



Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma)

နိုင်ငံရေးအကျဉ်းသားများ ကူညီစောင့်ရှောက်ရေးအသင်း (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ)

E-mail: info@aappb.org, info.aappburma@gmail.com Website: www.aappb.org

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2018

TRAININGS

Human Rights, Documentation of Human Rights Violations and Transitional Justice Training in Shan State

As a part of the series of regular Human Rights, Documentation of Human Rights Violations and Transitional Justice Training, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) held two long trainings in the month of February. A 10-day Training from February 6-15 was organized in Namhsam City in Pa Laung Self-administered Zone in Northern Shan State and a 11-day Training from February 16-26 was held in Hsipaw City, Northern Shan State.

In Namhsam City, the Training was administered by AAPP's Human Rights Trainer, Ko Saw Than Hlaing, and Human Rights, Human Rights Documentation, and Transitional Justice Trainer, Ko Sai Myint Thu. A total of 32 people including 25 females and seven males participated in the training. Participants, all of Palaung background, included village youths, students, heads of health organisations, village administrators, and National League for Democracy (NLD) representatives. Namhsam Township has faced issues with restriction on movement, torture by the village administrators, and human trafficking.

In Hsipaw City, the Training was administered by AAPP's Human Rights Trainer, Ma Zun Pang, and Human Rights Documentation and Transitional Justice Trainer, Ko Tin Myo Htut. A total of 26 people including 16 females and ten males participated in the training. Participants are members of the Palaung Literature and Culture Group, the Shan Literature and Culture Group, Farmers Union, the Lisu Christian Convention, the Zayyet Welfare Association, the Ta'ang Women's Group, the Northern Shan State Christian Convention for all Ethnic Minority, the Wa Nrapha Women Group, and Shwe Parami Social and Religious Association. They are from Shan, Lisu,

Ta'ang, Burmese, Lahu, Karen, Danu, and Pa'O backgrounds. Hsipaw Township has faced land confiscation.

These training served as a capacity building measures, aiming to encourage and inform the participants in the democratic setup.



Transitional Justice training in Nant Hsan, Shan State



Transitional Justice training in Hsipaw, Shan State

Human Rights and Good Governance Discussion

In February, AAPP held a discussion about human rights and good governance for village and ward administrators at Yedashe, Htantabin, Pyu, Oaktwin, Taungoo, Kawa, Waw, Daik-U, Bago, Shwekyin, Nyaunglaybin Kyauktaga, and Kyaukkyi Townships in Bago Division. A discussion was held for the National League for Democracy (NLD) youth organization. The division and the opening speech was delivered by townships officials including:

- The Chairman of Education, Health, Social and Labor Affairs,
- Bago Division Parliament, Dr. Kyaw Kyaw,
- Bago Division Parliament Representative, U Kyaw Min San,
- The Yedashe Township Administrator, U Myoe Naing, Daik-,
- Township Administrator, U Kaung Myat Nyi,
- Shwekyin Township Administrator, U Zaw Myint Thein,
- Nyaunglaybin Township Administrator, U Thein Zaw Kan, and
- Kyaukkyi Township Administrator, U Tin Myo Aung,

Representatives from the following departments were presented at the opening of the discussion:

- The Coordinating Body for Rules of Law Centers,
- Shwekyin Township Auditor Office,
- Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Department,
- Township Immigration Department,
- Department of Fisheries,
- Township Department of Sports and Physical Education,
- Department of Traditional Medicine,
- Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank,
- Kyaukkyi Township Police Chief,
- Executive Officer of the Township Development Committee,
- Township Officer of the Rural Development Department, and
- Officer of the Township Immigration Department.

AAPP staff, Ko Aung Myo Kyaw, Ko Wanna Nwe, Ko Than Htike Win, Ko Lwin Moe Myint, Ko Myo Htut Aung, Ko Ko Aung, Ko Aung Gyi, Ko Kyaw Oo and Eastern Bago Former Political Prisoners Group representative, Ko Bo Tauk, explained the purpose of the discussion.

Ko Aung Myo Kyaw, Ko Wanna Nwe, and Ko Kyaw Oo then addressed issues on human rights

awareness, including the 30 Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Ko Aung Myo Kyaw, Ko Wanna Nwe, U Ye Aung, and Ko Bo Tauk, spoke about good governance.

There were some total of 1074 attendees, including townships' officers, ward administrators and staff from the Township General Administrative Department. There was a question and answer period at the end of the discussion.

The following individuals helped to facilitate the event:

- AAPP members,
- Ko Bo Tauk,
- Representative from Tharthyi Myay Foundation, Ko Bo Chit,
- Former Political Prisoner Ko Zaw Than Htut,
- Taungoo Township's National League for Democracy (NLD) representatives, Ko San Tun Aung and Ko San Jay,
- 88 Peace and Open Society representatives, Ko Hla Hphone and Ko Aung Kyaw Oo, and
- Daik-U City Four Eights Party Organisation Committee member, Ko Saw Linn A.K.A Ko Linn Linn.

At the end of the discussion, AAPP distributed UDHR pamphlets and posters, papers describing important factors of the good governance system, and Chapter Four of the Ward and Village Tract Administration By-Laws.



Good Governance discussion in Daik-U, Bago Division



**Good Governance discussion in
Nyaunglebin, Bago Division**

MENTAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MHAP)

Counseling Training in Kachin State

From February 12 to 23, AAPP-MHAP trainers Ko Htin Aung and Ma Khin Nyein Chan Soe gave a 10-day mental health counseling training at Myitkyina, Kachin State. The training was attended by 27 people. Organizations that attended include representatives from the Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC), the Karuna Mission Social Solidarity (KMSS), the Kachin Development Group (KDG), and the Metta Foundation. All of these organizations are working on the peace process, community development, and eliminating violence in the region. Johns Hopkins University (JHU) administered the training and provided technical supplies for teaching new mental health counselors in the Kachin region. The purpose of the training was to train counselors, so they can provide counseling.



**Mental Health Training in Myitkyina,
Kachin State**

'Self-Care, Problem Solving Skills, Basic Counseling Skills, and Psychological First Aid Training' in Shan State

From February 19 to 24, AAPP-MHAP Trainer, U Kyaw Soe Win and Supervisor, Daw Than Than Htay, gave a 'Self-Care, Problem Solving Skills, Basic Counseling Skills and Psychological First Aid Training' to 26 staff members from the Ta'ang Women Organization in Lashio City, Shan State. The training was designed to help service providers (those assisting individuals in crisis) deal with the secondary trauma associated with this line of work.



**Self-care Training in Lashio, Shan
State**

Counseling Services for Clients

Every Saturday and Sunday in February, four female counselors went to the Women's Vocational Training Center in Yangon. In February, four clients completed their counseling sessions. A further nine clients are continuing to receive counseling.

A female supervisor and five female counselors went to the Women Development Center in Yangon to provide mental health counseling services. In February, six clients completed their counseling sessions and another 10 clients are continuing their sessions.

Every Monday in February five Counselors went to Hnget Aw Sann Youth Training Centre (a Juvenile Prison) to provide CETA mental health counseling services. In February, 11 clients completed their counseling sessions and a further 12 clients are continuing counseling session. In February three counselors met with ten females and eight male Burmese Migrants to deliver mental health assistance. In February, five female and four male Burmese migrant clients finished their counseling.