



Statement

Date: July 8, 2015

YHT welcomes the Government's decision to cancel projects adjacent to Shwedagon

YANGON: Yangon Heritage Trust welcomes the government's decision to cancel development projects in the former National Defense College and No (1) Motor Transport Battalion (War Office) Compound adjacent to Shwedagon Pagoda in Dagon Township.

The decision demonstrates a growing commitment to conserving Yangon's unique built and cultural heritage for the city's financial and social benefit. YHT also believes that this decision respects the public concern. The protection of the Shwedagon Pagoda and its setting within green public space must be a paramount consideration in any future urban plan for the city.

The Founder and Chairman of Yangon Heritage Trust, Dr Thant Myint-U, said, "We now have an excellent opportunity to take a step back and think carefully about the future - not only of the old War Office compound but of the entire historic city. The Shwedagon area, the historic downtown, the War Office compound, issues of traffic and transport, the railways station, the waterfront: all these things should be considered together, not separately. We welcome international and local investment in Yangon's regeneration and modernisation within a proper framework, one that will stand the test of time and conserve the city's uniqueness."

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.

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