

Statement by Myanmar
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen!
(Auspiciousness to you ALL!)

Thank you very much for invitation to attend Representatives Parliamentary on event Interfaith Dialog. May I introduce myself and my religion. I am U Aung Kyaing, a Representative of Pythuhluttaw, Myanmar. Our religion is Buddhism.

Eighty percent of people are pious Buddhists in our Myanmar Country we believe Buddhism.

Our neighboring countries are India, Nepal and China. Our Lord Buddha named Gautama who was born at Kapilavastu in Nepalese tarai. Asokan pillar which was erected by the emperor Asoka of India in Lumbini, the sacred birth place of Buddha. After 235 years after the death of our Lord Buddha, he became the Emperor of India, he erected the pillars such as one pillar was erected on the sacred birth place of Buddha, one pillar on the sacred place of first sermon, one pillar on the river bank as the Buddha crossing to Vesali, 4 Pillars for the Natal places of 4 Buddha's namely Krakusanda, Gonagamana, Kasspa and Gautama Buddha who appeared on this Badakalpa present world Emperor Asoka sent two Buddhist monks namely Sona and Uttra to Myanmar, after the Third Buddhist council held in patna, India in 3rd century B.C.

Shin Arahan was the related Pupil of the early Buddhist monks. In early 11th century A.D. Shin Arahan went to Bagan and taught the Theravads Buddhism in Bagan. Formerly bagan King and Bagan people were influenced by Mahā'yā'na Buddhism. At that time King Anawraha ruled over Bagan Kingdom. King Anawrahta believed the Thravada Buddhism of shin Arahan and the king converted the Theravāda Buddhism from Mahāyāna Buddhism.

From that time Theravada Buddhism was spread all over the country.

Most of the Buddhist people and royal families built the Pagodas if they were wealthy because they believed they could go to Niravana or they could reach to the six Nat Loka (heaven).

Therefore they built the pagodas on the hill, on the mountain and holy places. Even in Bagan located in the Centre of Myanmar. There were over four thousand pagodas in the same place.

Therefore our country is called the land of pagodas.

In Bagan, they built the 21 categories of structure concerning with Buddhism such as four storied temples, three storied temples, two storied temples and single storied temples, monastery complex (old university including, monastery for chief about, Sima, hostels for young monks (students) rest houses, underground caves for meditation, stupas, sinhalese typed stupas, pentagonal pagodas for five Buddha's namely, Krakusanda, Gonagamana, Kasspa, Gautama and Maiteya (future Buddha), small monastery for single monk, Kuti (Latrine) solid stupas, libraries with multiple roof, prasats in bricks, image houses and etc.

Mostly they enshrined the relics of Buddha, relics of Buddhist monks and replica of foot-relics of Buddha obtained from Srilanka.

In every hollow typed temples they painted on the interior walls depicting the scenes from the fifty five Jataka stories (birth stories of Buddha), eight principles scenes of Buddha, seven sacred places of Buddha, the prophecies of twenty eight Buddha's to last Gautama Buddha for his meritorious deed, mandalas, some Hindu Gods with Vahanas and twenty eight Buddha's with vahanas such as horse, white elephant, chariots, etc. for example our last Buddha named Gautama rode the horse before he became Buddha as the prince Siddhartha. After he became Buddha his name was Gautama Buddha.

He renounced by the horse and crossed the river Anoma and he practiced about six years austerities in the cave very seriously.

Finally he could not eat and that's why the Nats helped him and the Indra was demonstrating him by the harp. (If the string of harp is in tension it will be cut or if the string of harp is loose it will not get good sound. You should practice medium way (maggima- pati padā).

Then Buddhissattva realized and practiced medium way and then he got supreme wisdom and he became Buddha. That stone sculpture of fasting Buddha is displayed in our Archaeological Museum in Bagan. The most beautiful fasting Buddha sculpture is displayed in Lahore Museum, Pakistan.

From that time onward, usually every boy has to wear prince-like clothes and to ride the horse and then they have to be novice after holding novitiation ceremony.

During the novitiation ceremony all the people going around holding the various offering things in procession with the musicians at the front and back. At night they entertain with concert and orchestra to the people. That tradition started long long ago since Buddha's time.

According to Buddha's Law we have to keep at least five precepts normally. We have to go to the monasteries to keep eight or nine precepts on the four Sabbath days of four weeks a month.

For the monks and novices they have to keep ten precepts. There are as follows:

1. not to kill
2. not to steal
3. not to sleep with other's wife or other's husband
4. not to cheat
5. not to drink to alcoholic drinks
6. not to eat meals afternoon and evening
7. not to apply the perfume, beauty salon and flowers
8. not to stay on the holy platforms
9. not to hold the gold-ware
10. not to hold the money and gold wares.

In our country Myanmar radio and Television announced the Dharma taught by the well-known Venerable monks in the early morning daily for the people.

Besides, we have to meditate (vipassnā) if we have time. We believe that we can be free from various dangers if we recite the eleven discourse, twenty four pytsi, eight paths for Niravana, nine honorable facts of Buddha, six honorable facts of Dharma (Buddhist Scriptures) and nine honorable facts of Sangha (Buddhist monks).

Those are our main duties to recite as the pious Buddhists.

I would like to show power points about theater cultural mural paintings and stones sculpture from 11th and 13th century A.D. Bagan.

With many thanks,
Aung Kyaing
Representative of Pyithu Hluttaw
Myanmar