



Press Release

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## **YHT Chairman awarded 26th Fukuoka Grand Prize**

YANGON: The Founder and Chairman of Yangon Heritage Trust, Dr Thant Myint-U has been awarded the 26<sup>th</sup> Fukuoka Grand Prize for the year 2015.

The Fukuoka Prize Committee officially announced the award today saying that Dr. Thant Myint-U is a distinguished intellectual of 21<sup>st</sup> century Asia, narrating the voices of the people of Myanmar and connecting them with the wider international community.

The Fukuoka Prize is a means of showing respect to those who have made outstanding contributions to academia, arts, and culture in Asia.

The prize committee stated that “Dr. Thant Myint-U is an exceptionally outstanding historian in contemporary Asia, writing accessible history of his ancestral homeland, Myanmar (Burma). To recreate the identity of the nation, he is committed to the preservation of historic buildings in Myanmar and to sustainable urban planning.”

“With his unique and distinguished contribution to Asian and human society, Dr. Thant Myint-U is a truly worthy recipient of the Grand Prize of the Fukuoka Prize,” it said in the announcement.

“I’m delighted and much honored to be chosen for this very distinguished prize. I think the award is in part a reflection of the important work of the Yangon Heritage Trust and also a symbol of the close relationship between Myanmar and Japan. I very much look forward to visiting Japan later this year to accept the prize in person,” said Dr Thant Myint-U.

Representing Myanmar, Dr Than Tun was awarded the Fukuoka Academic Award in 2000 and Dr Thaw Kaung in 2005.

Press kit about the Prize can be downloaded at

<http://fukuoka-prize.org/en/library/presskit/pdf/presskit2015.pdf>