

Lahpai Seng Raw

An ethnic Kachin woman and a Yangon University graduate. Between 1990 and 1997, she worked in Bangkok as development officer for the Representative Office of Kachin Affairs, the humanitarian wing of the Kachin Independent Organization. Her main focus then was to improve the social welfare of women, youth and children, setting up income generation activities and Kindergarten for ethnic groups living in the Sino-Burma border area, and placing young people in vocational training schools in Thailand and India.

With the ceasefire process between the Military Government and ethnic groups in the 1990s, Seng Raw returned to Myanmar in 1997, founded and directed Metta Development Foundation (Metta). The Foundation has over the years become one of the most recognized Myanmar NGOs through their support activities in conflict-affected and natural disaster-affected areas across Myanmar in collaboration with a wide variety of stakeholders.

Seng Raw retired from Metta in September 2011 and is now committed to addressing underlying issues of conflicts and regressions. She also sits on the Board of Metta, Shalom Foundation and Swissaid-Myanmar. The recipient of 2013 Ramon Magsaysay Award, regarded to be the highest recognition in Asia.



Persisting Inclusive Peace Process: a Fresh Thinking

Lahpai Seng Raw, Founder and Former Director the Metta Development Foundation

Moderator: **Kei Nemoto**, Professor, Sophia University

Myanmar will soon mark the third anniversary of its transition from military rule to a nominally civil government. The international community has maintained a high level of interest and kept a close eye on developments in the country. Myanmar still has a long and difficult road ahead of it before achieving democratization in its truest sense, with challenges including constitutional reform, issues concerning ethnic minorities and religious conflict. While interest and support from the international community continues to be important, the efforts of Myanmar citizens who have made such tremendous sacrifices in their longing for a peaceful nation and a brighter future should and hopefully will play an increasingly significant role in their nation-building process. In this lecture, we will hear from Lahpai Seng Raw, a member of the Kachin ethnic minority, a Christian and a woman, about her valuable and long-term interventions in regenerating and empowering war-torn and disaster-affected areas, using her unique ability to work with both the military regime and anti-government forces. What was the driving force behind her decision to get involved in social development under such challenging circumstances? She will also talk about her hopes and the challenges she foresees amid Myanmar's changing political and social landscape.

Wednesday, March 12, 2014, 3:00-5:00 p.m. (Doors open at 2:30 p.m.)

JFIC Hall "Sakura", The Japan Foundation (Yotsuya4-4-1, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo)

Access: 3 min. walk from Ext 1, Yotsuya-sanchome Sta., Marunouchi line

Admission: Free. Language: English/Japanese (with simultaneous interpretation)

☑ For reservation

Please send an E-mail (jfmyanmar@jpf.go.jp) or fax (03-5369-6041) with title "JF Myanmar Lecture", your name, affiliation / occupation, address and telephone number.

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