

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 timetable

Sun	19:15	21:00	night repeat
Mon	10:15	15:15	21:00
Wed	10:15	15:15	21:00
Fri	10:15	15:15	21:00

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:

"Media Literacy: How to see the news?"

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 MEDIA LITERACY

Historical context:

Media literacy is an assortment of skills that help people to analyse, evaluate, and create messages in media. In Burma, decades of censorship and restriction on all forms of media combined with a weak education system have slowed down the development of media literacy. After the military coup in 1962, anything in print that the government saw as a contradiction to their policies and wishes was banned under the 1962 the Printers and Publishers Registration Act, and educational establishments were also brought in line with the country's political agenda. Even today, schools do not teach critical thinking or analysis, and instead rely on parrot learning which discourages people from ask questions about what they watch, hear, and read. In 2012, Thein Sein shut down Myanmar's notorious censorship board, granted private daily newspapers the right to publish for the first time in 50 years, and released dozens of journalists from prison. Exiled media organisations were able to enter the country for the first time and people began to report openly. The media market is now booming and dozens of private newspapers have emerged. Connectivity has also improved. Internet now readily available in cities like Yangon and Mandalay, and as cell phone use has increased dramatically many youth and adults are using mobile data to get online. Social networking sites have become a popular platform for sharing news and political opinions.

Facts & figures:

- The Burmese government estimates that only 700,000 of its citizens are online, however, the popularity of social media platforms such as Facebook are increasing as more people become connected, and they serve as a platform for sharing news and opinions.
- New Telecommunications companies Ooredoo and Telenor hope to put a cellphone in the hands of 90 percent of the country within five years.
- In March 2014 Burma's Parliament passed the new Media Bill, which outlines the rights and obligations of the country's media and the running of press enterprises, was drafted by the government-appointed Myanmar Press Council (MPC).

- In 2012 two weekly journals were suspended for breaking the 44th directive of the Printers and Publishers Registration and Press Scrutiny and Distribution Central Supervisory Committee.

Points of view:

"We have to start a campaign led by the civil societies about hate speech and media literacy. We have to explain what hate speech is and what strong opinion is, or what the freedom of expression is. People don't know how to use their new-found freedom on the Internet"
(Ye Htut, Minister of Information)

"I am concerned about the prevalence of inaccurate rumours and false information ... which subsequently become accepted as reality. More must be done to stop misinformation which only serves to heighten tensions and hostility and to increase the sense of discriminatory treatment"
(Yanghee Lee, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar)

"It might only take one irresponsible news story and a few thousand mouse clicks on Facebook to set Mandalay or any other major city ablaze"
(Kenneth Wong, Burmese-American author)

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