

မြန်မာ့ (၆) - ဝါ ၁ - ၇ - ၂၀၀၅



အရှေ့အာရှနှင့် ပစိဖိတ်ဒေသ ကလေးသူငယ်ဆိုင်ရာ အစည်းအဝေးတွင် ဝန်ကြီးရုံးဝန်ထမ်းများနှင့်အတူ မြန်မာကိုယ်စားလှယ်အဖွဲ့အား နိယမ်မိန့် အစည်းအဝေးကျင်းပရာ အင်္ဂလိပ်အာရှပုဂံတယ်တွင် ခေတ္တရိပ်စဉ်။

Minister outlines progress in health, education at meeting on children

MYANMAR'S achievements in improving health care and educational opportunities for children were outlined by the Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Major-General Sein Htwar, at a ministerial meeting in Cambodia last week.

In a speech to the meeting on March 24, Major-General Sein Htwar said enrollments in the basic education system had increased from 5.24 million in 1987 to 7.78 million last year.

He said the primary level enrollment rate last year was 80 per cent and the completion rate was 71.6 per cent.

Major-General Sein Htwar said a significant move had been the introduction of lessons in human rights in the secondary curriculum for the 2004-2005 school year.

The lessons were based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Myanmar's Child Law, he said.

On another issue, the minister said the Department of Social Welfare had established 22 youth training centres for those in need of special protection.

The training centres cared for nearly 3000 children who were provided with the necessary assistance for their development.

He said non-government organisa-

From Nwe Nwe Aye, in Siem Reap

tions in Myanmar operate 170 schools and centres for disadvantaged children.

Major-General Sein Htwar said the department also helped to rehabilitate and reintegrate into society women and girls who had been victims of human trafficking.

"We must protect children from the negative impact of a rapidly changing world and from being victims of violence," he said.

Referring to health issues, the minister said Myanmar had reduced the death rate of children aged under five from 82.4 for each 1000 live births in 1995 to 66 in 2003.

It had also reduced the malnutrition rate of children aged under five from 42 per cent in 1995 to 32 per cent in 2003.

The three-day East Asia and Pacific Region Ministerial Consultation on Children opened in Siem Reap, near the famous Angkor Wat temple complex, on March 23.

Major-General Sein Htwar headed a six-member delegation at the meeting, which included the director general of the Department of Social Welfare, U Sit Myaing, and the director general of the Department of Health,

Dr Tin Win Maung.

Addressing the opening ceremony at the meeting, the executive director of the United Nations Children's Fund, Ms Carol Bellamy, called on governments in the region to increase spending on health and education.

"If we want to tackle disparities and achieve more equitable development, we have to invest more in children," Ms Bellamy said.

There was evidence that disparities were increasing in the region, which she said spent much less per capita on public health than the global average.

Ms Bellamy said the fruits of growth had not been shared equally and many families were deprived of access to basic social services that were fundamental to fulfilling their needs.

She said huge progress had been made in the region in policy improvements on child protection, gender parity in basic education and in reducing infant and child death rates.

The key challenges facing the region were HIV-AIDS, human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children.

Ms Bellamy said it was important to provide opportunities for adolescents and young people to become partners in efforts to deal with the challenges.

"We need to listen to them and take seriously what they say," she said.