



Embassy of the United States of America

Yangon

August 3, 2015

Ambassador Kyaw Myo Htut, Distinguished Guests, Colleagues, Friends:

I regret that I cannot join you in person for this outstanding conference, but I appreciate the opportunity to pass along my greetings and support. Today's event is an important opportunity to hear from a full spectrum of voices on a critical challenge in Myanmar - malaria elimination. I would like to applaud the work of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), in partnership with the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) and the Institute for Global Health (IGH) at the University of Maryland Baltimore, in making today's event possible. I also want to thank the Myanmar delegation for traveling to Washington D.C., to take part in this discussion.

In last week's landmark National Health Forum in Naypyitaw, participants recognized that recent changes in Myanmar have opened up the country to new assistance, technologies, and expertise. The opening has also enabled people inside the country to work together more freely on common problems.

Today you will discuss what is being done and what more needs to get done on malaria specifically. I applaud this effort. But this conference importantly also models the "how": the essential truth that malaria elimination must occur across sectors, across regions, embracing the country's full variety of health actors, agencies, and peoples. It also requires true coordination among the development partner community, civil society, ethnic health authorities, and government officials from all branches. There is no other alternative for success.

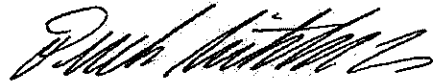
The presence of such a diverse array of Myanmar health actors coming together in common cause at this conference is a model of national unity that is the promise and hope of Myanmar. Such participation demonstrates a conclusive commitment from all corners to eliminate the scourge of malaria. Now we must

summon the will and creativity to continue this spirit of unity and partnership, mobilize our respective resources, coordinate and focus them strategically, and implement approaches that will transform societies and Myanmar's health system over the next generation and beyond.

The United States for its part will remain committed to this task in partnership with the people of Myanmar for years to come.

I wish you all every success during your historic meeting today, and look forward to hearing the results.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derek Mitchell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Derek Mitchell
U.S. Ambassador