

Dated: 18th February 2007

Honorable Secretariat  
Ramsar

Re: Report on Our World Wetlands Day (Myanmar) 2007

Sir,

World Wetlands Day (Myanmar) 2007 is successfully celebrated on your guide line, leading by our birding society (MBNS-Myanmar Bird and Nature Society). It was held on the exact Wetlands Day (2nd February 2007) in Yangon City at our society hall, which was displayed with all your (Ramsar) posters, stickers, wall sheets and leaflets for this recent year and back years also, and together with other conservation illustrations from international groups, but all are under your headline title (slogan) "Fish for Tomorrow".

Opening speech for ceremony was given by our society chairman Mr. Soe Nyunt, he said that in Myanmar and also abroad, natural habitats including mainly wetlands are alarmingly disappearing due to population explosion and human's misconducts. It is the time and not too late now to save the wetlands, wildlife, nature and ourselves, and the world itself. We are doing this duty at our best, in this year and in many years past to conserve birds and nature, also wetlands and waterfowls. Up to now, 3750 school children and populace have been given awareness for conservation. In these accomplished activities we are co-operating with forestry and wildlife, UN bodies, Ramsar and International NGOs. During last summer, in fighting Avian Influenza, we were being coordinating with livestock breeding and fishery personals and getting close ties. It will help us to savour fish for tomorrow generations. [Conservations activities are shown on photo-exhibits and annexed to this report].

As a fishery expert, Mr. Myint Phe presented a talk on "Relationship between Fishery Resources & Wetland Ecosystem". He explained about the pollution by fish and shrimp ponds, drying up the marshlands for other uses, by catching the young and small fish, cause breakdowns in their life cycles, he also pointed out the chain hazards of illegal fishing-methods and toxicants, pollutants and contaminants.

Mr. Thein Aung, vice chairman of MBNS and also a forest and wildlife expert and an Asian Waterbirds Census coordinator talked on "Myanmar as a Ramsar member and its wetland-conservation". He said that our homeland is meshed by many major-rivers such as Irrawaddy (1992 km long) and its valley and delta, and coast line is 3000 km stretched. So, the country is densely spotted with natural great lakes e.g. Indawgyi, Inlay and much wetlands, marshland, oxbow-lakes, dams and reservoirs e.g. Moeyungyi Inn (Ramsar Site) and also with many brackish lagoons and some glacial lakes. As being, majority of our people are depending upon the fish and wetland products, these water bodies will be the lifeline of our children. Although it is in sustainable status now, we surely need to keep the water and land clean and healthy for them and their offspring, or our great-grand children.

At the successful closing of Wetland Day Ceremony, distributing the leaflets, the visitors and participant altogether 60 over, interestingly observe the exhibition-photos and help themselves with refreshment, snacks and drinks. Really, the event is just a small one, because our society can afford only small expense, but it is more than worthwhile.



Opening Speech from Our Chairman



Interestingly looking at our exhibition materials



Translation of WWD '07 poster to Myanmar language



Displays of WWD' 07 in Yangon, Myanmar