

The International Migrants Day 2019

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On 18 December 2019, the International Migrants Day 2019 was held in Nay Pyi Taw and presided over by H.E. U Myint Swe, Vice President of Myanmar. This year's event was the 8th edition of its kind which was under the theme "Migration and Social Cohesion". H.E. U Thein Swe, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population of Myanmar, Mr. Aiko Nakayam, International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Myanmar, Myanmar's high-level officials, representatives from diplomatic corps and international organizations, NGOs, and other relevant agencies in Myanmar also attended this event.

Vice President underscored Myanmar's effort on global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration agreement in developing the protection for the migrant workers especially women and children workers. Additionally, he urged Myanmar officials to raise efforts on systematic arrangement to secure money transfer from Myanmar migrant workers which would contribute for the economic growth and social cohesion in Myanmar. He also urged the licensed overseas employment agencies in supporting safe, systematic and legal migration for work, while reducing illegal migration to other countries.

Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population stated that Myanmar works with international organizations particularly International organization of Migration (IOM) and International Labour Organization (ILO) in promoting safe immigration and raising awareness on migration. To illustrate, the Union Government and IOM cooperated to establish the migrant resource centers in 15 townships comprising Yangon, Mandalat, Mawlamyine, Dawei, Hpa-An, Pathien, Magway, Meiktila, Hakka, Sittwe, Taunggyi, Tachilek, Kyaingtong, Myingyan) and Kyaukse. They aim to open more Centers in Myawaddy, Myitkyina, Mohnyin, Myeik, Loikaw, Aunglan and Muse. On this occasion, Myanmar government was committed to advocate ethnic recruitment by encouraging employers to pay principal or aiming for zero cost of recruitment fee.

The event continued with the conferment of the certificate of honour to the Joint Myanmar Affairs Committee, Bangkok-based Migrant Workers Network, Migrant Workers Rights Network, Education and Development Foundation and Labour Hittai for their kind supports on the development of Myanmar workers and their families' quality of life including education, healthcare and social affairs.

Moreover, Vichaivej International Hospital Group operating in Yangon since 2014, displayed its photo booth in this event. Previously, this hospital signed MOU with Myanmar Overseas employment Agencies Federation aiming to offer health checkup for Myanmar workers in order to obtain work permit to work legally in Thailand by charging only 5,000 Kyats for each health checkup.

