

BURMA CENTER PRAGUE
CONFERENCE
“Burmese in Europe – Promoting Partnership for Transition in Burma”
15-16 September 2009, Prague

This conference will bring together Burmese pro-democracy activists and scholars from various ethnic groups with policy makers and interested individuals from the Czech Republic and the EU. The aim of the conference is:

- To generate greater understanding among key European players about the relevance of Burmese living in European exile to the destiny of Burma
- To review fundamental policy questions in the light of long-term developments
- To find ways for more efficient, united activities among European Burmese

The conference will take place over two days, the first of which will be open to the public and will inform EU representatives and others about the Burmese democracy movement. The second day will be a closed session for Burmese activists and selected advocacy NGOs.

PROGRAMME – 15 SEPTEMBER 2009

09.00-09.30 Registration

09.30-10.30 Welcome note by the organizer

Welcome speech by Mr Rolf Ericsson, deputy Head of the Embassy of Sweden, on behalf of the EU Presidency

Opening speech by HE Mr Jiri Sitler, Director of the Department of Asia and Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech republic

10.30-10.45 Coffee break

A. - Political Imperatives

Chaired by Ms Marie Pennova, People in Need

10.45-12.15 *Prospects for Dialogue in Burma* by Dr Thaug Htun, Burma Fund, Policy Think Tank of the NCGUB

Political Change in Burma by U Nwe Aung, NCUB Burma Office Europe

Relevance of ethnic reconciliation for the future of Burma by Dr Lian Sakhong, Ethnic Nationalities Council

DISCUSSION

12.15-13.30 Lunch

B. Social Imperatives

Chaired by Ms Sabe A Soe, Burma Center Prague

13.30-15.30 *Famine, refugees and activism from Indian point of view* by Dr. Alana Golmei, Burma Centre Delhi

Change through Humanitarian Aid in Myanmar by Dr Khin Zaw Win, Myanmar
Creating Space in Myanmar by Ko Ko Thett, Asia Europe People's Forum Committee –
Helsinki, Finland
Role and Participation of Women in democratization by Ms Khin Ohmar, Burmese
Women's Union

DISCUSSION

15.30-16.00 Coffee Break

C. Possible Ways to meet the Challenges

Chaired by HE Mr Jiri Sitler, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

16.00-18.00 *The 2010 Elections – International Perspectives* by Dr Maung Zarni, London School of
Economic and Political Science, Centre for Global Governance
International Action for Change in Burma by Ms Zoya Phan, Burma Campaign UK.
Multi-Party Talks by Harn Yawngwe, Euro-Burma Office
Possible Ways to Meet the Challenges by Dr Naing Aung, Forum for Democracy in
Burma

DISCUSSION

Concluding Summary of the day's discussions and instructions for 16 Sept. by Ms Sabe Soe, BCP

Evening program

19.00 Opening of exhibition on famine in Chinland at UNIJAZZ, Jindnsska 5, Prague 1
Speech by Salai Bawi Lian, Chair, Chin Human Rights Organization

WORKING GROUP MEETING – 16 SEPTEMBER 2009

Moderator: Maureen Aung-Thwin, Director of Burma Project/ South East Asia Initiative, Open
Society Institute, New York

Venue: Hotel Olsanka, Taboritska 23, Prague, Czech Republic

This project is supported from financial resources of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech
republic in the framework of projects that act upon the priorities of foreign policy and international
relations of the Czech Republic. It is furthermore supported from financial resources of the Euro-
Burma Office.