

(Anniversary special)

Myanmar National Day

Ongoing promotion of socioeconomic development

U THURAIN THANT ZIN
AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR



On the auspicious occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the government and people of Myanmar and myself, I would like to convey affectionate and respectful greetings to the government and people of Japan and wish for fulfillment and contentment.

Myanmar's national brethren have lived in unity in successive kingdoms of magnificence and grandeur for millennia, occupying a proud position in the world. Myanmar became a colony in the late-19th century when colonialism had a strong influence over much of the world.

When Myanmar lost its independence and sovereignty, the national people were motivated by a strong genuine spirit of unity and an intrepid national spirit and fought against the colonists, making their best efforts and taking many risks on the way to regain their independence. Myanmar regained her independence on Jan. 4, 1948.

Therefore, today is the 70th anniversary of the regaining of independence for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. We respect and recognize Japan's assistance in that, when we were struggling for independence against the colonial regime, the Japanese assisted the Myanmar Tatmadaw (Burmese Independence Army) that was led by Gen. Aung San.

After gaining independence, due to divided rule by the colonial regime and a variety of other issues, there had been

suspicion and clashes among the fellow national races, resulting in disruption to the development of the state as their future was overwhelmed by armed crises. At present, those doubts and crises are extinct and all the national brethren are trying hard to possess everlasting peace and to build a federal democratic state.

Therefore, the government is making efforts for implementing the national reconsolidation and state peace process, while working hard on holding the third meeting of the 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference at which all of us can cooperate and find solutions to the national reconsolidation and union peace.

As peace grows in Myanmar, the government promotes socioeconomic development simultaneously while helping all nationalities feel secure, providing for their basic needs with full cooperation between the government and the people of all national races.

Therefore, the government formulated an economic policy on July 29, 2016, and it is one of the most significant efforts that aims to achieve balanced development across the states and regions, create opportunities for new generations and establish an economic system for the positive development of the country.

In this result, in 2017, the gross domestic product of Myanmar rose 7.7 percent and we hope that it will be up 8 percent in 2018.

Due to government efforts to increase investment in Myanmar, we gained a total amount of foreign investment of \$74.6 billion in 2017. Among them, the amount of Japanese investment was \$786.85 million in fiscal 2017.

Today, Japan is the 10th-largest investor in the country of Myanmar, where China is first, Singapore is second and Thailand is third.



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar His Excellency U Htin Kyaw

Therefore, in the future, we hope that we will be able to obtain more foreign investment from abroad, including Japan, as much as \$520 billion in fiscal 2030.

We established diplomatic relations with Japan on Dec. 1, 1954, and have continuously improved the relations in various sectors. Due to our long-term friendly relationship, we feel that Japan is one of our best friends, supporting our development.

When we improve our political situation, economic cooperation, national consultation and long-term development, Japan is ever present to support our achievements in peace, prosperity and democracy.

Additionally, with the exchange of high-level visits, our relations will be further strengthened. For that reason, our President H.E. U Htin Kyaw visited Japan in December.

Therefore, I strongly believe that our bilateral relations will develop soon in the near future.

For future progress of Myanmar, we realize that we have to work in unity for the realization of the five objectives of the 70th anniversary celebration of our independence day, committed to building a federal democratic state, the common destination of our national brethren, successfully.

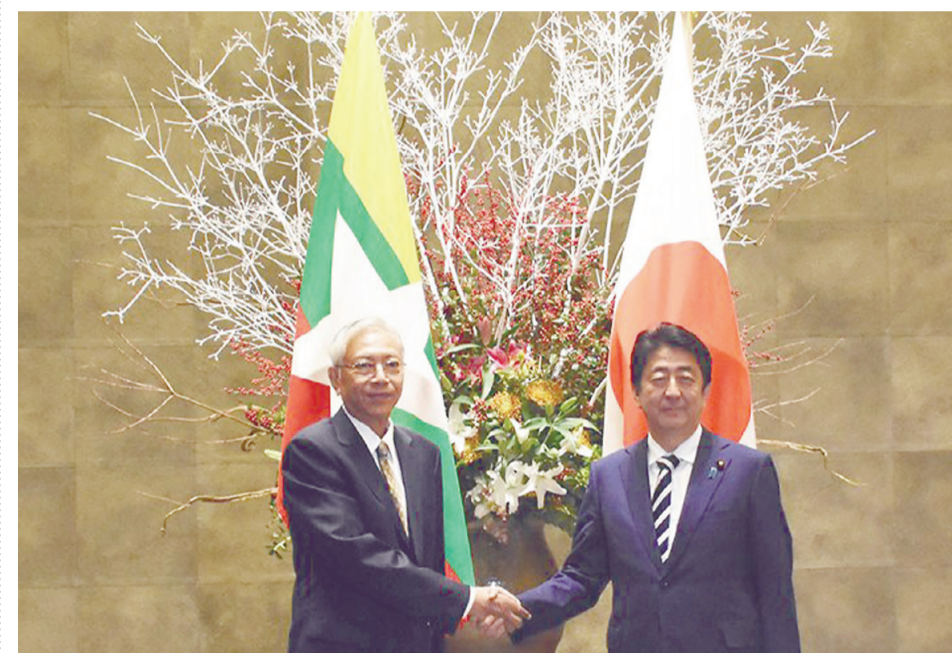
In this regard, we have the responsibility to safeguard and protect the non-disintegration of the union and the non-disintegration of the national solidarity, as well as to perpetuate sovereignty by all ethnic people. Furthermore, we have to make an effort for emergence of a constitution that meets the democratic norms and can guarantee a democratic federal union.

Moreover, we are striving for implementation of the peace process. Therefore, it is important to reach the goal of eternal peace through political dialogue by cooperation among all national races of the union with the union government.

Furthermore, our government promotes the private sector, which is the driving force for the country's economy and will help to boost the socioeconomic situation of the people.

At this important juncture in our national history, we would like to ask that the international community, including Japan, continue to support our efforts to achieve peace, prosperity and democracy.

In conclusion, I would like to state that I will establish Myanmar-Japan future cooperation, as the ambassador of Myanmar in Tokyo. I am affirming to see firsthand the development of the relationships between Myanmar and Japan in the future. Furthermore, I would like to request your support for our democratization process toward a modern, democratic, peaceful and economically vibrant nation. In the future, together we can celebrate the achievement of our goals.



Top: Former President Sao Shwe Thaik and British Governor Hubert Elvin Rance at the flag raising ceremony on Jan. 4, 1948. Bottom: President H.E. U Htin Kyaw shakes hands with Prime Minister H.E. Shinzo Abe during his official visit to Japan on Dec. 14. EMBASSY OF MYANMAR



Top: Myanmar is made up of many races. Bottom: The Mandalay Palace and Hill EMBASSY OF MYANMAR



President H.E. U Htin Kyaw attends a meeting with Prime Minister H.E. Shinzo Abe. EMBASSY OF MYANMAR.

Congratulations
to the People of the Republic of
the Union of Myanmar
on the 70th Anniversary of
Their Independence



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Let's look at the campus life of
Meiji University's international students from Myanmar!

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