MESSAGE FROM PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Happy New Year and New Decade! Our entire iPACE team hopes this finds you and your communities doing well. As we approach this pivotal year in Myanmar with the upcoming 2020 elections, iPACE is committed to strengthening civil society through quality civic education courses and networking events that bring together today’s thought leaders around community engagement, education, religious tolerance, and intercommunal harmony.

To celebrate this commitment, iPACE hosted the 2019 iPACE Conference at the American Center Yangon in September 2019 with a look at how civil society can actively prepare for the 2020 elections.

In November of 2019, iPACE alumni successfully carried out elections for the establishment of the iPACE Alumni Myanmar (iAM) Board of Directors. We congratulate all the candidates and winners for their campaigns, and the broader iPACE alumni community for your involvement and support.

We thank you all for your continued involvement and support of iPACE and encourage everyone to stay in touch via our Facebook and email. Wishing you continued success and look forward to seeing you at the Annual Alumni Reunion in March!

All the best,

Andrea Welsh
iPACE Director
World Learning Myanmar

NEWLY ELECTED iPACE ALUMNI MYANMAR (iAM) BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Through a series of workshops in 2019, iPACE alumni agreed on the mission, vision, and structure of their organization that would be named iPACE Alumni Myanmar (iAM). Using the skills and knowledge they learned in the iPACE classroom, the alumni organized an election for iAM Board of Directors (BOD) to elect leaders who would steer the group's first year of activities. To organize iAM BOD elections systematically, an iAM BOD Election Commission was selected by alumni. The Election Commission went on to coordinate elections preparation in both Yangon and Mandalay, create an online voting platform, launch an informative communications campaign on Facebook, and support individual iAM candidates to successfully run their own campaigns.

The first iAM Board of Directors election was held online from November 22 – 24, 2019 and all iPACE alumni across Myanmar were eligible to participate. As a result, three candidates were elected from Yangon (Aung Bo Bo, Ni Mo Hlaing, and Htet Paing Soe) and another three from Mandalay (Nilar, Zaw Myo Aung, and Tony Ravjeet Singh) to serve on the iAM Board of Directors. iPACE Alumni proposed a seat for an iPACE trainer in the iAM BOD, and Yangon iPACE trainer and an iPACE Alumna Su Nadar Hlaing was selected for the role. iPACE team congratulates these active alumni who initiated this important activity. iPACE looks forward to supporting the iAM Board of Directors and the wider iAM alumni network as it works to strengthen the broader civil society sector in Myanmar.
iPACe ON THE ROAD:
MOBILE TRAININGS 2020

Each year, iPACE travels across the country to deliver mobile trainings for iPACE alumni organizations in hard-to-reach and remote areas. The mobile trainings last 5 days and teach a variety of subjects related to civic education. They also provide an opportunity for iPACE alumni to gain project management skills by organizing a training in their community.

In January 2020, iPACE conducted two mobile trainings: Organizational Development for Civil Society (ODCS) course in partnership with Education Foundation for a Brighter Future in Kyaikto, Mon State; and Foundations for Community Development (FCD) course in partnership with with Chauk United in Chauk, Magway Region.

From the ODCS course in Kyaikto, a participant reflected that “The tools and techniques I learned from this course are really applicable to bring organizational development to my organization.”

From the FCD course in Chauk, a participant commented, “This training brought me deeper understanding about core principles and aspects of community development, bringing awareness to the areas that our organization needs to improve.”

Two more mobile trainings will be delivered this year. If your organization is interested in having iPACE deliver a mobile training in your community, please contact: ipace@worldlearning.org.

MOBILE TRAININGS
WITH THE DEPARTMENT
OF SOCIAL WELFARE

Since 2018, World Learning Myanmar has been collaborating with the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) to strengthen the organizational and leadership capacity of DSW staff. In January 2020, iPACE conducted two four-day workshops at the Science Training School Kyaik Waing. The first workshop trained 15 DSW Officers on Media Literacy for Civil Society and the second workshop trained 16 DSW Officers on Foundations for Community Development. DSW staff actively engaged in these training activities and shared how they will apply the skills and knowledge in their work to support local communities across Myanmar.
iPACE hosted its third annual conference at the American Center Yangon on September 19, 2019 to examine civil society's role in Myanmar’s upcoming 2020 elections. The event featured speeches, breakout sessions, civil society organization (CSO) fair, and panel discussion, bringing together 131 participants, including 76 iPACE alumni from 49 local CSOs and 6 political parties. Check out the full report here: https://www.world-learning.org/program/institute-for-political-and-civic-engagement-in-myanmar/
iPACE’S NEWEST COURSE: MEDIA LITERACY FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

With the support of Facebook and technical expertise from Phandeeyar, iPACE developed a new course titled Media Literacy for Civil Society (MLCS). Recognizing that digital media has become a critical tool for civil society organizations across Myanmar, this course aims to train participants how to navigate and leverage media effectively as they communicate their message and connect with key stakeholders, and manage threats and counter-narratives.

iPACE provided this new course at the American Center Yangon in 2019 Term 3 for 27 participants and Jefferson Center Mandalay in 2019 Term 4 for 25 participants.

Participants reported that the course helped them to develop vital digital media literacy skills such as critically evaluating news sources, understanding media ethics and community standards, as well as utilizing mechanisms to report hate speech on Facebook.

iPACE IN ACTION: ALUMNI PROFILES

Nang Tin Tin Mya

“Civic education is needed for all the citizens including young children in Myanmar. TOT for Civic Educator course equips me with the training tools and techniques to effectively deliver civic education training in the community.”

Nang Tin Tin Mya founded Primary Color Civics Education Network (PCCEN), which provides civic education training to her local community of Mandalay. Since 2017, she and PCCEN members have conducted civic education trainings to middle school students at private basic education schools in Mandalay. PCCEN started working in one school and has since grown to working in three schools, providing three periods of civic education per week in each school. Nang Tin Tin Mya began her iPACE journey with Strategic Planning for Change, Conflict Transformation, and English for Advocates courses at the Jefferson Center Mandalay in 2014. She later joined the TOT for Civic Educators course.

Nyo Lin

“iPACE courses equipped me with the knowledge and skills which citizens need to know. Having completed courses, iPACE aroused my desire and enthusiasm to apply the learning.”

Nyo Lin is a member of the Board of Directors at Public Affairs Mandalay, a civil society organization which strengthens democratic practices by implementing voter education training and organizational development workshops. For the General Elections in 2015, Public Affairs Mandalay conducted voter education trainings with nearly 500 people from 8 villages in 5 townships in the Mandalay and Sagaing Regions. In 2014, Nyo Lin completed iPACE’s Conflict Transformation, Civic Education, and Communication and Advocacy for Change courses at the American Center Yangon. In 2015, he completed iPACE’s Media and Elections course at the Jefferson Center Mandalay.
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 3,000 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 (www.facebook.com/ipace.myanmar).
- Attend alumni reunion, networking events.
- Refer people to iPACE courses, networking events, share our Facebook page.

COURSE PATHWAYS
In 2019, 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 table below details the nine Course Pathways and required courses. Courses in blue represent foundational courses, courses in white represent skills-focused course and courses in red represent advanced courses. As of 2019 Term 4, iPACE has proudly graduated eleven 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 at ipace@worldlearning.org.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>PATHWAYS</th>
<th>FOUNDATIONAL COURSES</th>
<th>SKILLS-FOUSED COURSES</th>
<th>ADVANCED AND ADVOCACY COURSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civil Society Leader</td>
<td>Foundations for Community Development</td>
<td>Communications for Civil Society</td>
<td>Strategic Planning for Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civil Society Researcher</td>
<td>Foundations for Community Development</td>
<td>Communications for Civil Society</td>
<td>Strategic Planning for Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication Specialist</td>
<td>Foundations for Community Development</td>
<td>Communications for Civil Society</td>
<td>Strategic Planning for Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>Democracy Advocate</td>
<td>Democratic Foundations</td>
<td>Pluralism &amp; Governance</td>
<td>Federalism</td>
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<td>Political Activist</td>
<td>Civic Education</td>
<td>Political Transition</td>
<td>Transitional Justice</td>
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<td>Pluralism &amp; Governance</td>
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<td>Civic Education</td>
<td>Peace Education</td>
<td>Conflict Transformation</td>
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<td>Civic Education</td>
<td>Peace Education</td>
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<td>Electoral Observer</td>
<td>Civic Education</td>
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<td>Voter Education</td>
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