Greetings iPACE Alumni!

It has been an exciting 2019 – Through the American Center Yangon and Jefferson Center Mandalay, we have continued to offer quality civic education courses and networking events that bring together today’s thought leaders around community engagement, education, religious tolerance, and intercommunal harmony. We also took our iPACE classroom on the road, completing four mobile trainings organized by iPACE Alumni in Pharkhant, Kachin State, Thantalang, Chin State, as well all Tamu and Kalaymyo, Saigaing Region.

In addition to these foundational features of the program, we at iPACE are committed to investing in our network of over 2,900 Alumni who represent all major ethnic groups and religions in Myanmar. In order to demonstrate this commitment, we supported iPACE Alumni through an Organizational Development process to create their own alumni association. A series of workshops was held in both Yangon and Mandalay which empowered iPACE Alumni to use the skills and knowledge they gained through the iPACE program to design and create an organization that is led by Alumni themselves. We look forward to supporting this group through its development and encourage all Alumni to get involved.

Term 3 of 2019 also saw the introduction of our latest iPACE Course – Media Literacy for Civil Society. This course, in partnership with leading local tech firm Phandeeyar, trains civil society leaders with the skills and knowledge they need to effectively navigate social media platforms to advance the work of their organization.

In an effort to continually improve the program, we are working hard to continue bringing these foundational as well as innovative features to our Alumni. We thank you all for your continued involvement and support of iPACE and encourage each Alumni to stay in touch via our Facebook and email. May you continue the great work you are doing and we look forward to seeing you at the Annual iPACE Conference in September!

All the best,

Andrea Welsh
iPACE Director
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 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.

STAY CONNECTED

We want to hear from you! Our Alumni Network is over 2,900 people strong and is one of the reasons that makes the iPACE program stand out. Stay connected so that you have the latest information on courses, programs, and exclusive Alumni events:

- Send your contact information, news, and updates to ipace@worldlearning.org
- Connect with us on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/ipace.myanmar)
- Attend Alumni reunion and networking events
- Refer people to iPACE courses, networking events, and share our Facebook page
MOBILE TRAININGS 2019

Each year, iPACE goes on the road to deliver mobile trainings in hard to reach and remote areas in collaboration with iPACE Alumni organizations. The mobile trainings last 5 days and teach a variety of subjects related to civic education. It is also a chance for iPACE Alumni to organize a training in their community and get first-hand experience of project management and implementation.

In 2019, iPACE selected the following Alumni organizations to conduct the mobile training: Arrmar nthit Library and Youth Center in Hparkant, Kachin State; Thantlang Youth Organization in Thantlang, Chin State; Myanmar Concil of Churches in Tamu, Sagaing Region; and English Conversation Club - Kalay University (ECCKU) in Kalaymyo, Sagaing Region.

For the training in Kalaymyo, iPACE provided Foundations for Community Development to 41 participants. One participant shared, “This course enabled me to have a clearer understanding of how we can bring development to our community.”

As an iPACE Alumni, if your organization is interested in having iPACE deliver a mobile training in your community, please contact: ipace@worldlearning.org.

FORMING iPACE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Starting in May 2019, iPACE hosted a series of Organizational Development workshops for Alumni in Yangon and Mandalay, in order to support the formation of an alumni association. Currently, iPACE has organized 4 workshops in Yangon and 2 alumni workshops in Mandalay. After working together over 3 months, iPACE Alumni from Yangon and Mandalay laid the foundation for an organization called iPACE Alumni Myanmar (iAM).

To keep the wider iPACE community updated about the iAM and how to get involved, we regularly share the reports of the workshops with our Alumni. iPACE is committed to supporting our Alumni and helping them organize a well-functioning iPACE Alumni Association. If you or other iPACE Alumni are interested in joining this initiative, please reach out to us via our Facebook page or email (ipace@worldlearning.org).
COURSE PATHWAYS

Recently, iPACE developed a program called Course Pathways which empowers civil society and political leaders to make the most of their experience at iPACE by building their capacity through a specific set of knowledge and skills. The list below details the nine Pathways and required courses. Courses in blue indicate foundational courses and those in red represent advanced courses. In Term 2 of 2019, iPACE proudly graduated three participants from these course pathways and is looking forward to involving more participants in this program. If you would like to pursue a Course Pathway, please get in touch with the iPACE Program Team.

Civil Society Leader: Foundations for Community Development → Communications for Civil Society → Strategic Planning for Change → Organizational Development for Civil Society → Leadership for Change

Civil Society Researcher: Foundations for Community Development → Communications for Civil Society → Strategic Planning for Change → Organizational Development for Civil Society → Research Methods and Analysis for Advocates

Communication Specialist: Foundations for Community Development → Communications for Civil Society → Strategic Planning for Change → Organizational Development for Civil Society → Communication and Advocacy for Change

Democracy Advocate: Democratic Foundations → Pluralism & Governance → Federalism → Advocacy in Democracy

Political Activist: Civic Education → Political Transition → Transitional Justice → Political Engagement

Civic Educator: Civic Education → Pluralism & Governance → Federalism → TOT for Civic Educators

Peace Educator: Civic Education → Peace Education → Conflict Transformation → TOT for Leadership in Peace building

Peace Advocate: Civic Education → Peace Education → Conflict Transformation → Peace Advocacy

Electoral Observer: Civic Education → Voter Education → Electoral Observation

iPACE IN ACTION: ALUMNI PROFILES

Aung Hein Min

“I have a dream to bring development to my community. iPACE helped me become more confident and empowered to fulfill my dream. iPACE courses gave me the power to change things for the better.”

Originally from Hpakant, Kachin State, Aung Hein Min is one of the founding members and Chairman of Armanthit Library and Youth Development Center in Sharawhka village. His journey with iPACE began with the Civic Education course in 2018. Since then, he has joined a number of iPACE courses at the American Center Yangon. Cooperating with iPACE to implement a mobile training, he organized a Civic Education training in his village in April 2019. He is currently attending Research Methods and Analysis for Advocates, and Foundations for Community Development in Term 3, 2019.

Mar Lar Phyu

“To be a change maker, I need to build my capacity and self-confidence. iPACE did that for me. iPACE also strengthens my professional network because participants come from different professional fields.”

Mar Lar Phyu is one of the founders and Chairperson of the Myanmar Down Syndrome Association (MDSA). Founded in 2015, MDSA aims to promote the quality of life and provide a supportive network for children with Down Syndrome. Mar Lar Phyu attended the Organizational Development at the American Center Yangon in 2018 Term 2 and joined a number of courses in the following terms. She is also currently studying Foundations for Community Development in Term 3 of 2019.