



Press Release

Date: June 17, 2015

Myanmar Agricultural Bank receives Blue Plaque commemoration

YANGON: The sixth commemorative Blue Plaque of Yangon was installed in the Myanmar Agricultural Bank on Pansodan road in Kyauktada township today.

Built in 1930, this building originally served as the Yangon branch of Grindlay's Bank and it was turned into National Museum in 1970. Myanmar's modern banking system is one of the oldest in Asia, and international banks have been present in Yangon since the 1850s.

Dr Thant Myint-U, the Founder and Chairman of Yangon Heritage Trust, said as Myanmar looks to rejoin the global financial world, it's important to remember and learn from its own checkered financial history.

"Bank buildings along Pansodan are a physical link to a past that we need to study if the country is going to do better in future," he said.

As the National Museum, the building once housed the Lion Throne of the Last King of Myanmar which was looted by the British and placed in Calcutta. Finally in 1996, the building returned to its banking status and became a branch office of the Myanmar Industrial Development Bank and the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank. Today the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation maintains its site on these premises.

The commemorative Blue Plaque is a part of Yangon Heritage Trust's efforts to highlight historical buildings and renowned residents who contributed to the narrative of the city. Yangon Heritage Trust believes that the introduction of commemorative Blue Plaques will make Yangon's history accessible to people of all age and backgrounds.

This is the sixth Blue Plaque of YHT's initiative following City Hall, AYA Bank Headquarter, Armenian Church, Central Fire Station and General Post Office.

Royal Philips agreed to contribute US\$ 75,000 for the Yangon Blue Plaques initiative. Aside from the highlighting key cultural heritage locations, the contribution will also support the research and curation of historical sites, and creation and installation of Blue Plaques that will share the historical relevance and background of notable people and places across the city.

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:

Shwe Yinn Mar Oo, Media and Communications Manager,

Tel: 951 240544

Mobile: 959 73055187

Email: info@yangonheritagetrust.org

www.yangonheritagetrust.org, <https://www.facebook.com/theyangonheritagetrust>
