

**Japan Platform & Myanmar Peace Center
Signing for Memorandum of Understanding
for Reintegration Assistance Program for Refugees/IDPs of Myanmar
~Three Year Program for the Returnees in Myanmar~**

Japan Platform (JPF; located in Tokyo, Japan) signs for Memorandum of Understanding with Myanmar Peace Center (MPC; located in Yangon, Myanmar) to start a program to support Myanmar returnees. A signing ceremony is held today 25 March 2013 in Yangon, Myanmar. JPF exchanges memorandum with MPC which works closely with Presidential Office, the Kayin State government and the concerned ministries and agencies. JPF launches 3 year program starting from April, 2013.

【Background of Assistance】



In the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, there have been armed conflicts since its independence in 1948. It is estimated that 450,000 has fled to the neighboring countries such as Thailand, Bangladesh and India and has become refugees. However, due to the transition to civilian rule in March 2011, the political, economic and social circumstance is changing rapidly, and there has been a major progress in ceasefire and reconciliation with the non-state armed groups. In Myanmar there are 7 States surrounding the border areas where ethnic minorities comprising the vast majority, and the stabilization and development of these areas is one of the key factors for maintaining the security and stability of the country in the

future.

Following with this change of a situation, JPF and its member NGOs held a joint assessment mission in Myanmar as well as in Thailand in December 2012 to establish a program for the returnees in Myanmar. As a result, it become apparent that the effort to reconciliation and peace will make further progress, and confirmed the needs of humanitarian and reintegration assistance, furthermore the support to returnees/IDPs in the area where conflict had continued for over half a century.

With the support of Myanmar Peace Center, Embassy of Japan and Kayin State Government, JPF commences the project initially in Kayin State.

Reference : OCHA <http://www.unocha.org/roap/about-us/about-ocha-roap/myanmar>

【Assumed Program】

•Area: Border Area of Myanmar & Thailand

JPF will start providing its assistance for the returnees in Kayin States and the future-returnees currently in Thailand.

JPF has an advantage in experiences in providing humanitarian assistance for the returnees around the world and specialized in various fields of assistance. One of the member NGOs has worked together with Myanmar refugees at the refugee camps in Thailand for over 10 years.

In the future the program is planning to expand its area to other states according to the situation.

•Starting period : April 2013-

•Participating NGO (member NGOs):

- Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR)
- ADRA Japan / Adventist Development and Relief Agency Japan (ADRA)
- Bridge Asia Japan (BAJ)

- Telecom for Basic Human Needs (BHN)
- CARE International Japan (CIJ)
- International Amateur Radio Volunteers (IARV)
- The Institute of Cultural Affairs, Japan (ICA)
- Japan Association for Refugees (JAR)
- Japan Center for Conflict Prevention (JCCP)
- JEN (JEN)
- Children without Borders (KnK)
- Nippon International Cooperation for Community Development (NICCO)
- Peace Winds Japan (PWJ)
- Save the Children Japan (SCJ)
- Shanti Volunteer Association (SVA)

•Activities:

1. Comprehensive social development and human resource development in Myanmar, where refugees or internally displaced persons will return
2. Supporting future return to Myanmar at the refugee camp in Thailand
*Project examples; vocational training, income generation (rural area), resettlement, education to returned refugees, social reintegration of children soldiers, health care, water and sanitation, protection of vulnerable group, education to avoid mine etc.

Please visit our web-site for further information regarding this program. Donation is open for public.
<http://www.japanplatform.org/E/> (English page)

■About “Myanmar Peace Center (MPC)”

Myanmar Peace Center has been established in October 2012 to act as the secretariat to the Union Peace Making Central Committee and Union Peace Making Work Committee. MPC serves as the focal point for international partners and civil society organizations on issues related to the peace process. MPC facilitates peace dialogues and coordinates peace initiatives.

■About “Japan Platform (JPF)”

Japan Platform (JPF) is an international emergency humanitarian aid organization which offers more effective and prompter emergency aid, in response to the world situation, focusing on issues of refugees and natural disaster. JPF conducts such aid with a tripartite cooperation system where NGOs, business community, and government of Japan work in close cooperation, based on equal partnership, making the most of the respective sectors’ characteristics and resources.

JPF has operated activities in more than 40 areas, 830 projects, and the total amount of budget for the emergency aid reaches to 287.6million USD (27.2 billion Yen) from 2000 to January 2013. JPF is working closely with 38 member NGOs. At the activities in Tohoku area after the earthquake (total budget: 72.7million USD (6.9 billion Yen)), JPF also supports local NPOs as well as member NGOs.

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