

**AGENDA** **Regional Think Tank on Inter-Cultural and Inter-Religious Dialogue**  
Unity in Diversity: Promoting a culture of non-violence and peace in a multi-cultural region  
Summit Parkview Hotel, Yangon, Myanmar 24 – 25 January 2015

**DAY 1 / SATURDAY 24 JANUARY 2015**

**09h00-09h45**

**Opening Ceremony and introductions**

- Speaker: U Ko Ko Hlaing, Executive Director of MDRI/Head of Department of CSIS and Chief Presidential Advisor (Union President Office).
- Speaker: Mr. Jagan Chapagain, Director, IFRC Asia Pacific Zone
- Speaker: Prof. Dr. Tha Hla Shwe, President, Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS)

**09h45-10h45**

**The application of humanitarian principles in multi-cultural and multi-faith contexts**

- Speaker: Mr. Jagan Chapagain, Director, IFRC Asia Pacific Zone

**10h45-11h00**

**Coffee break**

**11h00-12h00**

**Overview of the humanitarian challenges and priorities in Southeast Asia.  
The political, cultural and social impact of religions and culture in a changing world.**

- Moderators: Prof. Dr. Tha Hla Shwe, President, Myanmar Red Cross Society and Dr. Nay Zin Latt, Presidential Advisor, Union President Office
- Speaker: Mark Cutts, Head of Office, UN-OCHA, Myanmar
- Speaker: Dr. Gunnar Stalsett, Bishop emeritus of Oslo, Norway, and Honorary President Religions for Peace

**12h00-13h00**

**Learning from the Myanmar Experience: Bridging the religious, cultural and linguistic divide.**

- Speaker: U Sein Win Aung, Chairman of Interfaith Dialogue Group (Myanmar)
- Speaker: U. Aye Kyaw, Program Director, MDRI - CSIS

**DAY 1 / SATURDAY 24 JANUARY 2015**

**13h00-14h00**      **Lunch**

**14h00-15h30**      **Panel debate**

**Challenges and Solutions: How can religious and cultural diversity be seen as a unifier and a force for peace and stability to overcome the current challenges faced in the communities?**

- Moderator: Divya Gopalan, freelance journalist
- Panelist: Asst. Prof. Dr. Imityaz Yusuf, Lecturer and Director, Center for Buddhist-Muslim Understanding College of Religious Studies, Mahidol University
- Panelist: Dr. Gunnar Stalsett, Bishop emeritus of Oslo, Norway, and Honorary President Religions for Peace
- Panelist: Dr. Tin Hla, Vice President of Interfaith Dialogue Group (Myanmar)

**15h30-16h00**      **Coffee break**

**16h00-17h00**      **Panel debate**

**Knowledge, Awareness and Perception: What role can key institutions such as media, religious organizations, youth, and women's groups play in fostering respect, tolerance and understanding between diverse communities?**

- Moderator: Divya Gopalan, freelance journalist
- Panelist: Prof. Dr. Yi Yi Myint, Founder and Advisor of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association
- Panelist: Ms. Sasinat Chindapol, Thai Red Cross, Youth Volunteer and South-East Asia Youth Network Member
- Panelist: Ms Olivia Phelps Stokes Dreier, Executive Director, Karuna Institute
- Panelist: Dr. Chris Joll, Chairperson, Centre for Ethnic Studies and Development, Chang Mai University

**17h00-17h30**

- U Khin Maung Wynn, Director (Operations) MDRI-CSIS
- Dr. Thar Nyan, General Secretary, Interfaith Dialogue Group (Myanmar)

**18:30**

- **Welcoming dinner hosted by IFRC/MRCS**

## DAY 2 / SUNDAY 25 JANUARY 2015

09h00-09h30

### Recap of day 1 and objectives of day 2

- Facilitator: Jessica Sallabank, IFRC consultant

09h30-10h30

### Group discussions

#### Steps forward and mitigating risk how to engaging with religious communities and leaders, policy makers, authorities and external partners

- Moderator: Christopher Lamb, Humanitarian diplomacy advisor

10h30-11h00

### Coffee break

11h00-12h00

### Group presentations

- Moderator: Christopher Lamb, Humanitarian diplomacy advisor

12h00-12h30

### Conclusions and closing remarks

- Speaker: Prof. Dr. Tha Hla Shwe, President, Myanmar Red Cross Society
- Speaker: U Sein Win Aung, Chairman, Interfaith Dialogue Group (Myanmar)
- Speaker: U KhinMaung Wynn, Director (Operations), MDRI-CSIS
- Speaker: Ms. Anne E. Leclerc, Head, IFRC South-East Asia regional delegation

12h30-14h00

### Lunch

14h00 – 15h30 \*

### International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Roundtable: the convening role of the Red Cross Red Crescent in promoting a culture of non-violence and peace, and methods to engage in stronger and more effective dialogue with partners. A learning from day 1-2.

- Moderator: Christopher Lamb, Humanitarian diplomacy advisor

15h30-16h00

### Coffee break

17h00-17h30

### Wrap Up: Outcomes/ Next Steps Concluding Remarks

- Prof Dr. Tha Hla Shwe, President, Myanmar Red Cross Society
- Mr. Jagan Chapagain, Director, IFRC Asia Pacific zone

18h30-19h30

### Visit Shwedagon Pagoda

20h00

### Closing dinner hosted by MRCS

\* Closed session for International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement only