

Press Release:

March 25, 2007

International Seminar on Human Rights in Japan

An International Seminar on Human Rights, jointly organized by Japan Young Lawyers' Association and Japanese Environmental Lawyers' Federation, was held in Conference room in Nagoya City of Japan, on March 25, 2007. It was attended by about two hundred participants, majority of whom were Japanese lawyers. Atty. Takaaki Kagohashi, President of JELF, took responsibility as master of ceremony and the three major presenters were Japanese Law Prof. Yamazaki Koshi, from Niigata Law School and the two lawyers from Burma and the Philippines.

U Aung Htoo, General Secretary of the Burma Lawyers' Council made a presentation on human rights situation of Burma with the background of the Rule of Law, focusing on cancellation of 1975 State Protection Act and immediate and unconditional release of U Khun Tun Oo and Shan ethnic leaders and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, from legal aspect. Furthermore, in regard to Oversea Development Assistance provided by Japanese Government, U Aung Htoo suggested as follows:

- (1) ODA should be used to foster the livelihoods of local people, facilitate the emergence of civil society, support the independence of judiciary, and promote the rule of law;
- (2) In all ODA processes transparency should be practiced and it should open to the public;
- (3) In providing ODA, human rights norms should be applied, and all ODA related projects should be evaluated from the aspect of human rights.

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