Connecting Myanmar with the World
Panelists

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Program Background

- Funded by Henry Luce Foundation
- Originated from delegation to Myanmar in 2013
- Universities wanted international connections and lacked infrastructure on campus
The goal of the Connecting with the World course is to train faculty and administrators at universities and government agencies in Myanmar to become Senior International Officers at their institution.
Program Components

- Virtual
- Level 1 and Level 2
- 20-week courses
- Opening and closing workshops in Myanmar
- Weekly Assignments
- Mentoring
- Over 150 participants since 2012/13 pilot course
CHALLENGES:

- Limited access to internet
- Lack of proficiency with virtual technology
- Lack of access to computing technology

SOLUTION/RESPONSE:

- USB Drive
- Online Cloud Storage
- Hard Copy
Online Portal

Positives:
- Exposes participants to virtual technology
- Connects participants and allows for ease of communication
- Easy to track participant progress

Challenges:
- New technology is difficult to use for some
- Lack of internet
- Cultural difference in learning, reporting, assignments etc...
Takeaways

- Flexibility is key
- Be familiar with the realities on the ground: popular technologies, difficulties, political restrictions
- Technology is developing quickly and is necessary around the world
The History of Building Connections

- Determining the needs:
  - On the ground reality
  - Most pressing needs
  - Cultural practices and processes
  - Existing level of knowledge
  - Available resources on the ground
  - Learning and teaching practices
First round of curriculum (I)

- Focus on basics – content with clear instructions
- Engage learner through different kind of activities (search website, do assignment, etc.)
- Provide a case study or example for each unit
First round of curriculum (II)

- Solidify design of the document
  - Level 1: Focus on awareness
  - Level 2: Mastery

- Design curriculum
  - Each course combines several units:
    - Online (but in reality recorded/hard copy of learning modules)
    - Workshops
    - Mentoring
    - Self-Awareness
First round of Curriculum (III)

- Design Document – Four Modules:
  - Purpose and Structure
  - Processes
  - Skills and
  - Agreements

- Each modules four sub-modules

- Each module:
  - Multimedia component (video, graphics, etc.)
  - Recommended Readings
  - Assignments (written)
  - Assessments
Learning Outcomes (revised Level 1)

- Articulate the value of internationalization/international engagement
- Understand the role and function of the international office at the university
- Develop and complete an applied learning project
- Increase general IT and other communications skills
- Broaden professional networks
- Complete an institutional analysis of factors impacting an international office
- Benchmark institution against other ASEAN institutions
Outcomes (Level 2) – Be able to demonstrate:
- Articulate value of internationalization/international engagement
- Prepare a proposal to establish and sustain an international office
- Develop a financial plan for international operations
- Identify and engage with institutional stakeholders
- Broaden professional networks institutionally/domestically/internationally
- Establish a Myanmar International Education Association
Second round of curriculum (III)

- Each module 5–10 min recording
- Voice over power point
- One assignment per recording/per lesson
- Divide topics – sequencing; consistency; cross-referencing
- Identify and include additional resources
Level 2 Curriculum

- Lessons topics:
  - History of Internationalization
  - Regional approaches to Internationalization
  - Building an international office
  - Developing processes and procedures
  - Roles and specializations
  - Engaging stakeholders
  - Various types of collaboration
  - Developing networks
The Mentor Experience

- Assigned two participants to mentor
- Assignments submitted weekly for feedback

Dr. Theingi Shwe, Pro Rector of Hinthada University
Dr. Khin Maung Soe, Professor of English at Magwe University
Connecting with the World Workshop
Applied Learning Projects
Challenges and Obstacles

- Technology and communication
- Differences in expectations for each assignment
- Globalization and cultural colonialism