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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:

What is the impact of drug abuse?

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 DRUG ABUSE

Historical context:

Until 2003, Burma was the world's biggest producer of opium, the main ingredient in heroin. Along with neighbouring Thailand and Laos, Burma became part of the "Golden Triangle", an area notorious around the world for fuelling the world's heroine supply through poppy cultivation. In the border areas of Shan and Kachin states, with the perfect climate and landscape for growing poppies, opium has long been used in traditional medicines to treat everything from Malaria to stomach pain. Decades of civil war in this region led to demand for a cash crop in war torn conflict areas and opium became a strong source of income for ethnic armies, government backed militias and the Burmese army themselves. In the 1990s the UN launched a major initiative in the country aimed at eradicating poppy cultivation in the region. The government also spent millions on poppy eradication, and according to figures from the UN's office on drugs and crime (UNODC) by the late 1990s opium farming began steadily declining in Burma. However this decrease short lived as poppy production started picking up again within just a few years. Drug syndicates also began focusing on manufacturing methamphetamines in place of opium. Burma is currently one of the world's main sources of opiates and methamphetamines, and the world's second largest poppy grower after Afghanistan. Production fuels rampant addiction in the country and the drug problem is not showing any signs of improvement.

Facts & figures:

- Myanmar is one of the first countries in the South East Asian Region to sign the 1961 UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs.
- Burma is the world's second largest producer of heroin, accounting for 23 per cent of the land used for illicit poppy cultivation and 10 per cent of global opium production. (UNODC)

- Opium production increased by 22% this year in the Golden Triangle – led by a 13% growth in Myanmar. (The Southeast Asia Opium Survey 2013)
- 92% of opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar is in Shan state. (UNODC)
- Myanmar's first methadone therapy programme was established in March 2006.

Points of view:

"I don't want to grow poppies. I understand it is illegal and that drugs hurt our children. If I can't find a way to make more money, I will definitely go back to growing poppies."
(Awa Wadda, Poppy farmer)

"There is no country where you have zero drugs."
(Myint Thein, Central Committee of Drug Abuse and Control)

"My younger brother died already because of drugs and my other brother barely seems human anymore."
(Naw San, a former narcotics officer and drug addict)

"If the cultivation of poppies and the production of drugs are rising despite the projects to eradicate and reduce them, there must be weakness and mismanagement in implementation"
(U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Parliament Lower House)

Information links:

www.unodc.org
www.dea.einnews.com/country/myanmar
www.moh.gov.mm
www.aseanapol.org
www.ccdac.gov.mm
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