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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:

Can we control the culture shift?

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 MYANMAR STYLE

Historical context:

Myanmar's culture is strong and unique, and has been relatively unaffected by foreign influence despite powerful neighbours and colonial rule. Traditional dress is still very popular and western fashion and music has had a moderately small influence following 50 years of xenophobic isolation under military rule. But now the country is opening up, foreign investment is pouring in along with tourists. A culture where a few years ago one could not officially have a western musical instrument in a classical Burmese orchestra now celebrates modern music and popular culture from the west and the east. K-pop, hip-hop, movies and increased internet access, are all beginning to influence the way that people dress, act and speak. During Thingyan, the Burmese New Year Water Festival, these changes are particularly obvious as people use the festival as a chance to act freely. Myanmar culture has been heavily influenced by Buddhism, however, even as Thingyan is traditionally a Buddhist celebration to welcome in the New Year, where people spray water in a symbolic manner to cleanse their sins, in recent years the festival has largely been commercialized. In major cities such as Yangon, garden hoses, water balloons and even fire hoses are used to spray water, and rock bands and DJs have replaced traditional entertainment on the stages lined up along the streets.

Facts & figures:

- Traditionally, Thingyan involved the sprinkling of scented water in a silver bowl using sprigs of thabyay.
- For Thingyan 2014 a force of 600 traffic police will be deployed on patrol in Yangon, while 300 will be on standby.
- The Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) will allow the construction over 100 pavilions across the city for revelers during Thingyan. At least 50 permits will be granted for the construction of 100ft long pavilions.
- Popular Burmese rock bands *Empire* and *Iron Cross* will perform at Thingyan celebrations this year in Yangon.
- In traditional Thingyan song and dance in chorus lines, girls dress in colourful tops and skirts, garlanded in flowers and tinsel.

Points of view:

"The doors are open, Western pop culture spreads and pervasive change permeates... a backlash could still emerge against the onslaught of Western cultural influences that seem to undermine traditional Burman virtues"

(David I. Steinberg, Professor of Asian studies, Georgetown University)

"the various costume designs worn by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi have also attracted the interest of young Myanmar women... it is encouraging to see that there is a revival in interest about traditional costumes."

(U Tin Toe, New Fashion Designer Group)

"Young women started wearing skimpy clothing without cultural barriers. It got worse during Thingyan water festival last April when we saw celebrities, models and teenagers in short pants and scanty blouses,"

(Writer and editor U Kaung San)

"Everyone is active and overjoyed during Thingyan...but it is important not to risk danger. We cannot break rules and regulations merely because it is Thingyan and we are all free."

(Police Lieutenant-Colonel Linn Htut, Yangon Police Force)

"Punk is radical music and completely opposite to traditional Burmese culture. Our society has many traditional rules. They think we are crazy. We are mad. No good craziness, so they think. So they don't understand what we are."

(Kyaw Kyaw, Rebel riot punk band)

Information links:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=GMJM2I2Rh74

('Stupid' by Yone Lay)

www.photos.myanmarmodel.net/?tag=jessica-dada

www.myanmartravel.org/culture.html

www.info.myanmarcelebrity.com

www.dvb.no

www.culturemyanmar.org/

www.culture360.asef.org/organisation/ministry-of-culture-myanmar/