



12 March 2018

Dear Participants,

Welcome to the first Train-the-Trainers (TTT) program for environmental law champions in Myanmar.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and our partners, the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law, and the University of Yangon's Department of Law, are privileged to bring you all together for these five days of learning, knowledge-sharing, and network-building.

Myanmar has a wealth of natural resources and biodiversity upon which millions of livelihoods rely. While forestry, agriculture, fisheries and mining have played critical roles in Myanmar's economic transformation, their operations have become increasingly intensive and extractive. Serious environmental challenges have emerged as a result, including deforestation, accelerated biodiversity loss, and increased pollution.

Addressing this environmental degradation and loss of invaluable natural capital continues to be a complex challenge that becomes even more urgent with the onset of climate change. In 2015, the UN Global Assessment Report ranked Myanmar amongst the three most vulnerable countries to extreme weather events. In that same year, ADB provided disaster relief in response to devastating floods and landslides, as well as an investment grant to restore livelihoods in Chin State.

Myanmar has more to do to protect its ecological wealth. Development of a comprehensive and coordinated environmental framework, an enabling institutional and legal structures, expertise, and a greater capacity for natural resource management are significant challenges.

Conserving the country's natural capital will depend on addressing countervailing incentives for environmental degradation and ensuring that sound environmental policies, laws, and regulations are adopted, applied and enforced.

Environmental law teachers and practitioners like you are critical to helping Myanmar adhere to international environmental agreements and develop implementing domestic policies to ensure that growth is sustainable and natural resources are conserved.



## Office of the General Counsel

You serve as crucial resources to ministries of environment, environmental protection agencies, the judiciary, businesses and nongovernmental organizations in the Asia-Pacific.

You are also responsible for creating the pipeline of tomorrow's environmental and climate change law practitioners and civil servants, policy makers and judges who will influence sustainability outcomes in this beautiful country.

We thank you for taking the time to participate in this important program, and hope that you will return to your institutions inspired, energized, and committed to work together to help ensure sustainable development in Myanmar, and the rest of the Asia-Pacific region.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Christopher H. Stephens'.

**Christopher H. Stephens**  
General Counsel  
Asian Development Bank



19 February 2018

### **Welcome Message from the Chair of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law**

On behalf of the Governing Board of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law (IUCN Academy), I would like to extend to you our warmest welcome to the in-country “Training-the-Teachers” Program to be held in Yangon, Myanmar, hosted by the University of Yangon School of Law, from March 12-16, 2018.

As part of an ambitious vision to encourage academic institutions throughout Asia to include the study of environmental law as a core subject, the IUCN Academy began the development of a “Training-the-Teachers” (TTT) course about 10 years ago. With the generous support of the Asian Development Bank, the IUCN Academy was able to conduct two very successful Train-the-Trainers Programs in Manila during 2015 for some 65 scholars from 14 Asian countries. These two Manila courses paved the way for the ADB and the IUCN Academy to collaborate further on capacity building of law professors and lecturers in the teaching of environmental law within Asia by delivering four in-country TTT programs during 2016 (in Malaysia, Vietnam, the Philippines and China).

We are pleased that ADB has supported the continuation of this project during 2017-18 with the delivery of three more in-country programs (in Thailand, Cambodia (and for Laos also) and Myanmar), and are delighted to be conducting this in-country TTT program in Yangon, Myanmar. This will be the seventh in-country TTT program to be delivered thus far.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the trainers, both local and international, who have dedicated their time to lead and participate in the Yangon TTT Program. Equally, we would like to thank all the participants for your interest in being trained to teach the subject of environmental law. We hope that this is only the beginning of your contribution to making environmental law an important subject in your universities for your students, as well as an important area for your future legal research.

Professor Elizabeth Kirk,  
Chair of the Governing Board,  
IUCN Academy of Environmental Law



**REGIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT  
STRENGTHENING CAPACITY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC:  
DEVELOPING ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPIONS  
TRAIN-THE-TRAINERS PROGRAM  
12 – 16 March 2018,  
Novotel Yangon Hotel,  
Yangon, Myanmar**

**Welcome address to the participants**

By: Dr. Khin Mar Yee, Professor and Head, Department of Law University of Yangon

Honourable Guests, Ladies and Gentleman,

It is with great honour and joy that I address you as the local resource person and the responsible person of the host institution for Regional Capacity Development Technical Assistance Strengthening Capacity for Environmental Law in the Asia-Pacific Developing Environmental Law Champions Train-The-Trainers Program on 12-16 March 2018 at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon, Myanmar.

For this TTT Program, Department of Law, University of Yangon is a host Institution. Our Department of Law was one of the seven original affiliated faculties of the Rangoon University (now University of Yangon). It was established in 1920 as a very first University in Myanmar. Since then, our Law Department, University of Yangon has offered BL, BA (Law) LL.B. Since 1981, LL.B, LL M, M Res have been offered and since 1999, PhD degree program is started. Apart from these degrees, post Graduate studies, DBL, DIL, DML and DIPL Degrees are offered as part-time courses. Today, Environmental Law is one of the important subjects for the several courses and many LLM, M Res and PhD Thesis are written in the fields of Environmental Law. So, this is the good opportunity to refresh our knowledge relating to this

subject due to the gratitude of ADB, IUCN Academy of Environmental Law and its honourable foreign professors and the persons of ADB who are willing and active to support us.

All my colleagues who are also participants, from different Law Departments of different Universities throughout Myanmar, I firmly believe that we will succeed together in taking advantage from this TTT programme for the sustainable development of our environment by the strengthening our capacity of Environmental Law teaching.