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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.

 <b>DVB TV</b>		<b>DVB RADIO</b>	
Sunday	7.15 pm	Saturday	Evenings
Monday	1.15 am / 7.15 am / 1.15 pm	Sunday	Mornings
Wednesday	8.45 pm	<b>DVB ONLINE</b>	
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](mailto:debate@dvb.no).

# DVB DEBATE



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

This week's debate question is:

***Foreign Aid: Where does it go?***

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

## **This week's topic is FOREIGN AID**

### ***Historical context:***

Under military rule in Burma, foreign relations, particularly with western nations, became strained. Evidence of human rights abuses in the country led to diplomatic isolation. After the army's brutal crackdown of student-led protests in 1988, military aid from Western sources was totally stopped and the Tatmadaw turned to suppliers from China, North Korea, and Russia. Western countries also placed economic sanctions on Burma which included suspension of all aid with the exception of humanitarian aid. After Cyclone Nargis, one of the world's worst recorded natural disasters, hit Burma in 2008, the humanitarian aid situation in Burma was brought to international attention. Cyclone Nargis provided the opportunity for local and international organisations, including the UN, to build their connections and develop strong relationships for their field operations during the relief effort, and it highlighted the need for capacity building. Following dramatic political reforms implemented by Burma's new government, which took power in 2011, foreign relations have improved. The United States relaxed curbs on foreign aid to Burma in November 2011 and many other western countries are doing the same. Foreign aid is now starting to pour into Burma as governments demonstrate their support for reforms.

### ***Facts & figures:***

- In 2014, World Bank will provide \$80 million support for the education sector in Myanmar.
- 23 international agencies are currently providing assistance in Rakhine state.
- The International Finance Corporation (IFC) decided to invest US\$170 million in the private sector development of upscale hotels and real estate in Myanmar.
- EU programmes in Myanmar currently amount to some €200 million. The EU is planning to commit an additional 1 billion for the whole period 2014-2020.
- U.K. aid will double in 2014 to more than \$95 million.

### ***Points of view:***

"There are some NGOs who are doing good work here, but their contribution is like feeding an elephant with a handful of sesame seeds."

(A local NGO leader, source: Myanmar Times)

"Aid that is given with the right intentions—in the right way—works. It must empower the people and promote the principles of a genuine democratic society."

(Aung San Su Kyi)

"If INGOs can write good reports and act in the interest of donors, the donations will rarely reach the public and the needed areas."

(Myat Thu Win, founder of Shwe Min Thar Foundation)

"Every respectable aid agency and international NGO in the world is planning to initiate or expand operations in Myanmar... mistakes made elsewhere could be repeated in Myanmar, thereby slowing its transition to better governance and economic progress or even triggering a reversal."

(Brookings Institution, TooMuch Too Soon report)

### ***Information links:***

[www.mm.undp.org](http://www.mm.undp.org)

[www.gov.uk/government/world/organisations/dfid-burma](http://www.gov.uk/government/world/organisations/dfid-burma)

[www.foreignassistance.gov](http://www.foreignassistance.gov)

[www.actionaid.org](http://www.actionaid.org)

[www.msf.org](http://www.msf.org)

[www.irrawa](http://www.irrawa)

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