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. Imitiyaz 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