to create the joint working committee was made by the Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population, U Thein Swe, and his Thai counterpart, General Sirichai Distakul, at a meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on July 7, the newspaper said in an online report.

The meeting followed confusion over the tough new rules for migrant workers, announced on June 23, the daily said.

There are an estimated four million migrant workers in Thailand, mainly from Myanmar, and about half are believed to be in the kingdom illegally, partly because of a costly and

cumbersome registration process, the daily said.

The decree introducing the new rules was announced suddenly and included fines of up to 800,000 baht (about K31.7 million) for employers who hire unregistered foreigners without work permits.

Employers stopped hiring undocumented workers, triggering the exodus of foreign workers and leading to a labour shortage in Thailand.

Link: <http://frontiermyanmar.net/en/bilateral-committee-to-discuss-thailands-new-employment-rules>

### Saving Cultures in Karenni

The Irrawaddy, 13 July 2017

DEMOSO TOWNSHIP, Karenni State — Mou Mi, 53, is one of roughly 70 Kayan women known as the “long-necked people” who wear bronze neck rings, a disappearing tradition among the ethnic group in Karenni State.

The way of life for people in her village and nearby Kayan villages in Demoso Township has been the same for generations: farming, breeding animals, hand-weaving clothes, and crafting bamboo household wares. In the last two years, however, their village has become more known to outsiders, since the introduction of community-based tourism.

With distinctive cultures and untouched scenery, Karenni State has attracted thousands of foreign tourists and even more domestic visitors since the previous government opened access to the area in 2013. The decision came months after its biggest ethnic armed group, the Karenni National Progressive Party, signed a ceasefire agreement with the government.



Launched in early 2016 and supported by The Netherlands Trust Fund, the tourism project creates job opportunities and income for locals, according to the tour guides based in the state capital Loikaw. The fund provided trainings to the local community on how to prepare food for the foreigners and on basic hygiene, but the project ended in June this year, according to U Htay Aung, the chairman of the state’s tour guide association.

“Our villagers, especially young people, have gotten jobs because of the project. In 2016 we got many visitors,” said Khu Tee Reh, the village elder from Tanelale village, where many Kayah live, and the patron of the tourism project.

“They can also earn income from cooking traditional food,” he added, explaining that the visitors can sample the local dishes.

It encourages locals to promote their traditions, he said, as foreigners want to learn about their culture.

There is no entrance fee for the Kayan villages in Myanmar. The community-based tour guides said their approach is needed for development.

Link: <https://www.irrawaddy.com/specials/saving-cultures-karenni.html>

The content of the UNHCR Thailand Media Monitoring Reports does not reflect the official view or opinion of the UNHCR.

Links: Thailand-Myanmar Cross Border Web Portal: [www.commonservice.info](http://www.commonservice.info)

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