



**Vote of Thanks by
H.E. U Thein Sein,
President of the Republic of
the Union of Myanmar,
at the Ceremony of Conferring
Honorary Doctorate Degree
in Public Administration by
Mae Fah Luang University and
Honorary Doctorate Degree
in Political Science
by Naresuan University, Thailand**

(Nay Pyi Taw, 29th November 2013)

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President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar,
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Honorary Doctorate Degree in Public Administration
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- General Sampao Choosri, Chair of Mae Fah Luang University Council,
- Dr. Vanchai Sirichana, President of Mae Fah Luang University,
- Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Chairman of Naresuan University Council,
- Dr. Sujin Jinahyon, President of Naresuan University,

- Union Ministers,
- Deputy Ministers,
- Directors- General,
- Rectors,
- Professors,
- Distinguished Guests,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,
- I would like to wish all of you “Mingalarbar” and
“a very Good Morning”.
- First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to
General Sampao Choosri, Chair of Mae Fah
Luang University Council, for personally
conferring the Honorary Doctorate Degree in
Public Administration and also to Dr. Sujin
Jinahyon, President of Naresuan University for

conferring the Honorary Doctorate in Political Science.

- I believe the conferring of these Honorary Doctorate Degrees as a recognition of the endeavours of the entire people and my efforts in striving to fulfill the political, economic and social aspirations of the Myanmar People, taking into consideration the history of Myanmar, current political conditions and anticipating the challenges ahead.
- Today, we are advancing on the road to democracy with strategic goals to build a new democratic nation.
- In doing so, we are undertaking political, economic and people-centred development reforms, and promotion of the private sector.

- In transforming from a centralized system to a democratic one, we are shifting smoothly from a centralized economic system to a market-oriented economic system and from a centralized administrative system to people-centred one.
- The main objective of our government is to achieve peace and tranquility in the country and to attain socio-economic development of the people.
- In order to achieve political stability in the country, political prisoners were released on many occasions to give chance to all citizens to participate in the political process. Moreover, we are striving our utmost in carrying out peace-making activities to bring to an end the armed conflict with ethnic armed groups.

- As politics and socio-economic development are closely intertwined, in the political reform process, we are also carrying out economic reforms. Our nation has been under economic sanction for nearly 20 years. Poverty rate is the highest in rural areas where the majority of the people are residing, so we are now drawing up work plans for rural area development and poverty alleviation as a national priority.
- For our economy to thrive, we are endowed with natural resources, have a huge work force and large markets in our neighboring countries. We have such opportunity as well as challenges. Our major challenges are capital, technical know-how and human resources.
- In this respect, we are now inviting foreign investments to obtain capital and technical

know-how. In order to develop human resources, we will have to nurture our people. To do so, education plays a vital role. As promoting education is the main means to develop human resources, we are now carrying out education reforms in the basic as well as the higher education sectors.

- We congratulate Mae Fah Luang University and Naresuan University in Thailand for their role in promoting human resources for the development of Thailand. In carrying out education reforms of Myanmar, we would like some of our universities to work closely with yours to benefit from your experiences.
- In conclusion, I would like to underscore that I highly value the Honorary Doctorate Degree in Public Administration and Honorary Doctorate

Degree in Political Science, conferred by Mae Fah Luang University and Naresuan University respectively, as these will be regarded as a great strength in our nation building efforts,

Thank you.