



Leadership

Opportunities for women to get involved as leaders of the country

January 17, 2020

"Women are better leaders than men for the nation", said Barack Obama, Former US President.

According to a BBC report in January, he said: "Women are not perfect. But are 'indisputably better' than men."

These words demonstrate appreciation of women's abilities: which means that women are encouraged to take on more leadership positions. How many women leaders are serving as heads of state in the world? At the end of 2019, AFP reported the names and positions of 21 women leaders in the world as President and Prime Minister. Myanmar State Counsellor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi also include in the list.



Photo : AFP

At the end of 2019, Finland appointed a 34 year-old woman, Sanna Marin, as Prime Minister. She is the youngest Prime Minister in the world. In Myanmar, there are still challenges to appoint women to leadership positions.

It is also a crucial issue to increase the rate of women's participation in leadership roles. Despite having many capable and talented women in the country, it is rare to see them appointed as leaders. The recent number of women's participation in Parliament and governance roles is low.

Daw Mie Mie Winn Byrd, who served in the US Army Reserve and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel, said in an interview: "Now everything is needed to move forward in Myanmar. The country possesses many talented women. Myanmar can achieve (its development goals) by women and men working together hand in hand."

Previous studies also recommend that if an organization wants to be more successful, women's involvement is essential; organization are more effective when they achieve gender equality. In this regard, women need

to be given the same leadership positions as men, without any limitations or boundaries. It is time to start a real change by creating more spaces for women in leadership roles, as women compose more than half of the country's total population.

Obama said, "I am absolutely confident that if every nation on Earth was run by women for two years, you would see a significant improvement across the board on just about everything... living standards and outcomes."

Shwe Lay

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45 organizations participated in Knowledge MarketPlace 2020



Photo : Shwe Lay

January 2, 2020

45 organizations participated in Knowledge MarketPlace 2020, which was organized by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC). The Knowledge MarketPlace was held at Mandalay University on January 28, 2020.

Ko Patrick, Liaison Officer (Myanmar) from IDRC said, "Knowledge MarketPlace

aims to get a lot of knowledge in one place. This is the first time in Mandalay. We say thanks to the University of Mandalay for accepting our event, and the organizations involved in this event; and also thanks to the young students who came to our event."

The Knowledge MarketPlace is a knowledge-sharing program where organizations share their research

papers and program activities with other organizations. This Knowledge MarketPlace 2020 is a part of progress towards Myanmar's Sustainable Development Goals Conference 2020, which is co-hosted by the Australia Myanmar Institute (AMI) and the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (Myanmar-ISIS).

Shwe Lay

Myanmar ranks second to last among ASEAN countries for Women's participation in Parliament

January 2, 2020

According to a survey by the International Parliamentary Union (IPU), which is based in Switzerland, Myanmar ranks second to last among ASEAN countries with regard to women's participation in parliament.

According to a survey on women's participation in parliaments in ASEAN countries, Myanmar ranks second to last in the region with 11.5%. Brunei ranks last with 9% women's participation. The Philippines has the highest percentage of women's participation in parliament among ASEAN countries, with 28%. Laos ranks 27.5%; Vietnam

ranks 26.7%; Singapore ranks 23%; Cambodia ranks 19.2%; Indonesia ranks 17.3%; Malaysia ranks 14.4% and Thailand ranks 14.2%.

The participation of women in parliament is 24.5% and men's participation is 75.5% all over the world according to the 2019 IPU survey. IPU began in 1889 as a small group of parliamentarians, dedicated to promoting peace through parliamentary diplomacy and dialogue, and it has since grown into a truly global organization of national parliaments.

Shwe Lay

Daw May Sabe Phyu from Gender Equality Network (GEN) won UN's N-Peace Award

January 8, 2020

Daw May Sabe Phyu, Director of Gender Equality Network (GEN) won the United Nations Development Program's N-Peace Award, this year.

N-Peace Award aims to recognize powerful stories of peace-builders and activists in the region who embody the Women, Peace, and Security agenda. The UNDP gave the award to Daw May Sabe Phyu's to recognize her multi-sectoral approach to build on the gains of women in Myanmar. The UNDP stated, "Through her long-standing career in Women, Peace and Security she has continuously identified and advocated to address laws, policies, as well as cultural and social norms which impede the achievement of full gender equality."

There are 11 winners of the N-Peace Awards this year from the region. The winners include journalists, activists, campaigners and advocates from Afghanistan, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

Reference : www.asia-pacific.undp.org



Photo : Sithu

PNO nominated women candidates in the 2020 general election

January 10, 2020

The Pa-O National Party (PNO), which had not competed women candidates in the previous elections, will adopt women candidates in the upcoming 2020 general election.

An official of the PNO Party told 7Day Daily Newspaper that the party has decided to compete with the aim of women's equal rights, and to

promote more women's participation in politics. At least 10 % of women candidates will compete in the 2020 election. The PNO nominated only male candidates in the 2010 and 2015 elections.

Previously in the 2015 election, women candidates were not ready to compete and now women candidates are ready to compete.

Other ethnic parties; the Shan

Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD), the Shan Nationalities Democratic Party (SNDP), and the Chin National League for Democracy (CNLD), also told the media that they would prioritize women candidates in the upcoming 2020 election. (You can read this news in "Sa Voix" Newsletter, January Issue.)

Reference: 7Day News



Photo : Telenor Myanmar

Myanmar Woman Chief Business Officer awarded “Women Leadership Excellence” by CMO Asia

January 13, 2020

Telenor Myanmar Chief Business Officer Caroline Yin Yin Htay was awarded “Women Leadership Excellence” by CMO Asia Awards 2020 in Bangkok on 10 January 2020.

CMO Asia celebrates excellence and top performance in business across several industries. The Women Leadership award is a build-up to

the World HRD Congress, which will be hosted for the 28th time in 2020.

“I am delighted to be recognized by a prestigious organization like CMO Asia, both as a leader and as a woman. The award gives strength and confidence to continue being a role model and to encourage aspiring women leaders to lean in and seize opportunities in business,” said Caroline Yin Yin Htay, Chief Business

Officer at Telenor Myanmar.

CMO Asia’s shortlisted candidates are reviewed by a global jury comprised of senior leaders, researchers, and academics. Selection criteria include the candidates’ ability to influence, empower, and drive social change, and their ability to build a sustainable leadership pipeline in the organization.

Shwe Lay

Demands for the elimination of gender discrimination against Kuki women

January 9, 2020

Due to cultural traditions, Kuki (one of the tribes in Myanmar) women are still being discriminated against, and they are not fully entitled to the rights of women to this day – as stated by the Kuki Women’s Human Rights Organization’s 20 years anniversary statement.

The statement called for full coordination of women and support from the government to end discrimination against women. Other requests in the statement called for immediate implementation of 30% of Kuki women’s participation in leadership roles, which have been confirmed by the Kuki Culture and Literature Committee. The action to combat drug traffickers as soon as possible

with the cooperation of women in their respective villages, because young men and women are under the influence of drugs; and to create own markets for women to earn their own income.

The Kuki Women’s Human Rights Organization’s women Seminar and the 20th Anniversary ceremony was held in Kyun Pin Thar Village, Tamu district, Sagaing Division on January 8 and 9, 2020. The seminar was attended by over 300 women from 27 villages. At the seminar, four topics were discussed: 1) Women’s livelihood and income opportunities; 2) the side effects of drugs on women; 3) Kuki women’s participation (and challenges) in leadership roles; 4) the situation of women according to Kuki culture.

Shwe Lay



Photos: <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com>

World Famous Quotes

"Gender equality is a human fight, not a female fight."

..... Freida Pinto (Indian Actress & Activist)

The Value of engaging Arts into Research

December 18, 2019

Enlightened Myanmar Research Foundation (EMReF) published the book "Art-based Research; The Combination of Art and Research" in December, 2019 which demonstrates the value of engaging arts into research. The book was written by eight male and female authors from the field of art and research.

This book emphasizes that art is deeply embedded in the research process and project implementation; likewise, research is deeply embedded in the creative process for artists and their respective art forms.

In the article "Hope Facts" written by author Phyu Mon, she describes an art-work that combines art and research. "In Myanmar, I am learning the role of traditional influences on women, as I want to explore the fact that women have the right to apply their talents in the wider community outside the home. I demonstrated the art work called 'The Polite Wave' in which the condition of women was captured; I found - as it is not to get lost the wisdom of women under



Photo : Sithu

the tradition: 'Treat your husband as a god, treat your son as a master'.

The author, Sabal Phyu Nu, described 'Nou Mai' in her article - which is one of the main characters in her novel 'Northerly Lapse of Nostalgia'. She found the character during her research journey. "Nou Mai created the character of the woman who was found on the trip, sitting on the bamboo couch, beside the hut at the hilltop hut." In this way, the authors write about their

creation of art in research, which is indeed the combination of art and research.

The book's aim is to help readers to understand the value of art-based research - as written in the acknowledgement section. The book was distributed free of charge at the "Pursuing Arts in Research (PAIR) Festival", organized by Enlightened Myanmar Research Foundation (EMReF).

Shwe Lay