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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:

***Heritage: Is it too late to restore?***

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 HERITAGE**

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

Burma boasts a rich and diverse heritage. Throughout the country, historical architecture dating back to the Pyu dynasty, British colonial buildings and Pagodas, all add to the spectacular collection of historical sites that make Burma unique. The ancient area of Bagan lays claim to as many as 4,000 stupas, pagodas and temples, and people come from all over the world to view the skyline. However, following a hasty restoration process after a massive earthquake in 1975, much of the historical value was lost. Reconstruction efforts were badly done, ill-conceived and often carried out by private individuals with some spare money seeking merit and with no attempt to preserve historic accuracy. Tropical climate and severe rainy season have also taken their toll on many ancient buildings and sites. In 1996 Myanmar nominated 8 sites around the country to be recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Site but were rejected due to poor management strategies and legal frameworks. Today, the country's heritage is at risk from decades of neglect and, more pressingly, a new wave of intense pressure for rapid development.

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

- According to the *Burmese Chronicles*, Bagan was founded in the second century CE, and fortified in 849 CE.
- A 2,600th anniversary celebration of Shwedagon Pagoda was held on Feb. 22, 2012.
- Seven sights in Myanmar were short listed by UNESCO to the World Heritage List in November, 2013.
- There are 189 buildings in Yangon listed as historical heritage buildings by the government
- There are 10 different types of traditional Myanmar arts including making Laquer ware (Panyun), gold smith (Pantain) and stone carving (Pantamault)

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

"What we have now is a physical landscape that's starting to change but also this opportunity to remember this history, and to try to begin to save what we can, before it's too late."  
(Thant Myint- U, Yangon Heritage Trust)

"The ancient structures are not a substitutable heritage."  
(Lwin Mar Oo, Burma's Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library)

"When a company gets an opportunity to rebuild a heritage building it all sounds very nice but in reality in commercial terms it is usually better just to start from a new build."  
(Tony Picon- Colliers International)

"We expected the old building to be demolished and in it's place we expected a new building... I want to live in modern housing which fulfils the standards of hygiene and safety".  
(Thein Than Tun, Former resident of listed heritage building with severe structural damage)

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

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

[www.whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/MM/](http://www.whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/MM/)

[www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yangon\\_City\\_Heritage\\_List](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yangon_City_Heritage_List)

[www.archaeologymm.com](http://www.archaeologymm.com)

[www.myanmars.net/myanmar-arts](http://www.myanmars.net/myanmar-arts)

[www.dvb.no](http://www.dvb.no)