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DVB Debate is produced by DVB Multimedia Group Ltd. Co. The debate is recorded every Saturday morning in Yangon with a live audience, which is invited to join the discussion as well.

 DVB TV		DVB RADIO	
Sunday	7.15 pm	Saturday	Evenings
Monday	1.15 am / 7.15 am / 1.15 pm	Sunday	Mornings
Wednesday	8.45 pm	DVB ONLINE	
Thursday	2.45 am / 8.45 am / 2.45 pm	dvbdebate.com	24/7
Friday	8.45 pm	facebook.com/ dvb.debate	
Saturday	2.45 am / 8.45 am / 2.45 pm	twitter @dvbdebate	

DVB Debate aims to contribute to a new culture of open debate, in which anyone can participate and agree to disagree, in order to exchange ideas, create better mutual understanding and find solutions for societal issues to improve the future of Myanmar.

The team invites fellow media and debating clubs to join this initiative for open debate. A weekly press release, press picture and cartoon are available shortly after the recording. DVB Debate also has a modest budget to support local debating initiatives.

For any inquiries, remarks or questions, please call 01292743 (office hours), leave a comment on facebook.com/dvb.debate or email debate@dvb.no.

DVB DEBATE



Welcome to DVB Debate,
Myanmar's 1st open debate program.

This week's debate question is:

ASEAN: Good for People or Governments?

If you have any remarks, suggestions or questions,
please ask a team member,
call 01292743 (office hours) or email debate@dvb.no.

This week's topic is ASEAN

Historical context:

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, more commonly referred to as ASEAN, is a political and economic organization of ten countries in Southeast Asia. ASEAN was formed on 8 August 1967 by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. At the time, Burma was under power of the notoriously xenophobic General, Ne Win who initiated a "closed door" policy, nationalising the country and cutting off international alliances. However, Ne Win's mismanaged socialist economic strategies resulted in Burma becoming one of the world's most impoverished countries. Evidence of human rights abuses by the military government also saw Burma shunned by the international community.

In 1997 Burma became a member of ASEAN, whose aims include, economic growth, social progress, and protection of regional peace and stability. Amidst half-century of military rule, however, concerns about the actions of the government kept Burma on the sidelines initially. In 2006 Burma was given the opportunity to chair the ASEAN summit, but because of its poor human rights record, chairmanship was given up to avoid a damaging Western boycott of the group's meetings. However, reforms introduced since 2011 under a quasi-civilian regime have improved the country's international standing. This year is the first time Burma has been able to host the ASEAN summit.

Facts & figures:

- The 24th ASEAN Summit was held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 11th May 2014.
- ASEAN was founded on 8 August 1967. Myanmar became a member of ASEAN in 1997.
- The ASEAN community has three pillars:
 - Political- security community
 - Economic community
 - Socio- cultural community
- Myanmar ranks 23 on the index of World's Poorest Countries (Source – [IMF] -2013)

- 96% of ASEAN regional economy is small and medium enterprises
- ASEAN has 10 member states, one candidate member state, and one observer state.

Points of view:

"Now is an important time to finish up all that needs to be implemented for the ASEAN community within one and a half years."

(President Thein Sein at ASEAN summit opening ceremony)

"Holding of the Asean leadership symbolises Burma's re-entry to the global community. At the same time, it gives [Burma] another opportunity to demonstrate that it is committed to democracy and wider integration with the world outside"

(Saroj Mohanty, strategic analyst at the Indo-Asian News Service)

"The ASEAN chair is not an achievement by the government, but it is about everyone; including the government, the people and the country itself."

(Ko Ko Hlaing- Advisor to the President)

Information links:

www.asean.org

www.asean2014.gov.mm

www.burmapartnership.org

www.myanmarpeopleforum.org

www.aseanpeople.org

www.thevoicemyanmar.com

www.irrawaddy.org

www.dvb.no