

# Workshop report

**Workshop on ICT Accessibility for  
Persons with Disability**  
Event for Members of Parliament  
14 December 2017  
Yangon, Myanmar

**Prepared by Myanmar Independent  
Living Initiative and LIRNEasia**



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## Introduction

Myanmar Independent Living Initiative (MILI), established in 2011, is a self-help organization led by disabled persons that has been working at various levels and fighting for equal rights, inclusion and independent living of people with multiple types of disabilities in Myanmar. MILI promotes disability access in employment, education, health, disaster-risk reduction, social-enterprise, social, political, electoral and public sectors.

LIRNEAsia is a pro-poor, pro-market think tank established in 2004. It has been working on catalyzing policy change through research to improve people's lives in the emerging Asia Pacific by facilitating their use of hard and soft infrastructures through the use of knowledge, information and technology.

Myanmar ICT Development Organization (MIDO), established in 2012, uses Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as a tool for the development of the country by narrowing the digital divide in Myanmar; using ICT for the country's development and the safeguarding of human rights; and encouraging the emergence of good Internet policies for ICT users.

A half-day workshop for Parliamentarians was held on 14 December 2017 at the Summit Parkview Hotel, Yangon. The objectives of the workshop were;

- a) To provide an opportunity to introduce the concept of ICT accessibility for the disabled
- b) Present the working document based on conversations with the disabled community at a workshop held on 12-13 December, to the Members of Parliament
- c) Get the Parliamentarians input on how to proceed with implementing ICT accessibility in the country.

All three objectives were met. The concept of accessibility, Myanmar's progress in the ICT sector, and international commitments, along with global experiences and the economics of implementation, were presented to the Parliamentarians. The working document from the previous day's workshop, which specified a number of recommendations including the signing and ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty, was presented. Much engagement was seen from the MPs, with the Parliamentarians inviting the organizers of the workshop to submit proposed legislation to the Parliament to be taken up officially.

## Resource persons

- **Nay Lin Soe, Co-Founder and Counselor of MILI** is a person with physical disability and wheelchair user. He also serves as advocate for disability rights and has experience working with disability movement for 15 years. He was the recipient of the 2016 Charles T. Manatt Democracy Award, awarded by the International Foundation for Democratic Systems. He is the joint-secretary of the Disability Advisory Committee charged with drafting national disability law. He has done and delivered numerous disability inclusion trainings for UN agencies, international NGOs, local NGOs, government ministries, media organizations and DPOs in Myanmar.
- **Rohan Samarajiva is the founding Chair of LIRNEasia**, an ICT policy and regulation think tank active across emerging Asia and the Pacific. He was CEO from 2004 to 2012. His most recent co-authored book (2013) is entitled "Information Lives of the Poor," and was published in English, French, Spanish and Burmese. Samarajiva was Team Leader at the Sri Lanka Ministry for Economic Reform, Science and Technology (2002-04) responsible for infrastructure reforms, including participation in the design of the USD 83 million e Sri Lanka Initiative. He was Director General of Telecommunications in Sri Lanka (1998-99), a founder director of the ICT Agency of Sri Lanka (2003-05), Honorary Professor at the University of Moratuwa in Sri Lanka (2003-04), Visiting Professor of Economics of Infrastructures at the Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands (2000-03) and Associate Professor of Communication and Public Policy at the Ohio State University in the US (1987-2000). Samarajiva was Policy Advisor to the Ministry of Post and Telecom in Bangladesh (2006-09).
- **Nirmita Narasimhan is a Senior Fellow and Policy Director at G3ict** working in the areas of policy research and advocacy related to IP reform and technology access for persons with disabilities. She is involved in drafting the Indian National Policy for Electronic Accessibility and also works closely with different departments of the Government of India to bring accessibility into their policies and programmes. She has authored several reports on accessibility, which are being used by policymakers worldwide. She has also presented papers on ICT and Accessibility at international fora like the IGF. She has also participated in the World Blind Union Treaty negotiations at WIPO. Nirmita has won several awards for her work, one of which was the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, which she received from the President of India in December 2010. Her educational background includes degrees in Law, German and Music. She has prepared research reports in the capacity of ITU accessibility expert, on making mobile phones and services accessible for persons with disabilities in Nepal and Afghanistan. These reports study the existing legal and policy framework for e- accessibility in these countries and makes specific policy recommendations for these.

- **Yatanar Htun is co-founder of MIDO** an ICT-focused non-governmental organization in Myanmar. She leads the Digital Security team in MIDO and is also interested in programs focusing on using data for social change. She has attended international workshops and conferences around digital security and has been providing support to human rights defenders and journalist in Myanmar since 2012.
- **Yu Ya Thu, Co-Founder and CEO of MILI** is a person with physical disability. She has worked for disability movement for 12 years. She is an advocate and trainer for disability rights and women rights. And she is a member of national committee for the rights of PWDs in Myanmar. She has delivered disability trainings for various organizations in local settings.
- **Yu Yu Swe is a coordinator of MILI and the head of program & quality of MILI Political Institute.** She formerly worked for the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, retiring as a Director of the Ministry. She has experience in delivering disability inclusion lectures and her area of expertise is facilitating inclusive training.

## Participants

The event saw the participation of 23 Members of Parliament from the Myanmar Union Parliament and the Yangon Regional Parliament.

### Members of Parliament

Aung Myat Phyo	Aye Aye Mar
Aye Mya Mya Myo	Ba Myo Thein
Dr.Htay Kywe	Dr.May Win Myint
Khin Moh Moh Aung	Kyaw Min Han
Kyaw Naing	Kyaw Nanda Aung
Kyi Pyar	Moe Moe Su Kyi
Moe Myint	Myint Lwin
Phay Chit	Phyo Phyo Thin
Soe Aung	Soe Pa Pa Hlaing
Thaung Htut	Thin Thin Myint
Tun Myint	Yin Yin Myint
Zin Min Htwe	

## Agenda

Time	Topic	Facilitator
0900-0930	Registration	
0930-0945	Opening remarks	Dr. Htay Kywe, Chair of Citizen's Fundamental Rights, Democracy and Human Right Committee - Amyothar Hluttaw
	Welcome remarks	Aung Ko Myint, Chair of Myanmar Federation of PWDs
0945-1000	Introduction to the concept of accessibility and sensitization to disability issues	Nay Lin Soe, MILI
1000-1015	Question and answer session	
1015-1030	ICTs in Myanmar	Yatanar Htun, MIDO
1030-1045	Question and answer session	
1045-1100	Myanmar's national and international commitments regarding accessibility for persons with disability	Yu Yu Swe, MILI
1100-1115	Tea break	
1115-1200	Implementing digital accessibility- a global perspective	Nirmita Narasimhan, PhD, G3ict
1200-1215	Question and answer session	
1215-1230	Pragmatic first steps in ensuring accessible ICTs	Rohan Samarajiva, PhD, LIRNEasia
1230-1245	Question and answer session	
1245-1300	Steps to implementation of accessibility in Myanmar: Opportunities and gaps- presentation of results of DPO workshop	Yu Ya Thu, MILI
1300-1315	Question and answer session, discussion	
1315-	Lunch	

## Evaluations

The participants rated the sessions and speakers at the course on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being abysmal and 5 being excellent. All the sessions and speakers received good ratings from the participants. (See Figures 1 and 2)

Figure 1: Speaker ratings

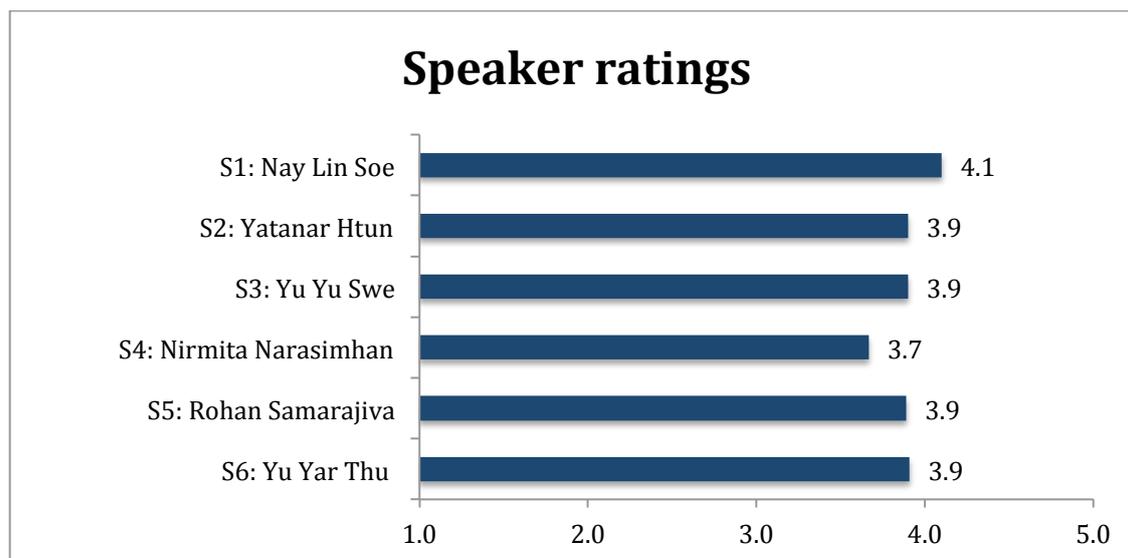


Figure 2: Session ratings

