Higher Education in Myanmar Opportunities and Challenges

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Outlines of The Presentation

o Current Status of Higher Education Sector

o Opportunities in Higher Education sector

o Challenges of Higher Education Sector

o Concluding Remarks

Current Status of Higher Education Sector

❖ Mission statement for the higher education sector

❖ "**to produce graduate human resources who possess the required qualifications for the construction of a new modern, developed, democratic nation**"

❖ 167 HEIs composed of colleges, degree colleges and universities, which are overseen by MOE and other seven ministries

❖ (1)Defense, (2)Border Affairs, (3)Religious Affairs and Culture, (4)Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, (5)Transport and Communications, (6)Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, (7)Health and Sport
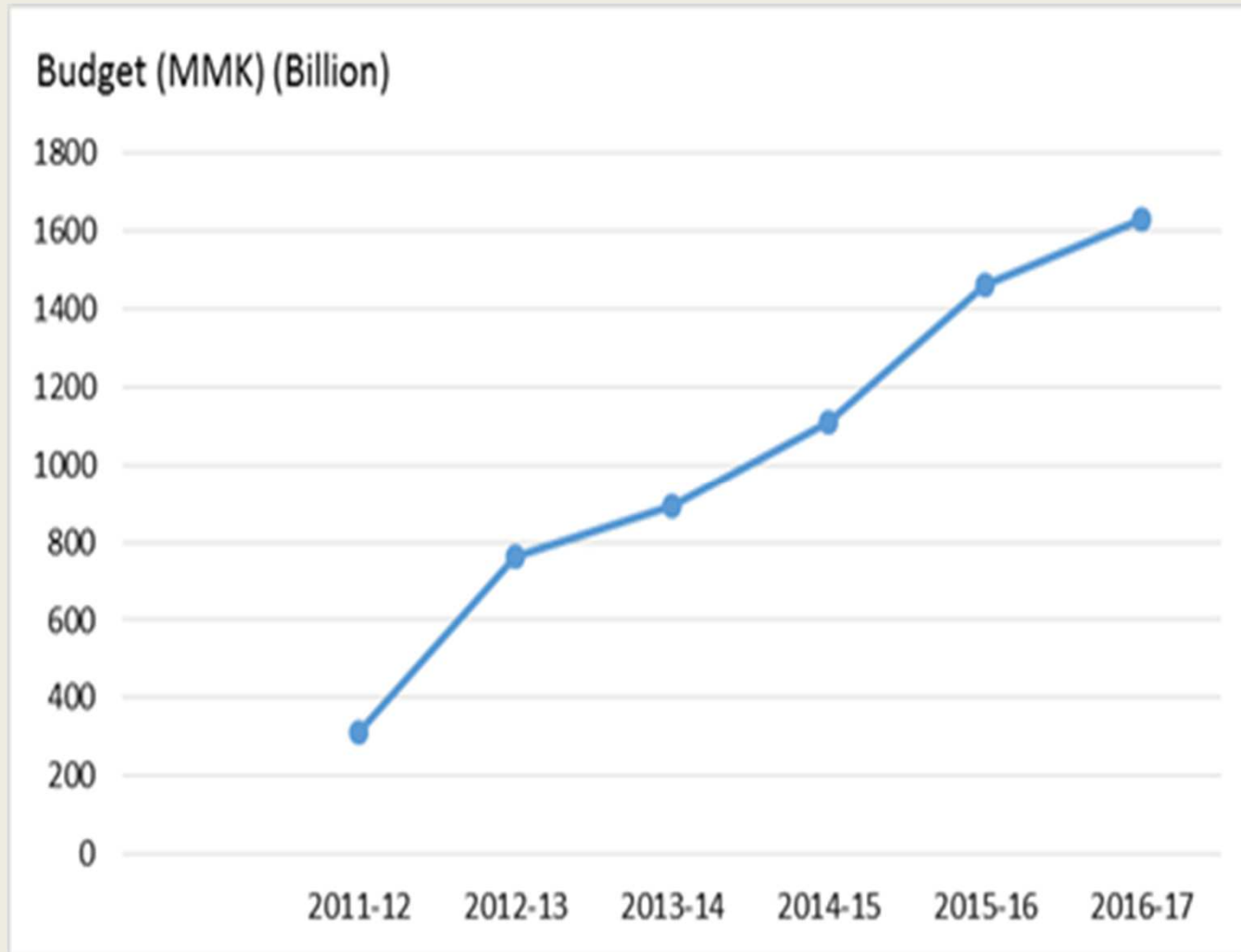
Current Status of Higher Education Sector

❖ DHE: 134 HEIs, 6 different types,

❖ Arts and Science Universities (40),

❖ Universities of Economics (3),

❖ Universities of Distance Education (2),

❖ Universities of Foreign Languages (2),

❖ Technological Universities (33)

❖ Computer Universities (27)

❖ Universities (2) and Colleges (25) for Teacher Education

❖ Total numbers of students related to DHE: about 870,000, about 78 % of overall students related to HE enrollment

Opportunities in HE sector

❖ Education budgets have been rapidly increasing, provisions of research grants and infrastructures to the universities increase significantly

❖ made steady progress in reforming teaching methodologies, student assessment systems, internal quality assurance systems and planning processes at HEIs

❖ Increase in international collaboration

❖ Increase in sending the academic and supporting staff and students to attend the Seminars, Conferences and Workshops abroad

❖ More autonomy to the Universities

❖ Staffing by universities

❖ Development of Myanmar National Qualifications Framework (MNQF)

❖ Effective Use of ICT in HEIs

Education Budget on Increase

Budget (MMK) (Billion)

Fiscal Year	MMK (Billion)
2011-2012	310
2012-2013	761
2013-2014	893
2014-2015	1 107
2015-2016	1 460
2016-2017	1 631

Source: 2016-2017 Citizen's Budget, Ministry of Planning and Finance

Collaboration with International Institutions

- Joint research-projects (Erasmus+ programme)
- Student and Staff exchange
- Visiting scholars
- Research-visit
- Study Tour
- Delegation
- Joint-organizing in the Seminars, Conferences and Workshops
- Short courses for capacity enhancement (Curriculum development, research, teaching, English)
- Co-supervision of PhD students
- Support to research projects of the university (discussion)
- Co-author to research articles and book
- Discussion on research work of PhD students
- Sandwich Programme for young researchers

Development of Myanmar National Qualifications Framework (MNQF)

- A working group formed under the Ministry of Education in November, 2013

- Working group members : experts and officials from 12 ministries plus some development partners

- Several consultative meetings were held at national levels from 2014-2017

- Sectorial consultative meetings were also made to reach the final draft in 2017

- Now, a plan is to be initiated for the approval process and mandating a team to steer and maintain the framework.

- How to approve the MNQF?

- Who will approve the MNQF?

Characteristics of MNQF

- MNQF covers all levels of education and training: Basic, Higher and TVET

- It also considers not just formal education but also non-formal and informal education and training.

- It has (8) levels.

- It has three domains: <u>Knowledge and Skills</u>, <u>Application and Competency</u> and <u>Responsibility.</u>

Myanmar National Qualifications Framework

Level	Sectors			Lifelong Learning
	Basic Education	**TVET**	**Higher Education**	
8			Post-Doctoral Studies/ Doctoral Degrees	Recognition of Prior Learning (Assessment and validation) Informal/Non-formal Learning
7			Post Master Diploma Degree, Master Degrees	
6			Postgraduate Diploma, Bachelor Degrees	
5		Advanced Diplomas/Diplomas	*Associate Degrees/ Undergraduate Diplomas*	
4		*V&TC/SC4		
3	High School	V&TC/SC3		
2	Middle School	V&TC/SC2		
1	Primary School	V&TC/SC1		

*Vocational & Technical Certificates/Skills Certificates

Effective Use of ICT in HEIs

- To set up/ upgrade the internet connectivity in the campus

- To develop the campus wifi-network

- To install e-Tekkatho digital library

- To carry out capacity building on ICT skills and English language proficiency for academic and supporting staff in collaboration with development partners

- To provide computers and infrastructures for effective use of ICT

- To expand online e-library resources to more HEIs and ECs in collaboration with Open Society Foundation

- To expand the use of ICT in teaching, learning, research, Administration of university affairs

e-Tekkatho
Educational resources for the Myanmar academic community

- Free digital library of research and learning resources to students, academics and librarians

- Key educational resources specially collected to support teaching and research in Myanmar

- Collaborations between, University of Manchester, British Council and Universities and Institutions of Myanmar

- **Firstly:** in stand-alone, offline, local installations at institutions in Myanmar

- Offline version contains the eTekkatho Special Collections

- Educational resources that have been adapted to work offline- without the need for any internet connection

- **Secondly:** in a smaller collection, online through this website http://www.etekkatho.org/ especially designed for quick downloads in low bandwidth and poor connectivity.

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e-Tekkatho
Educational resources for the Myanmar academic community

- **Special Collections** resources

- University of Manchester massive open online course materials (MOOC's),

- British Council,

- Wikipedia in English and Myanmar languages,

- Fuse School science videos,

- Khan Academy videos,

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Open Course Ware

- Yaung Zin teacher training materials

Universities and Institutions that have e-Tekkatho digital library

Bago University	Lashio University	Phaung Daw Oo Library, Mandalay
Banmaw University	Loikaw University	Sittwe University
Brahmaso Library, Mandalay	Magway University	Taunggoke Degree College
British Council, Mandalay	Mandalay University	Taungoo University
British Council, Yangon	Mawlamyine University	Taunggyi University
Dagon University	Myitkyina University	University of Medicine, Taunggyi
Dawei University	Myanmar Environment Institute	Yangon University of Distance Education,
Hakha College	National Library, Nay Pyi Taw	West Yagnon University
Hpa-An University	National Library, Yangon	Yadanabon University
Kalay University	Pathein University	Yangon University

e-Tekkatho
Educational resources for the Myanmar academic community

Resources

- UNESCO, World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), WorldFish Center, International Water Management Institute, etc.

- Geography

- Earth sciences

- Environment

- English langague

- Education

- Teacher training

- Information technology

- Mathematics

- Research tools & methods

e-Library Myanmar project

- Started in December 2013, to get access to online subscription resources

- Academic staff and students get the opportunity to acquire the skills and knowledge they need to succeed both in education, research and the workplace

- vital to researchers, teaching staff and students at the universities

Establishment of e-Library with the Support of (OSF) January, 2014 Implemented by EIFL (Electronic Information for libraries) in YU and MU

e-Library Myanmar project

Major Activities of The project

o To provide access to an impressive range of high quality international journals, databases and e-books to a growing number of academic and research institutions;

o To create institutional open access repositories – the first in Myanmar - at two universities (YU and MU)

o To develop a library consortium to grow and sustain the project

e-Library Myanmar project

Universities and Institutions that have e-library Programme

Universities and Institutions	Start of the project
University of Mandalay and the University of Yangon	2014
Dagon University, Yadanabon University and the Yangon University of Economics	late 2014
West Yangon University and East Yangon University	2015
the Myanmar Institute for Strategic and International Studies	2016
the Mandalar Degree College and the National Management Degree College	2017

Trainings for Newly appointed Tutors & Demonstrators

Students in ICT studies

Yangon University of Distance Education

1. Online Diploma in Law Course

- Online Diploma in Law Course through web-based teaching system (WBTS)

- Online Learning started from November, 2012

- Ten month course (www.yudeonline.com.mm)

Yangon University of Distance Education

2. Online LL.B Course

- Five year bachelor course (www.ynou.edu.mm)

- Submit assignments, term paper, take tutorials, face-to-face class and examinations

- Same Curriculum of LL.B Degree in the University in Myanmar.

Yangon University

1. Online Courses (Computer Science)

- Online master degree through web-based teaching system (WBTS)

- Online Learning started from August, 2004

- DSC (Diploma in Computer Science) started from April, 2005

- www.wbts.com.mme and www.yuonline-wbts.com

ICT competition in university Students

Effective Use of ICT in Teacher Education

Training Workshop for Education College ICT Tutors on ICT Competency and Application in Teaching and Learning for the New Four-year Education College Degree

Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education supported by UNESCO
Strengthening Pre-Service Teacher Education in Myanmar (STEM) Project
4-10 December 2017, Panglong Hall, University of Yangon

National Education Law (2014) and New Amendment (2015)

In 2014, Parliament passed a National Education Law (NEL) and NEL Amendment (2015) outlining major reforms to strengthen the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of the national education system, e.g.

- o Recognition of the right of all citizens to free, compulsory primary education

- o Establishment of a standard-based education quality assurance system

- o Expansion of basic education to 13 years (KG+12)

- o Support for learning ethnic languages and culture

- o University autonomy

- o Greater decentralisation

- o Recognition of the right of parents and community members in school management

Challenges of Higher Education Sector

- Myanmar's HEIs still need more investment, autonomy and coordination.
- The quality of HEIs in both research and teaching capacity - weak;
- Fewer than 50 per cent of academic staff at HEIs are involved in research
- Access to HEIs, particularly for students from under-privileged backgrounds, is limited
- More than half of the students in higher education are enrolled in universities of distance education
- HE sector also faces challenges in relation to governance and management

Challenges of Higher Education Sector
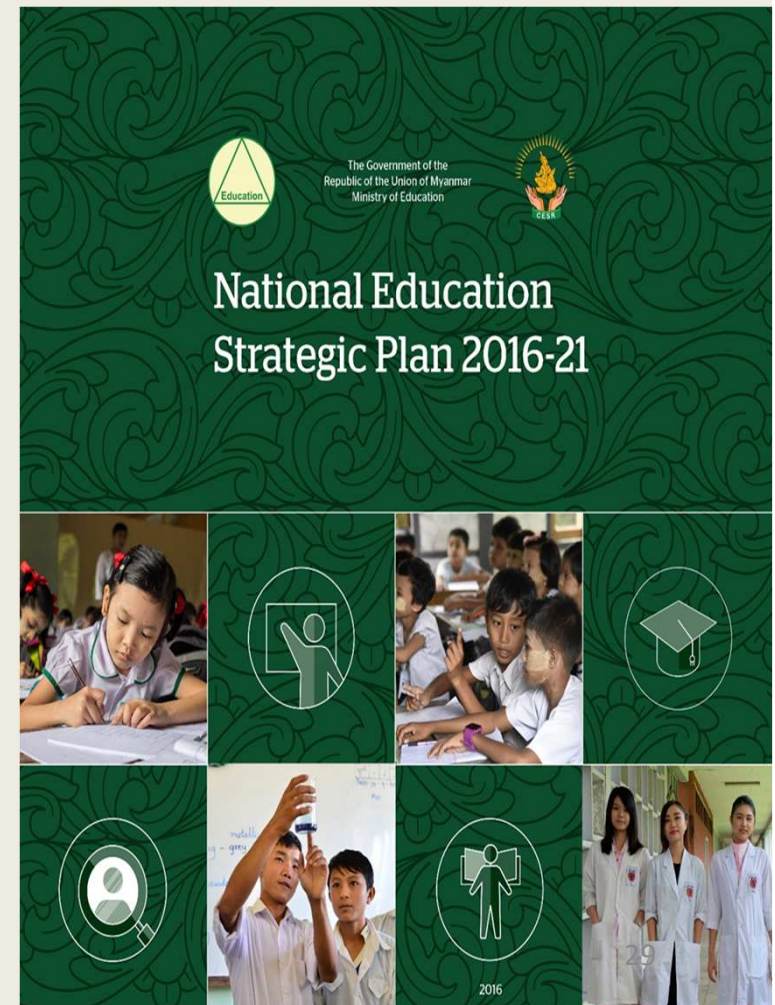
Four major challenges in HE sector

- The traditional centralized model of governance needs to be substituted with a more corporate model that focuses on performance, accountability and autonomy.

- Myanmar's higher education system needs significant improvement in terms of quality-related dimensions, such as curriculum, learning environment, deep learning, research and teaching processes.

- Support programmes are needed to help students to overcome cost barriers for higher education

- Myanmar's higher education institutions need to improve their research capacity in order to foster the development of new ideas and innovations.

National Education Strategic Plan 2016-2021

Improved teaching and learning, vocational education and training, research and innovation leading to measureable improvements in student achievement in all schools and institutions

Nine Transformational Shifts

1. Preschool and kindergarten education
2. Basic education – access, quality and inclusion
3. Basic education curriculum
4. Student assessment and examinations
5. Teacher education and management
6. Alternative education
7. TVET
8. Higher education
9. Management, capacity development and quality assurance

National Education Strategic Plan 2016-21

Higher Education

Transformational Shift by 2021

Higher education

Students have equitable access to a world-class higher education system, leading to better opportunities for employment and significant contributions to a knowledge-based economy

Strategies to achieve the TS

S1: Strengthen higher education governance and management capacity (5 components)

S2: Improve the quality and relevance of higher education (6 components)

S3: Expand equitable access to higher education (2 components)

S1: Strengthen higher education governance and management capacity

Component 1: Undertake overseas study tours to document best practices and establish partnerships

Component 2: Establish a National Institute for Higher Education Development (NIHED)

Component 3: Strengthen governance of HEIs through university charters and university councils

Component 4: Strengthen autonomy and accountability of HEIs

Component 5: Establish a Higher Education Quality Assurance Agency (HEQAA)

National Institute for Higher Education Development (NIHED)

❖ To improve higher education governance and management, build individual skills and strengthen institutional capabilities

❖ Provide in-service professional development training and undertake research on the issues of management and governance in the higher education sector

❖ Training courses will be informed by national and international research relevant to education policy

❖ The NIHED will also develop professional networks across the higher education sector and with similar training institutes abroad

❖ NIHED will provide training to support HEIs in addressing the recommendations outlined in their HEQAA Quality Assurance Assessment reports.

S3: Expand equitable access to higher education

Component 1: Create a good teaching and learning environment at HEIs

- Teaching environment and resources

- Learning environment and resources

- Quality of university life (Vibrant campus life)

- Human resource development programmes

- University-industry collaboration

- Public private partnership

- Online courses

- Library, Student Service Centre, Research Centre, Hostels, Staff apartment and housing, Foreign student house, Guest House, Different levels of restaurants, Canteen, Museum, Minimarkets, Sports grounds, Arts Hall, Park, etc.

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S3: Expand equitable access to higher education

Component 2: Promote student support programmes

❖ Providing stipends and scholarships for students by MOE, INGO, NGO, DP, University Alumni Association, etc.
❖ Low cost boarding
❖ Part-time job in the university or private sector

Concluding Remarks

- Over the next four years the MOE will implement the NESP and dramatically improve access to quality education for students at all levels of the national education system

- The DHE is committed to working with all stakeholders (Leaders, academic and supporting staff, students, parents, IDPs, etc.) to achieve NESP goal

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Thank You for Your Attention!