



Press Release

Date: July 06, 2015

Project for Capacity Building of the YCDC Urban Planning Unit completed

YANGON: The project for Capacity Building of the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) Urban Planning Unit which was jointly implemented by YCDC, Myanmar Egress and Yangon Heritage Trust (YHT) was successfully completed last week.

With the aim to strengthen institutional and operational capacities of the YCDC Urban Planning Unit to be able to enhance the quality of urban planning policies and practise, to reinforce local governance, and make urban planning processes more inclusive and accessible to citizens, the project was carried out by the funding of European Union since February 2013.

In order to achieve the objectives of the project and to protect Yangon's heritage as part of a broader urban plan, YHT as work stream 3, implemented a series of activities including conducting four studies, five workshops/trainings, two foreign study trips and developing information, education and communications materials on heritage related matters.

During the project, Built Form Study, Livelihood and Economic Study, Comparative Legislation on Heritage Protection Study and Real Estate Market and Heritage Property Study had been done by international experts with the cooperation of local experts and Urban Planning Unit. Except the real estate market and heritage property study, the other three studies collected samples from three different places in downtown Yangon and were followed by related workshops and trainings.

As part of the project, YHT arranged a study tour for the Mayor of Yangon, official from YCDC and other related government ministries to three European cities, Amsterdam, Antwerp and London in June 2014. Another tour was also organised for the Urban Planning Division staff to Jakarta and Penang in March and April 2015 which allowed the participants to study Jakarta Old Town Revitalization Program and visited Penang Heritage Trust, George Town World Heritage Inc. and its project sites.

Founder and chairman of YHT, Dr Thant Myint-U, said that the project has been of seminal importance, in making it possible for YHT to grow as an organisation; work more closely with the city administration; and increase our knowledge about Yangon's old downtown and its future prospects.

"Urban planning and conservation have made giant strides over the past few years; there is far greater awareness today of the need to plan our cities and protect our heritage. Assistance from

the European Union has made all the difference. I very much hope that this will be the start, not the end, of close cooperation with the European Union,” he said.

Yangon Heritage Trust will continue its efforts to ensure that Yangon is a functional, healthy and people-centred living environment for its inhabitants and one of the most liveable cities in the region.

Yangon Heritage Trust

Yangon Heritage Trust is an independent centre of excellence working to promote and integrate Yangon’s unique urban heritage into a 21st century vision of Yangon as one of Asia’s most liveable cities. Yangon Heritage Trust advocates for heritage protection, develops clear and sustainable policy options, engages with government, business and civil society, communicates its ideas to the widest possible audience, undertakes specific conservation projects, and facilitates research and training.

For more information on Yangon Heritage Trust:

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