MESSAGE FROM COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE

Dear iPACE alumni,

I am delighted to share the third issue of iPACE’s Newsletter. iPACE hopes that this will help our alumni get engaged and stay connected.

It has certainly been an active six months at iPACE. The big news is that we have moved to the new American Center, which is at the corner of University Avenue and Inya Road. The building is well-furnished and modern, and has a cafe that is great for a snack or coffee, and to socialize with iPACE-ers. If you have not been here yet, please come visit us.

I mentioned this last time, but I think it is worth repeating: we would like to connect with those alumni with whom we have lost contact, as we have much to tell and share. If you are in touch with former iPACE participants, please mention that they can update their contact details at ipace@worldlearning.org. You may also like to forward this newsletter to them.

Thanks for reading! We look forward to keeping you connected with iPACE and to continue to support all of your amazing work.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Kunze
Country Representative
World Learning – Myanmar

WHAT IS iPACE?

The Institute for Political and Civic Engagement (iPACE) is an educational resource for Myanmar’s emerging democratic leaders to develop and increase their knowledge and practical application of fundamental democratic principles while promoting civic engagement to foster more representative and accountable governance.

iPACE designs and implements intensive civic education through thematic courses, mobile clinics, and networking and advocacy events at the American Center in Yangon and the Jefferson Center in Mandalay. Workshops and networking activities are provided to alumni and the public.

To bring the information to those who cannot attend our courses in Yangon and Mandalay, iPACE mobile training programs have been conducted in partnership with local community-based organizations in every state and region in Myanmar.
LEADERSHIP FOR CHANGE TRAINING IN MAGWAY

The iPACE mobile training program supports and collaborates with our alumni’s organizations to help meet the education needs of the people in remote areas outside Yangon and Mandalay. It is also a chance for alumni to organize a training in their community and get project management practice. This year, iPACE selected Chin, Ayeyarwaddy, Magway, and Shan regions for mobile trainings out of a competitive selection.

One of the training sites was in Magway where iPACE conducted “Leadership for Change” in collaboration with the Disabled People’s Development Organization. This was the first leadership training program for disabled people coming from different parts of Magway region. Despite the hot weather, participants attended the training with enthusiasm to learn leadership skills.

A participant comments, “This course gave me confidence and inspiration to be a good leader for my life and the disabled community.”

MYANMAR’S VERY FIRST JOB FAIR FOR CIVIL SOCIETY SECTOR

iPACE hosted Strengthening Tomorrow’s CSO Leaders: Alumni Job Fair at the Park Royal Hotel in Yangon from July 14-15, 2018. This was the first job fair in Myanmar held specifically for the civil society sector. 72 alumni from our regional Job Readiness Workshops in Yangon, Pyin Oo Lwin, Mawlamyine, and Bago joined the program. At the event, the U.S. Embassy’s Deputy Chief of Mission, George Sibley, encouraged the alumni to work with passion to make the world a better place and to do the best at their jobs, whatever that may be. Nearly 20 CSOs joined the event to share their information.

Participants engaged actively in the mini-workshops and the job fair. They met with organizations, and discussed current job openings and the types of people they were looking to hire.

One of the alumni says, “This program enabled me to understand more about which skills I need to develop and how to prepare for my career in civil society.”
Wondering what we have been doing lately?

**iPACE 2018 COURSE OFFERINGS**

- **iPACE Yangon Term 2:** Peace Advocacy; Foundations for Community Development; Organizational Development for Civil Society; Pluralism and Governance; Leadership for Change; Advocacy for Ending Gender-based Violence (May 14 - June 23, 2018)
- **iPACE Yangon Term 3:** Communications for Civil Society; TOT for Leadership in Peace Building; Civic Education; Strategic Planning for Change; Peace Education (July 30 - September 8, 2018)
- **iPACE Yangon Interterm Course:** TOT for Ending Gender-Based Violence (July 9 - 13, 2018)
- **iPACE Mandalay Term 2:** Leadership for Change; Pluralism and Governance; TOT for Civic Educators (May 7 - June 8, 2018)
- **iPACE Mandalay Term 3:** Peace Advocacy; Organizational Development for Civil Society; Advocacy for Ending Gender-based Violence (August 13 - September 14, 2018)
- **iPACE Alumni Workshop Yangon:** Advocacy: How Non-profits Can Partner with the Government and Business Sectors (March 9, 2018); Creative Problem Solving (July 16, 2018)
- **iPACE Alumni Workshop Mandalay:** Project Planning and Proposal Writing (April 4 - 6, 2018); Participatory Leadership (July 23 - 24, 2018)

**DOING GREAT THINGS: ALUMNI PROFILE**

“**iPACE equipped me with advocacy strategies and strategic planning which brought me on the route to success in advocating government officials about national youth policy and implementing it with my colleagues from all across Myanmar.**”

Jue Jue Than, an alumna from Yangon, spoke to us how iPACE has had an impact on her achievements. As a facilitator, Jue Jue Than was involved in the 2012 Myanmar Youth Forum, which produced the statement declaring that a national youth policy needs to be developed for Myanmar. Since then, she has participated as a committed supporter at youth dialogues to include youth voices in national youth policy through her advocacy techniques. She was elected as the Regional Secretary of Yangon Regional Youth Affairs Committee this year and is committed to strategic planning for national youth policy.

Jue Jue Than began her time at iPACE with Peace Advocacy and English for Advocates courses in 2017, and completed the Strategic Planning for Change and Research Methods & Analysis for Advocates courses in 2018.

Now Jue Jue Than is also leading a civil society organization called “Az-zahra,” which empowers Islamic women to speak out and increase their participation in society.

iPACE is proud to have Jue Jue Than as one of our alumni.

**STAY CONNECTED**

We want to keep our network of alumni strong, and we hope you are able to keep in touch with your fellow alumni to help your work improve and to keep your friendships (and make new ones).

- Send your contact updates to ipace@worldlearning.org.
- Connect with us via social media (https://www.facebook.com/ipace.myanmar).
- Attend alumni reunion and networking events.
- Refer other people to our networking events and courses - give them our Facebook link.
- Do you have an interesting update to share with your fellow alumni? Let us know and we can share it!
- Send news and updates to ipace@worldlearning.org.