

## Myanmar School of Politics (MySoP)

The Myanmar School of Politics (MySoP) is a joint program of the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) and Political Parties of Finland for Democracy (Demo Finland), working under an MoU with the Union Election Commission (UEC). MySoP focuses on strengthening the democratic role of politicians & political parties at the region/state level, and enhances 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 an intimate, respectful setting. MySoP's 3 interrelated components are:

- **Core courses:** intensive, 15-20 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 Weekends:** 4-day weekend gatherings where alumni unite to further increase their knowledge and capacity on democratic transition issues they want to receive more training on.
- **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 dialogue amongst different political parties during the core program and thereafter. Attention is paid to nurture relationships between political parties, and with civil society and the UEC.

Since 2014, MySoP has been working with politicians and political parties in Myanmar's eastern most 5 States and Region. By the end of 2017, 10 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 on Federalism, Speechwriting, Philippino elections, Theories of justice, Political dialogue, and Energy occurred in Nay Pyi Taw, Dawei, Taungoo, Hpa'an, Bago and Bagan. The 160+ alumni from MySoP hail from 31 different political parties and include Union MPs, State MPs, State Ministers, Ethnic Ministers, a State Attorney-General, a State Deputy Speaker, and a Chief Minister.

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 (co)publications in order to further assist 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.