

Myanmar School of Politics (MySoP)

The Myanmar School of Politics (MySoP) is a joint programme of the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) and Political Parties of Finland for Democracy (Demo Finland). MySoP focuses on strengthening the democratic role of politicians and political parties at the regional and state level, and enhancing the practice of multiparty dialogue.

MySoP takes place in a cross-party setting. At MySoP, all parties with an established presence study & practice politics together in a neutral, respectful setting. MySoP's 3 interrelated components are:

- Core courses: intensive, 20-day learning retreats aimed at improving politicians' capacities and their constructive, policy oriented political engagement. Includes political theory, policy making, programmatic parties, speechwriting, debating, campaigning, state specific issue-studies.
- Alumni activities: long weekends where core course alumni gather to further increase their knowledge and capacity on the issues of programmatic parties, intraparty democracy, and dialogue.
- Multiparty dialogue platforms: facilitated dialogue cycles designed to enhance the practise of multiparty dialogue and find new approaches to state/region level challenges and opportunities.



MySoP stimulates political dialogue amongst different parties during the core programme and thereafter. Attention is also paid to nurture relationships between political parties and civil society, the Union Election Commission, and media around issues of mutual concern.

Since 2014 MySoP has been working with politicians and political parties in Myanmar's eastern most 5 States and Region. Core Courses have taken place for leadership level politicians from Tanintharyi Region, Mon State, Shan State (South, North and East), Kayin State and Kayah State. Alumni weekends occurred in Nay Pyi Taw, Dawei, Taungoo, Hpa'an and Bago. MySoP alumni from 31 political parties include State MPs, State Ministers, a State Attorney-General, a State Deputy Speaker, a Chief Minister, and Union MPs.

In response to political parties' and alumni feedback, MySoP has in addition to its own curriculum translated & distributed to parties and parliamentarians nationwide a number of other publications in order to further assist with intraparty learning and enlarge MySoP's effect. These publications include the Becoming a Better Politician, Gender Equality within Political Parties, and Politics Meets Policies handbooks; Jon Favreau's Three Lessons in Storytelling speech writing booklet; and Harvard University's Justice: What is the Right Thing to Do? Political philosophy DVD series.