



Press Release

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Yangon Heritage Trust launches new conservation and urban planning strategy

YANGON: The Yangon Heritage Trust today unveiled its eagerly-awaited "Yangon Heritage Strategy". The 150 page document, complete with many maps and illustrations, outlines the Trust's vision and strategy towards making Yangon Asia's most liveable city through sustainable development and heritage conservation. It also includes 24 "Action Plans" on issues ranging from the expansion of green spaces to improved streetscapes to downtown Yangon as a future international hub for arts and culture.

"We hope that the YHS will be an important contribution to public debate at this critical moment for the city" said Dr Thant Myint-U, the Trust's Founder and Chairman. "It's not a master plan, that's the work of the government. It's a collection of our ideas, based on the past 4 years of discussion with national and international experts, government, business, and ordinary people living and working in Yangon. We hope it will be useful to the government and will facilitate public consultation."

The Yangon Heritage Trust is a Myanmar non-governmental organisation that was founded in 2012. It has led the way in advocating for the conservation of Yangon's built and cultural heritage including its wonderful architecture and diverse range of communities. It now works increasingly on broader urban planning issues and sustainable development. It has a staff of 22 including Myanmar and international staff and is funded through a mix of largely private national and international donations.

Dr Thant Myint-U said "the decisions taken over the coming months will shape this city for the rest of the 21st century. Finding the right mix of old and new, modernising the city but at the same protecting its unique heritage, planning for liveability, can make Yangon one of the premier cities in the region. It's key to future investment, attracting and retaining talent, and making Yangon a centre for creative industries."

The Vice Chairman and Director of Yangon Heritage Trust, Daw Moe Moe Lwin, said that the YHS is a very important outcome of the Trust's collective research and experience gathered over the past four years since it was founded in 2012.

"This Strategy can help show the right path for Yangon's growth and development into the future. The Strategy also highlights the value and advantages of conserving our built, cultural and natural heritage.

Keeping the city's unique character while capturing every opportunity for future sustainable development can lead to huge economic and social benefits," she said.

The YHS includes a vision of the 'historic city' which extends from north of Inya Lake to the riverfront, a 'strategy', and 24 "action plans" and is now available in both Burmese and English for free online at www.yhtliveableyangon.org

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. The 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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