

Closing Speech of The Vice Minister of the Ministry of Culture, Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the Closing Ceremony of the Museum Seminar “New Horizons in Asian Museum and Museology ”

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“New Horizons in Asian Museums and Museology”**

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to be here this evening at the Closing Ceremony of the International Museum Seminar entitled “New Horizons in Asian Museums and Museology” jointly conducted by the National Museum of Ethnology, Japan.

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science for its support in hosting the International Museum Seminar in Myanmar and Mr. Ken’ichi Sudo, Director-General of the National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka, Japan for the cooperation and coordination in holding the Seminar.

My thanks also go to Prof. Katsumi Tamura and Prof. Naoko Sonoda the main coordinators for this seminar.

I am delighted that this International Museum Seminar could be held in two places, Bagan Archaeological Museum and National Museum (Yangon). Bagan is very famous in South East Asia and the World as the heart of Myanmar with its outstanding and extraordinary cultural heritage involving a variety of architecture, religious monuments and arts and crafts. In Bagan, you must have seen the architecture, stone sculptures and mural paintings and stucco of ancient monuments. Moreover, the emergence of Theravada Buddhism and religious belief in Myanmar can also be observed.

This is why Bagan can be defined as a Cultural Museum and one of the most significance places in Myanmar.

In addition, the National Museum (Yangon) is a place showcasing the cultural heritage that flourished age by age and the traditional culture of ethnic groups in Myanmar. To my delight, all participants have obtained results through the discussion and practical field work of the International Seminar to implement collection management, museum objects’ conservation, museum marketing, public education and community engagement.

In addition, all participants from Japan, Thailand, Mongolia and Myanmar could exchange knowledge and experiences on the museums of each of their countries by considering the two basic themes of “Museum Exhibition” and “Conservation and Documentation for Museums”.

The Mission of our Ministry is to preserve and safeguard the Myanmar cultural heritage and national character, to inspire the genuine Union Spirit in all nationalities, to prevent cultural resistance among the youth and to promote the cultural norms in

accordance with the increasing wealth of the State and its people, The Mission Statement of our Ministry is “Honor the State with Culture”.

According to our cultural policy, the Ministry of Culture is responsible for establishing the National Museums, regional cultural museums, ethnic museums, historic museums and archaeological museums in archaeological sites. One country can showcase its cultural richness through windows like museums. So, our museums are an important base for cultural heritage safe-keeping and distribution to audiences.

Most of the young museum staff in Myanmar still require more experience and skills for museum functional works. Fortunately, from this seminar, our new generation, Myanmar Museum staff, who are attending here as observers, had the opportunity to learn a lot about the museum functions from museum experts who have many experiences in this field.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Ministry of Culture, I would like to express our appreciation to all of you for your keen interest and participation in this seminar. I do believe that your experience during your stay in Bagan and Yangon would have made this visit to Myanmar a hugely memorable one.

Thank you.