



MARGA
LANDMARK

Corporate
Social
Responsibility
2014-2017 Progress Report



Caring.
Giving.
Sharing.
Making A Difference.

MARGA
COMMUNITY
CARE
SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 2013

MARGA
YOUTH
FOUNDATION



Taking an active role in CSR efforts is core to the mission of Marga Landmark as a contributing member of Myanmar society. To demonstrate our continuous commitment, Marga Landmark is the first foreign direct investor in Myanmar history to pledge 2% of annual profits to CSR works as part of our MIC Permit.

Under Marga Community Care and Marga Youth Foundation, Marga has initiated and completed more than 30 initiatives in just its first year of Myanmar operations without making any profit.

In the past few years, more than 100 Marga employees, family and friends came together to care, to give, to share and to make a difference in the communities where we work and live.



Implementing Myanmar's Most Comprehensive CSR Programs

To date, Marga Landmark implements and maintains one of the country's most comprehensive CSR programs that benefit the lives and address the needs of different groups and communities ranging from disaster victims, orphans, the elderly to young musicians and professionals.

Marga Community Care (MCC)

Marga Community Care is an initiative that advocates responsive, direct and continuous actions to relieve and assist in the needs of deprived communities and Buddhist establishments.

Since its inception in 2013, MCC had reached out to more than 20 schools and orphanages, 3,000 elderly people and 2,000 disaster afflicted households with donations of cash and supplies, and direct care-taking and assistance.

Marga Youth Foundation (MYF)

Marga Youth Foundation sets out to nurture and empower young people in their pursuit of excellence in academics and professional development. It also aims to cultivate channels for exchange of ideas and sharing of knowledge and experience with international delegations and experts.





The Communities We Serve

The Deprived and Innocent - Orphans and Impoverished Children

Every month, MCC team brings toys, stationery, nutritional food items and daily necessities to one of the 15 monastic schools and orphanages that Marga supports on a regular and long-term basis. We play, talk and spend time with the abandoned and orphaned children in hope of brightening their childhood with laughter, kindness and warmth.

The Old and Weak - Elderly Citizens

Marga is a regular donor and visitor to a number of homes for the aged including the biggest home for the elderly in Yangon that houses more than 2,500 elderly people. We have utmost respect for the grandpas and grandmas who were among the founders and contributors of today's Myanmar. We hope our small effort of caring by listening to their life stories, holding their hand, singing and dancing for them can bring them warmth and smiles.

The Talented and Motivated - Youths and Young Musicians

Marga has the passion for nurturing and equipping the young people to pursue their dreams and aspire after excellence. By supporting and facilitating exchange of ideas, sharing of knowledge and experience, and cultivating international exposure, we aim to build up

the professional standards of young people with musical talents, and those with determination for greater achievements in career.

The Reverent and Revered - Buddhist Community

Marga plays an active role in preserving and honoring the Buddhist heritage with actions and service. Every day we donate meals to 9 monasteries and every week the MCC team sweeps the floor of a pagoda and a monastery. With regular donations to Shwedagon Pagoda and other important Buddhist monuments, Marga seeks to contribute to preserving the great architectural and spiritual treasures of Myanmar.

The Displaced and Unfortunate - Victims of Natural Disasters

Whenever a natural disaster strikes, Marga is one of the first foreign companies to go to the affected areas to deliver emergency supplies and relief funds. We share the responsibility as a good neighbor and an active member of society. We believe that our responsive actions and presence offer comfort and hope.

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THE DEPRIVED AND INNOCENT

Orphans and Impoverished Children



Brightening the Lives of the Less Fortunate Young Ones

Children's Fun Day – Celebrating Thidingyut Festival

On a regular basis, Marga visits and donates to 20 different monastic schools, orphanages and a school for the blind. In addition to donations of cash and supplies, we spend our time with these less fortunate children in hopes of brightening their days with fun and laughter.

In October 2014 Marga held its first “Race to the Light – Children’s Fun Day” to honour the Myanmar Thadingyut Festival and Nate Ban Zay. On that sunny day in October, 200 orphans from Youth Development Benevolent Villa and Department of Social Welfare and Development came to enjoy all the fun and surprises we prepared for them: singing and dancing, magic show, storytelling, caricature drawing and arts and crafts. Highlight of the day's pack programs was the hunt for hidden treasure in the maze specially constructed for the fun day.



“Nate Ban Zay is a wonderful Myanmar tradition that truly embodies the nature of this country: compassion and generosity. I’m thrilled we can join neighborhoods across Yangon in carrying out this tradition, and give these children a day of excitement and one that is full of smiles.”

John Barnes, Director, Marga Group



Our senior team with the children at the nursery.

“As a father, I fully understand that children need their parents to guide and support them in their different stages of life. I hope that our presence can assure them that many people care for them and that they are not alone. Our MCC activities are a long-term program so that we will keep supporting these orphans in the hope of helping them become good and responsible citizens of society.”

Alex Au Yeung, Financial Controller, Marga Group

Regular visit to Shwe Gone Dine Nursery, Bahan Township

The MCC team is a regular visitor to this nursery which is home to 100 orphans, abandoned small children with disabilities aged 0 - 8. Other than cash donation, we often bring toys, milk powder, baby clothes and daily necessities to the nursery.

The nursery was established in 1952 at Tamwe Township and moved to this building in 1993. In our last visit, 15 staff members brought stuffed toys, balloons and frisbees. We cuddled and played with the babies and spent the most time playing games and singing with the toddlers. It is most rewarding to hear the laughter and see the smiles on the little ones’ faces.

Children are the hope of our future, and Marga will continue our mission to give our hearts and contribute our small efforts to brighten the lives of the less fortunate children.

Laughter and Love for the Homeless and Orphaned Children

Regular Visit to Myittar Aye Yaik Myone Educational School, Hmaw Bi Township

In February 2015, the Marga Community Care team made our first visit to the Myanmar Myittar Aye Yaik Myone Youth Development Center located in Hmawbi which is on the outskirts of Yangon. As soon as we saw the run-down farm which is used as the school for the 40 small children there, we knew why we should be there. The center is running with its own means by growing vegetables and rearing live stocks. As it is located too far from the town, they do not get help and donation very often.

During our visit in late 2015, members from our international management and representatives from Shakespeare School came along. We were given a warm welcome by the whole school of 40 children who were thrilled to see the books and color pencils we brought for them. Other than a donation of funds that help their daily expenses, the MCC team also donated an electric transformer, a water purifier and a first-aid kit.

It was satisfying to see the children read the books and start drawing immediately after they got the story books and coloring books from our hands. Highlight of the day was the fun game led by the drama master of Shakespeare School. We shared lots of laughter with the children in mimicking the movements of various characters in a fairy tale. The children's smiles are our motivation to do more for them and the very reason for us to continue our mission.

"It is pure joy to be able to help the underprivileged children. Their bright eyes and grateful smiles remind us that their future depend on us."

**Anthony Manning, Chief Design Coordinator,
Marga Group**



Together, we can put rays of hope on the faces of these children in spite of their poor conditions.



One of our MCC team helping kids with the coloring.



The children are overjoyed with the new books.

Nate Ban Zay at Yadanar Pone Yeik Nyein Monastic School

One of the most beautiful traditions in Myanmar is Nate Ban Zay where different kinds of food are donated for everyone to enjoy. It reflects the generosity of the Myanmar people whose strong culture of giving has contributed to Myanmar being ranked the most charitable nation in the world in the "World Giving Index Top 20" in 2015.

October is the month in a year that Nate Ban Zay is most frequently organized across the country. To honour this beautiful tradition, the MCC team organized "Nate Ban Zay" at Yadanar Pone Yeik Nyein Monastic School with some extra fun games on 14th October, 2015. We were charmed by the peace and quiet of the school in spite of the number of children the school houses. Most of the children are trained to become Buddhist novices. The trainer is very strict, yet very affectionate with the children. They look very calm and disciplined for their young age.



The kids enjoyed the special treats we prepared for them.



The team excitedly cheered a kid as he was preparing to hit the tin blind-folded.



The team-mates of the winning team watched anxiously as he hit the tin at the final round.



Our team members distributed the drinks and food to the children.

The MCC team had an early start that morning in order to prepare chicken burgers and fruit punch for the children who had never eaten them before. We were glad that we were able to serve the children their first burgers and fruit punch which they really liked. After a small feast, there were rounds of rounds of games which the children participated enthusiastically. The highlight of the day was Than-Pone-Yite (hitting a tin box blind-folded) which got the children most excited and incited the loudest cheers from the entire school. The winners and participants were each awarded with a bag loaded with stationery, snacks and a frisbee.

Creating a moment of joy and fun to children especially those who are less fortunate is always one of our most rewarding experiences. The hearty smiles of the children motivate us to carry on and mobilize others to join our mission of making a difference in their lives.

Fun and Laughter with Children at Ananda Myitta

Like most of the monastic schools around Yangon, Ananda Myitta monastic school is located in the less privileged neighborhood of East Dagon. The Sayadaw of the school believes that education is the key to helping the children in the neighborhood lead a better life in the future.

The MCC team supports and shares the belief of the Sayadaw but we also believe a gesture of love would make a difference in the lives of these children from struggling families. Our gesture is a fun-filled, action-packed programme specially designed to make the children sweat, laugh and cheer for one another on a sunny day in December 2015.

We understand that a fun day wouldn't be complete without delicious food. So our team made a few pots of milk porridge for the children to enjoy before the games, and then quenched the thirst of the sweaty children after the "actions".



The kids posed happily after enjoying their favorite food.



The kids really enjoyed the milk porridge our team prepared for them.



Look who is the fastest collector of potatoes!



Super cute kids waited excitedly to show off their talents at the "beauty pageant"

Children's laughter filled the outdoor playground when we staged the fun games with two traditional games Arr-Lu-Kout (collecting potatoes) for boys and Za-Gaw-Ywat (walking with the plates on the head) for girls. The children were so loud that even other families in the neighborhood came into the school to enjoy the fun.

We also staged a mini "beauty pageant" for the youngest boys and girls of the school. The teachers' office was used as the dressing room where the team helped the "contestants" with the make-up. The winners of the pageant were rewarded with stuffed toys and special treats.

We are honored to be able to contribute our small efforts to nurturing the future leaders of the country.

Children's Happy and Genuine Smiles are the Best Reward

Visit to Pyin Nyar Myay Monastic School, Mingalar Don Township

Many schools that provide accommodation and schooling for impoverished children and orphans are founded by sayadaws. Pyin Nyar Myay Monastic School, founded by U Pyinnyar Sayadaw and located at Mingalardon Township, has around 100 children under its care. Including the head monk, the school has 5 teachers in total. They have monthly regular donors from the local community as well as from foreigners living in the city to help with the daily operation.

Other than donation, we believe spending time with the children and making them know that they are being cared about is equally important. So we design special games for them and reward the winning children with soft toys and treats. No matter how old the children are, we hear giggles and applause whenever we start a game or tell a joke.

Their happy, genuine smiles are the best reward for us, motivating us to do more good.



The team teaching kids how to play harmoniously as a team.



The team teaching the children to dance.



The group who had the best dance moves got the grand prize.

Love Beyond Race and Borders

Visit to Ar Yone Thit Youth Development Center, North Oakkala Township

The Marga Community Care team visited the Ar Yone Thit Youth Development Center, located in the North Oakkala Township for the first time on a rainy day. The youth development center was founded by A Shin Awbartha in 2007, with about 40 children currently under its constant care. The children came from different backgrounds and ethnic groups. Some are refugees from civil wars while some are left homeless from previous natural disasters.

We made cash donation and distributed gifts to the children. In addition to the donation, the team spent quality time with the children, teaching songs and playing games to brighten the day with fun and laughter.

The MCC team visits different orphanages and child care centers on a regular basis because we firmly believe that every child deserves care and affection regardless of their backgrounds.



A representative from Marga Senior Management giving the cash and gift donation to the guardian.

"It was a great pleasure to spend the time with super cute children with my family. It was especially a precious experience for my daughter to explore and learn more about the lives of the less fortunate children. It is a humbling experience to be able to lend a hand to the most needed people."

S.H.Fung, General Manager, Design and Contract, Marga Group



The team distributing the small gifts to the children.

Music, Magic and Love at the Yankin Children Hospital

On 29th May 2016, MCC visited the children staying at Yankin Children Hospital with a specially designed program of fun and action that include food, magic show, storytelling, chicken characters and inspirational Myanmar tunes from an ensemble of 10 musicians from Orchestra for Myanmar. It was the first time Orchestra for Myanmar performed in a hospital. Despite the rain, more than 200 children, parents and hospital staff attended the event at the conference hall.

We were delighted to give the children their first experience of “magic”. Everyone at the conference hall was mesmerized by the charm and skills of the magician whose tricks surely give the children and their parents a magical moment of laughter and awe. Besides magic, our MCC team brought the story of the “3 little pigs” in colorful storyboards. We hope this story with the message of unity, discipline and friendship can instill energy and spirit into the children who are hospitalized due to different medical conditions.



A little boy listened to a MCC member telling the story of “The Three Little Pigs”



Children enjoyed co-performing with the magician.



The children and their parents had a fun time together.

An atmosphere of joy and peacefulness filled the packed conference room as the 10-people string ensemble from Orchestra for Myanmar played happy tunes for the audience. When the MCC team sang the familiar “Moe” song to the melody played by the orchestra, the parents and the older children sang along and clapped.

The day’s program ended with more warm smiles when the children received the soft toys we specially brought for them, and took pictures with the chicken characters. We also got toys for the children who were not able to join us due to their special conditions. “My daughter told me that it is her happiest day in the hospital ever,” a smiling mother told us. These words of encouragement really warm our hearts.

“We sincerely hope the laughter we shared, the songs we sang together and the excitement of the magic show would give a boost to the confidence and vitality of the hospitalized children. We also pray that they have a speedy recovery and stay happy and healthy in the days to come.”

John Barnes, Director, Marga Group

Taking the Children at Wasomi Monastic School to See the Animals

Wasomi monastic school, located beside Kanbe railway in Yankin Township, is the only school which provides free education for the nearby children from deprived families. We responded promptly after learning about their need for funding for a much anticipated visit to the zoo. We made it possible not only for the original small group of students but the whole school. Other than cash donation, the team also prepared special snacks and drinks as well as the much needed disposable rain coats and story books and comics for the school library.

In the afternoon of 18th June 2016, the tour started with the visit to the monkey village which is always the children's favorite.



The well- thought-out rain coats became very handy when it started to rain. The children were really excited and curious to see the animals they had only seen in pictures. The giggles and the small noises from the kids speaking to the animals filled the whole area. They asked a lot of questions enthusiastically about the beautiful birds, bears, crocodiles, zebras, giraffe, snakes, hedgehog, red pandas room and many other animals. The highlight of the day was when the children fed sugar canes to their favorite "Mo Mo" and other elephants.

We are honored and delighted to give a helping hand and make the students wish come true. We hope the fun day would bring a ray of hope that will lighten their future ahead.



Pitching in at the Community Cleaning Day at Yankin Children's Hospital

On 18th July 2016, Yankin NLD office organized a community cleaning day at Yankin Children's Hospital. Marga Community Care (MCC) team responded to the call and joined the volunteers from Red Cross of Yankin Township, Yankin Fire Department and local NGOs in the meaningful cleaning action that early morning. Including members of the international senior management, 15 members of the MCC team happily pitched in to achieve a cleaner and neater environment for the Yankin Children's Hospital. Before we started the day's hard work, about 100 volunteers gathered at the township's NLD office to enjoy the breakfast sponsored by Marga Community Care.



After breakfast, the group rolled up their sleeves and marched to the hospital with brooms, dustpans, garbage bags and baskets. In addition to sweeping, the volunteers picked up trash and pulled out weeds in the hospital compound. Despite the heat and the strenuous work, the group had a wonderful time, sweating, getting our hands dirty and helping each other with the clean-up.

The MCC team is deeply thankful for the opportunity to serve alongside Yankin NLD office and Yankin Red Cross, and volunteers from different organizations for the benefit of the community and the neighborhood.



Fresh Air, Sunshine and Fun at Yankin Children's Hospital

On 16th November 2016, Marga Community Care team organized our second Children's Fun Day at the Yankin Children's Hospital. Taking advantage of the beautiful blue sky and gentle breeze in Yangon's autumn, we held the event at the central garden of the hospital. More than 100 children aged 2-10 and their parents had a fun-filled afternoon enjoying a magic show, dancing with cartoon characters, playing games and getting excited at the wheel of fortune lucky draw.

We started off the day's program with two Hello Kitty cartoon characters leading the participants to a warm-up dance to the famous nursery rhyme "Old MacDonald Had A Farm." The first highlight of the program was the dance competition in which 10 pairs of child-parent "dancers" competed with one another. All the teams had so much fun even though only two could win the prize. After the action, the participants were all drawn into the



A magical dance performed together with the magician and a volunteer kid.



Children lining up to participate in basket-ball-throwing game

irresistible world of magic with the exciting and captivating tricks by the famed magician Ko Lynn Nay. Other than all the participants in the central garden, young patients and even nursing staff at the other floors of the four-storey main building came out and enjoyed an aerial view of the show.

The magic of the day continued with a fun game of ball tossing. Winners of the game could then have the chance to win one of these thoughtful prizes including coloring books and crayons, lunch boxes, water bottles, stuffed toys, baby mild powder sets, and two grand prizes of giant stuffed toys. It was a sunny afternoon and the air was filled with laughter and cheers. It is a blessing to be able to show our care and put smiles on the faces of children with medical conditions.



Happy faces of children and their guardians participating in our children's fun day event

Thoughtful Gifts for the Children at Agora Center in Yankin Township

Marga Community Care is always seeking ways to support our community. AGORA Center in Yankin was founded by Yankin Lower House MP Daw Zin Mar Aung, to provide a safe and convenient assembly point to connect people and encourage mutual help and care in the community.

As a part of the Yankin community and to show our support for this meaningful cause, MCC has recently donated coloring books and pencils, story books, special game sets and toys for children who regularly visit and learn at Agora Centre. On 22nd March, 2017, as a small token of encouragement, MCC team sponsored and arranged refreshment for children who completed the drawing class organized by Agora Center.



When we arrived at Agora Centre, the children were playing the singing game. They greeted us with warm smiles and welcomed our gifts happily. To thank our donation, the children sang for us and showed us their drawings. We were so amazed by the talents of these little kids.

It was humbling to see how our small act of kindness could bring so much joy to the children. The smile on a child's face is simply one of the most beautiful things in the world. MCC will certainly continue to contribute to the happy childhood of the children in this friendly neighborhood and support the growth of our community.

Preserving the Beauty of Inya Lake

Inya Lake needs no introduction to most of the residents in Yangon. A beautiful and serene lake situated in the centre of Yangon, it attracts nature-lovers, joggers and people from all walks of life. As with many popular spots in the city, Inya Lake suffers from trash left behind by the hordes of people who enjoy its magnificence.

Marga Community Care recognises that other than our philanthropic efforts, effective and proper preservation is required to help preserve the environment and the community we live in. In the morning of 6th May, 2017, Marga Community Care held a community cleaning day at Inya Lake in collaboration with Yankin – Agora Center.



Volunteers collecting the trashes along the lakeshore



MCC team collecting the trash along the bank of Inya Lake

With sweat dripping down their faces, coupled with their satisfied smiles, our enthusiastic volunteers did not just stop at collecting trash along the Inya Lake bank, but even ventured further and took additional efforts to collect bottles, plastic bags, and other trash from the shoreline. Aside from cleaning up Inya Lake, our other main objective was to raise awareness and reduce littering in Yangon public spaces.

We felt very encouraged and heartened when passers-by praised us on our efforts and some even joined us in this meaningful exercise. Marga Community Care will continue to be committed towards effective preservation and raising of public awareness, so as to preserve the environment for generations of Myanmar people to enjoy.



Renovation of Existing Children Playground at Yankin Children Hospital

Good healthcare system is essential for the well-being of the community: it enhances the livability and is necessary for a quality life. We are very appreciative of the hard-work and commitment of the senior superintendent Dr. Myint Myint Khaing and the staff of Yankin Children Hospital to the community.

Marga Community Care has held two children fun days and we fully support Yankin Children Hospital. The children's well-being means a lot to us and we feel very humbled and honored to be a part of such a great establishment.



In view of our close relationship with the hospital, we responded immediately to the request from the hospital to help renovate the existing children playground to enable for a better recreational facility for the children and staff. We are very appreciative of the help and guidance provided by the superintendent and her team throughout the renovation process and we feel honored that we could give a helping hand to all the children at the hospital.

Children are the future; and Marga Community Care will continue to contribute and brighten the lives of the children.



A Joyful and Rewarding Visit to Eden Centre for Children with Disabilities

Since Marga Community Care was founded in 2013, MCC is always seeking ways to engage our staff and friends in community service. MCC firmly believes that all children should have an equal opportunity to have a wonderful childhood in their life and we dedicated to support and enrich the health, welfare and education of the less fortunate children.

To mark a good start of November, Marga Community Care paid a visit to Eden Centre for Children with Disabilities in Insein on the 1st November, 2017. Eden Centre, established in 2000, was the first non-government and non – profit organization supporting children with disabilities in Myanmar.



On this meaningful day, we brought snacks and drinks for the children. As the highlight of the visit, MCC members also prepared a wheel of fortune with many interesting gifts which we prepared specially for the children. They were very to have had played the wheel of fortune and for their first time. To show their gratitude, the children danced for us and gave us paintings which they painted themselves.

It was a great blissful time to play and create such beautiful smile for the talented children. We feel humbled and honored that MCC could bring this special fun day for the children.



THE YOUNG AND TALENTED



Youths and Musicians



10-Year Sponsorship Supporting Myanmar's First Multi-Ethnic Orchestra and Children's Choir

Committed to promoting unity, peace and harmony

Founded in 2014 by renowned British Chinese-German concert violinist and conductor, Sebastian See-Schierenberg with the aim to provide international level training to talented young Myanmar musicians, 'Orchestra for Myanmar' is comprised of musicians from diverse backgrounds and different ethnic groups in the country. We hope the orchestra will become a cultural Ambassador for Myanmar and become a symbol of unity and success for the country.

The new children choir, launched in March 2016, is composed of talented young children from monastic schools and orphanages in the Yangon region as well as international students from International School of Yangon. The choir has been coached and led by Choir Director Ms Rebekka Jensen. We hope that, like the Orchestra, the Choir will bring children from different backgrounds together to create a mutually enriching experience, and will offer a chance to build friendships and inspirational exchanges across different cultures.

Inspired by the founder's vision for the orchestra to become a symbol of a peaceful, united and successful future for the country, Marga Youth Foundation has pledged a 10-year commitment to support the 'Orchestra for Myanmar and the Children's Choir.'



The "Orchestra for Myanmar" was joined by an international ensemble of musicians at their concert held at the Strand Hotel in March 2016.

"We are thrilled to be able to participate in such a meaningful cause to nurture the young musical talents in this country. We want to fuel up their creativity and standards towards an internationally recognized professional orchestra. We hope the 'Orchestra for Myanmar' would instill a new spirit and energy into Myanmar-born compositions for a wider audience from around the world in the near future."

Elliott Suen, Executive Director, Marga Group

To date, 'Orchestra for Myanmar' had made a number of public and private concerts, and performed at special events since Marga's pledge of long-term sponsorship.

On 11th March, 2016, Orchestra for Myanmar had their special concert marking its second year of the orchestra and the debut performance of the new Children's Choir at the Strand Hotel. The Orchestra had overwhelming response from the public since the announcement of the concert. The Children's Choir unveiled the concert with the famous Myanmar song "A Mae Poke Ket Lwal". The room was packed with around 1000 audience composed of dignitaries from different embassies, international bodies and local communities.

On 29th September, 2016, Orchestra for Myanmar had another public concert in two sessions due to overwhelming response from the local and international communities at the Yangon Gallery. The concert included special performances by guest musicians from the Taipei University of Education (Taiwan) and guest appearance by American accordionist Rodger French.



The American Ambassador performing together with the "New Children's Choir"

10-Year Sponsorship Supporting Myanmar's First Multi-Ethnic Orchestra and Children's Choir

On 17th November 2016, the year-end public concert by Orchestra for Myanmar and the new Children's Choir was held at the ballroom of Sule Shangri-La Hotel.

The concert was a truly international fest of music with the Orchestra of Myanmar, plus the Strand singers and international guest musicians from Malaysia, Taiwan, United Kingdom and United States.



The New Children's Choir delivered another inspirational performance which was their second public appearance. The 800-seat-ballroom was fully packed with over 200 standing audience.

Together with Orchestra for Myanmar, Marga Group aims to build a professionally skilled orchestra and children's choir, but most importantly we will build capacity, self-confidence, and nurture inclusiveness and harmony.



A Historic Night with BBC Symphony Orchestra from the United Kingdom

Moving towards the third year of Marga Group's sponsorship through Marga Youth Foundation, a historic musical night was presented to an audience of more than 1,000 by the Orchestra for Myanmar and the New Children's Choir on 3rd April, 2017.

The concert was co-performed by 8 members from the world renowned BBC Symphony Orchestra based in the UK who volunteered their time to provide training to the team. Throughout the night, the venue's walls were filled with classical music lovers of music young and old experienced a remarkable and historic performance.



The collaboration between Myanmar's own Orchestra for Myanmar and UK based BBC Symphony Orchestra produced made for a wonderful performance. And as a special addition, the Orchestra for Myanmar presented a piece "Forgotten but Not Gone", which was specially composed for the concert by Myanmar academy award winning composer Diramore. The soothing chorus from the New Children's Choir and the soloist from National University of Arts and Culture of Myanmar also added more amazing color to the night.

We feel humbled and honored that we could bring this unforgettable night, with the beautiful pieces from the great musicians to such a wide audience.



A Lifetime Honor for the New Children's Choir

On 10th August 2017, the New Children's Choir performed with great honor as they were graced by the presence of Her Excellency State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Myanmar and Switzerland in Nay Pyi Taw.

With great excitement, the children sang beautifully lead by interim choir director Katherine Lewiston who received flowers from Her Excellency. Her Excellency the state counsellor personally told the children that that she could not be more proud of the children of the New Children's Choir. In response to the amazing performance by the choir, the state counsellor sang a song for all attendees. It is truly heartwarming to see Her Excellency being so supportive of music education for the young children in Myanmar.



As the patron of the Orchestra for Myanmar and the New Children's Choir, Marga is proud and honored to be able to contribute to the achievements and success of the children. To be able to support and nurture this wonderful program, using music as a tool to help build life skills, confidence, bringing children from differing backgrounds together, and to try to inspire the young participants to strive to achieve dreams, such are the motivation and drive behind Marga's effort.

"It was an evening to remember and I am very proud of the children who did an amazing job. It was very nice to see the smiles on their faces. We are very honored to perform for H.E Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, for the Swiss Ambassador and all the special guests."

Sebastian See-Schierenberg, Founder-Director, Orchestra for Myanmar/New Children's Choir

A Passionate and Emotional Evening with American Music

In October 2017, Marga Youth Foundation and Orchestra for Myanmar had conduct a performance together with the talented musician from United State and Taiwan Shih Chien University at Yangon National Theater.

On the evening, the concert hall was filled with sweet harmony and passionate music from the Orchestra. Musicians and the Band had presented beautiful pieces to thousands of audience which filled into the concert hall.

It was very clear that the passion and emotion from the musicians were channeled into the audiences and their faces lit up with joy.

At the end of the performance, Orchestra for Myanmar had received a great ovation from the audience. It was a great honor that Marga could play a part in bringing this special event to the audience and participate in this memorial evening.



Facilitating a Platform for Experience Sharing and Knowledge Exchange

Hosting Investment Roundtable for Delegation from US's Columbia Business School



Daw Cho Cho Wynn, Deputy Director General of DICA, explaining the functions of MIC and the positive benefits of foreign investment.

With the aim to create an opportunity of exchanging the business experiences and insights between international young business leaders and with the young people of Myanmar, Marga Group hosted a delegation of 30 from Columbia University's world class Business School on 18th March, 2015. The young people met and discussed with foreign business leaders about the perspectives and outlook on Myanmar's development, international investment and operating in the country. Dr Daw Cho Cho Wynn, the Deputy Director General of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration also attended and shared the precious knowledge about investing in Myanmar.

Delegates from more than 12 local enterprises and foreign companies operating in Myanmar, representatives from Yangon University and British Council attended the roundtable.



Columbia Business School delegates with the senior team of Marga Group.

5-Year Sponsorship for U Nyi Hla Nge Foundation to Nurture the Next Generations of Scientists and Technological Professionals

Marga Group has always been seeking out effective ways to support and encourage young people in their pursuit of knowledge and advancement academically and professionally. Among the many reputable institutions for higher education, Yangon Technological University (YTU), former Rangoon Institute of Technology, undoubtedly plays a pivotal role in educating and nurturing the country's future generations of technological professionals and scientists who are the backbones supporting Myanmar's scientific and technological development.

Inspired by the insight and conviction of Professor U Nyi Hla Nge, a veteran educator and former rector of YTU, who founded the U Nyi Hla Nge Foundation to provide fundings to YTU students to conduct technological and scientific research, Marga Group initiated a five-year sponsorship program and pledged to support U Nyi Hla Nge Foundation's mission and pave the way for long-term development of Myanmar.



The donation and agreement signing ceremony was attended by Representatives from the foundation, YTU & Marga Group.



A donation and agreement signing ceremony was held at YTU to formally kick off Marga Group's long-term sponsorship for research fund for students from YTU.

On 26th October, 2016, a simple but formal donation and agreement signing ceremony was held at the YTU to commemorate and commence the long-term partnership between Marga Group and U Nyi Hla Nge Foundation. Through Marga Youth Foundation, Marga Group donated US\$10,000 as the first year's funding in the five-year sponsorship scheme at the YTU in the presence of Professor U Nyi Hla Nge, Patron and Founder of U Nyi Hla Nge Foundation, U Win Aung, Chairman of U Nyi Hla Nge Foundation, and the department heads and senior staff members of the YTU.

"We are honored and thrilled to be given this opportunity to contribute to the technological and scientific progress of Myanmar in partnership with U Nyi Hla Nge Foundation. I am confident that our partnership will be fruitful and beneficial for the development of Yangon Technological University."

Alex Wong, Senior Development Advisor, Marga Group

Marga Group Partners with Chevening Scholarships to Nurture Future Leaders

Young people play a key role in the vibrant future of this fast growing country. As a staunch supporter of the long-term economic development of Myanmar, Marga Group is always seeking effective ways to encourage and nurture young gifted talents in their pursuit of excellence in academic, professional and technological disciplines.

This year, we are honored to have become a partner in Chevening Scholarships and are thrilled to co-fund one scholarship for an outstanding scholar to pursue further studies in the UK in the area of Political Communications.

We congratulate the 12 Chevening scholars who are awarded Chevening Myanmar 2016 Scholarships and will continue to seek concrete ways to encourage Myanmar's young people to set high goals and persevere in their aspirations for their personal growth and for a better future of Myanmar.



"We are honored to be able to support the future leaders and we believe Chevenors will contribute to build a future for their country while pursuing their dreams."

John Barnes, Director, Marga Group



Facilitating the Preservation of the Exquisite Old Library

Marga Group is committed to the people and future development of this great country. We have been supporting many aspects of the community with particular emphasis on education which is integral and vital to development and progress.

We responded immediately when we learned about the need of new set of air-conditioning and dehumidifying system of University of Yangon Library, which has been damaged since world war II. With the help of Dr Hlaing Hlaing Gyi, the librarian and the engineers from the university, we successfully installed the new machines in December 2016 which are now fully operating to help preserve the old and precious collections from the library. After completion of successful installation and test running of the new set of air-conditioning and dehumidifying system, our committed volunteers of Marga Community Care set out to help dust the books and the shelves of the 4-storeyed library.

To commemorate the successful installation of the new set of machines, a celebration ceremony was held on 6th January 2017 at the presence of the



respectful rector of University of Yangon, Dr Pho Kaung and other faculty members as well as representatives from the library and Marga. The ceremony was successfully concluded when Dr Pho Kaung, the rector and Mr Chris Lee, executive director of Marga Group unveiled the donation plaque together.

It was Marga Group's great honor to be able to take part in the development process of the library, the most important component of the university. The milestone event marked the completion of Marga Group's first donation to the University of Yangon Library, and the beginning of a meaningful partnership & friendship with the University of Yangon. We sincerely hope that our humble donation will contribute to the preservation of the precious collections of the library, and remind the young and the community the importance of knowledge and preservation of our culture.



A Memorable Cleaning Experience at a Historic Library

There is a Myanmar proverb, “Wisdom is in the books.” To many people, books do not only inspire wisdom, old books are treasures that need to be protected. The University of Yangon Library is keeping a wide range of books including old manuscripts, old periodicals, and different categories of encyclopedias.

To honor our history and contribute to preserving valuable books in a better condition, Marga Youth Foundation donated a new set of air-conditioning and dehumidifying system to the library. In the process of installing the new system, we observed that some of the old books are dusty and the library needs extra pairs of hands to help them wipe off the dust of the old books.



Therefore, on 21st December 2016, MCC team organized a library cleaning day at the University of Yangon Library. The very enthusiastic MCC volunteers together with senior management were joined by Dr. Hlaing Hlaing Gyi, the head librarian and her library staff.

We feel humbled and honored to be able to help preserve the national treasure of the country, instilling in the MCC team a greater sense of respect for history and yearning for wisdom.



Donation for the Library Upgrade and Renovation at Yangon Technological University

Education is one of the most important elements to the growth and progress of Myanmar. Therefore, it forms one of the most vital aspects of Marga's comprehensive CSR program. A good source of knowledge and information is well preserved in libraries throughout the world today. Thus, libraries are arguably the most important part for a university to be accredited.

A fundraising ceremony was held on 13th August, 2017 at the university to upgrade the existing 2-storeyed library into a more modernized 3-storeyed library. Marga Landmark, a strong supporter of YTU, responded immediately after connecting with our respected Professor U Nyi Hla Nge. In addition to our commitment to support the university's research program for 5 years, Marga donated MMK 30,000,000 for the renovation work of the existing library; therefore the students will have higher exposure to knowledge and experiences.

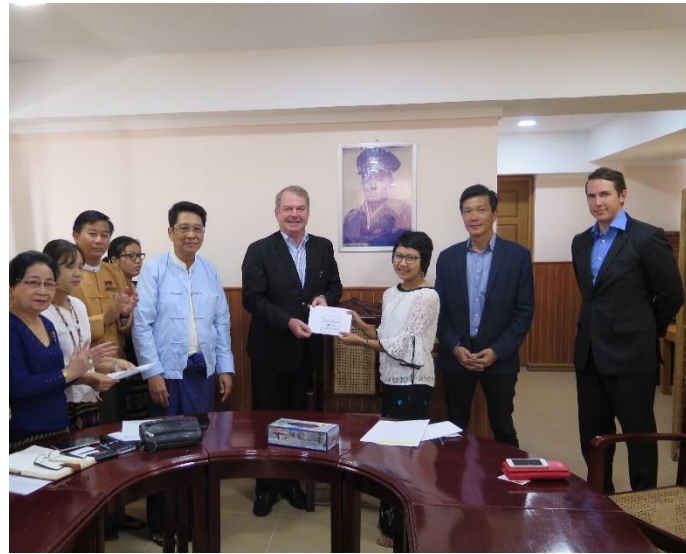
We believe our donation would be beneficial to the development of the library. We are greatly honored and humbled to be able to contribute to the development of the technology and scientific progress of this country.



Sponsoring 10 Technology Students for NLD Education Network

Marga firmly believes that educating young people who are the future of the country is essential for the rapid and right development of Myanmar. Therefore, education sector is always a priority in our CSR programmes.

Marga truly appreciates the commitment and hard work of NLD Education Network in supporting the education of the country as well as the vocational training programmes. To show our support for the Network, Marga Youth Foundation pledged to donate the sponsorship for 10 Technology students who are already sponsored by the Network.



On 31st October, 2017, the Marga Youth Foundation team met with the 10 sponsored students who came from different areas of the country at NLD Headquarter. Mr John Barnes, Marga's Director, delivered words of encouragement for the students and we spent time with the students, sharing our life experiences and listening to their life stories and academic successes.

We sincerely hope that our Foundation's sponsorship will benefit the students for their study conveniently. We are honored to be able to help the Network support more students in coming academic years.



THE OLD AND WEAK



Elderly Citizens

Wishing Our Elderly Longevity, Good Health and Happiness

Visit to Thabarwa Home for the aged and Meditation Center

Every month Marga employees travel to the Thabarwa Meditation Centre in Thanlyn Township. This center is home to more than 2,500 elderly people who either have no remaining family or whose family unfortunately do not have the means to take care of them. Marga employees make the trip to visit the residents and donate supplies like Dhamma Sanskrit books and daily amenities. Many of them have seen long lives, including one lady who has reached the age 109 years old. It is sheer joy to see the look on their faces every time Marga visits.

Many of Marga employees have started regular friendships with many of the residents. Providing them comfort and companionship is an honor. After all it is these individuals who carried the country through to the promising point in time it has reached today. On a recent visit just before the Myanmar New Year and Thingyan Water Festival, Marga served the residents the customary Mote Lone Yay Paw. Together with the residents, Marga celebrated and splashed water with sandalwood to wish for good fortune for the New Year.

Marga made nearly 50,000 of the delicious New Year dumplings and hand delivered them to each of the center's residents.

"We're happy to participate in the Myanmar New Year tradition of demonstrating our love and respect to our elders. Marga is honored to be able to aspire to a society where all older people have the opportunity to live fulfilled lives."

James Smith, Senior Manager, Marga Group



A Heart-Warming Day with the Grandpas and Grandmas

Visit to Sesar Yaik Home for the Aged, North Dagon Township

Old age people need care, love and good health. Even in the best old age home, the old people living there can still feel lost and lonely. The Marga Community Care team always has a heart for the elderly citizens in our country. See Sar Yeik Old Aged Home is one of the homes for the elderly that Marga Community Care supports. This old aged home is a certified institute under the supervision of the Social Welfare Department (First Grade) and is home to close to 90 senior citizens.

The old aged home has taken in both male and female elderly residents. When we visit, naturally the male members go to see the grandpas, and the ladies of the team meet the grandmas. We sit and talk with the grandpas and grandmas, which seemingly brighten up their faces already. The elders would tell us about their childhood and the kind of life they have lived. We all find their life experiences not only interesting but inspiring as well.

In our last visit, some of the team members cut nails for the grandmas. In addition to cash donation, we donated a CD player and Dhamma CD. We hope these small offerings will add some color to the daily lives of the grandpas and grandmas. We are honored to be able to smile with them and hold their hands to show that we care.

We wish all elderly citizens happiness and good health, and that we shall continue to put smiles on their faces.

“We (MCC) did our bit by giving our warm hands and embrace to the elderly people who really need to feel more warmth in their aging lives. These experiences give us happiness, and also teach us to be more responsive to the needs of the elderly at our own homes.”

Nay Zaw Lin, Senior Engineer, Marga Landmark



The grandpas sharing their life stories with our team members.



A grandma enjoying the service from our team member.



Our team members are giving love and care to the grandma.

Paying Respect to Our Beloved Senior Citizens

We are always grateful and respectful to our senior citizens for the services they had contributed to our community. We are indebted to provide them comfortable facilities and much needed care during their vulnerable stage of life.

See-sar Yaik is a nursing center which facilitates the elderly to spend their time in comfort. On 1st July 2017, Marga Community Care team paid our second visit to See-sar Yaik to donate a few equipments for the elderly and to spend quality time with them. The founder and the chair-lady of the nursing home, Daw Than Myint Aung, welcomed us warmly and accepted our humble donation.



We were emotionally moved to observe the centre provide good amenities and the nurses and staff were very attentive and caring to the elderly. The team talked with each elderly and felt so humbled to learn about their life stories with many exciting events. Their words of wisdom gave us a strong dose of energy and positivity on our way back home.

It was very rewarding to be able to create a moment of joy and put a smile on their faces. We now know that this will not be our last visit to See-sar Yaik.





**THE REVERENT
AND REVERED**

Buddhist Community



Upholding the Buddhist Values

Donation of Daily Meals to Monasteries in the Neighborhood

Marga Group's Chairman, Dr. Stephen Suen is a Buddhist scholar and understands the value of keeping the Buddhist Community closely involved and engaged in Marga's CSR initiatives.

The Buddhist values have laid the bedrock of Myanmar's culture and are the greatest source of spiritual strength exhibited by the wonderful people of Myanmar.

We respond actively and willingly to the call of duty as a conscientious member of the Buddhist community by donating daily meals to 9 monasteries in our neighborhood.



Honoring Myanmar's National Treasures

Pagoda Donations – Shwedagon Pagoda and Shin Saw Pu Pagoda

Myanmar's pagodas are the country's most important treasures. Helping to preserve and honor them is of the utmost importance.

Shwedagon Pagoda is the heart of the country's Buddhist faith, its shining golden symbol of the people. Shin Saw Pu Pagoda represents Queen Shin Saw Pu, the greatest protector of the Shwedagon that ever lived. Marga also strives to protect and to preserve the greatness of Myanmar's greatest treasures. With regular donations to the conservation and protection of the pagodas, Marga seeks to contribute to preserving Myanmar's heritage.



Sweeping at the Monasteries and Pagodas

as a Weekly Routine

There are many hundreds of monasteries and pagodas in Yangon. While many are located near the main roads and easy and convenient to find, some are built in quiet neighborhoods. Among these pagodas and monasteries, naturally the more well known ones get more public attention and are frequented by pilgrims.

Out of utmost respect for our Buddhist establishments, the Marga Community Care team has started the mission of sweeping and cleaning the compound of a different monastery or pagoda every week since July 2015. Our team feels particularly happy to be able to offer our service. Wherever our “sweeping team” goes, we feel the warm welcome from the monks or nuns living there. We are often treated with lunch and sometimes have the honor of listening to the wise teachings by the revered monks.



Our team sweeping at the walkways and praying area of the Alan Pya Pagoda.



Our team sweeping at the area which can only be entered by males at Chauk Htet Gyi Pagoda.

Chauk Htet Gyi Pagoda, Tamwe Township

The Chauk Htet Gyi Pagoda in Yangon is known for its enormous 65 meters long Reclining Buddha image. The highly revered image is housed in a large shed North of Kandawgyi Lake.

The MCC team swept and cleaned at this pagoda for the first time in July this year. We were in awe by the majestic image of the reclining Buddha.

Alan Pya Pagoda (Signal Pagoda), Dagon Township

Our MCC team has made numerous visits to this pagoda before we never get a chance to clean around the premises.

Alan Pya Pagoda was built in 1868 and had its name derived from its use during the colonial period as a signaling station for vessels traveling on Rangoon River. We felt blessed and inspired to be able to offer our service to our treasured heritage. Though we swept and cleaned in a hot day, it was a peaceful and calming experience.

Sweeping at the Monasteries and Pagodas as a Weekly Routine

Ngar Htet Gyi Pagoda, Tamwe Township

The sitting Buddha is a historic feature of this pagoda that dated back to the year 1558. The Buddha image is housed in a pavilion of iron structure with a five-tiered roof. Hence Ngar-Htat-Kyi Pagoda also means the pagoda with five-layered roof.



Our team sweeping at the praying area of the Ngar Htet Gyi Pagoda.

Danyawati Monastery, Bahan Township

This monastery is one of the monasteries that Marga has been donating lunch. The team never has a chance to have the service merit at this monastery though. Therefore, we extended our acts of good deeds by sweeping and cleaning around the premises in July.



Our team sweeping at the basement of the Danyawati monastery.

Ko Htet Gyi Pagoda, Sanchaung Township

The 72 feet sitting Buddha image was built in 1905. At the entrance of the hallway, there is a statue of a frog and a snake. According to legend, the frog ate the snake and claimed victory, hence the Buddha image was built on this piece of land. The MCC team was fascinated by the legend and found it a special experience to offer our service to this pagoda.



Our team sweeping the praying area of Ko Htet Gyi Pagoda.

Sweeping at the Monasteries and Pagodas as a Weekly Routine

Tant Taw Mu Monastery, Bahan Township

The Tant Taw Mu Monastery is located near a small pagoda near the Mahawizaya Pagoda. Being in the neighborhood of the two most famous pagodas, the monastery and the pagoda itself do not get many visitors. Marga has made several visits and has been donating daily lunch to this monastery. The MCC team made our visits more meaningful by offering our cleaning service, sweeping the floors, cleaning the bathroom area and scrapping off the weeds on the driveway.

Kay Mhar Thi Won Monastery, Bahan Township

The Kay Mhar Thi Won Monastery is also one of the monasteries that Marga has been donating lunch regularly. During the first visit in August, the team cleaned the sweeping area of the novices and the bathroom area.



The girls cleaning vases which are placed at the Buddha shrine.



Our team member cleaning the bathroom area of the monastery.

Shwe Piti Ta Kat Monastery, Bahan Township

In August, the MCC team paid our first visit and noticed that the monastery is deficient of proper cleaning. The team cleaned the hall where the monks take rest, the basement of the monastery, and the bathroom area of the monastery.



Our team scraping weeds at the area where the monks take bath.

Sweeping at the Monasteries and Pagodas

as a Weekly Routine

Sein Yaung Chi Pagoda, Dagon Township

The Sein Yaung Chi Pagoda, meaning “Diamond Reflections”, was named according to its wonderfully beautiful structure. The green tiles and mirrored scales covering the body of the pagoda reflect the sunlight which makes the pagoda look stunning during the day.



The team sweeping at the walkways of the Sein Yaung Chi Pagoda under the hot sun.

Moe Kaung Pagoda, Yankin Township

The Moe Kaung Pagoda, located in the Yankin Township. The MCC team swept the walkways, the corridor and the praying area of the pagoda with the good wish for the visitors of the pagoda to be able to worship and walk in the clean pagoda premises.



The team sweeping at the corridor of the Moe Kaung Pagoda.

Shwe Hpone Pwint Pagoda, Pazundaung Township

The Shwe Hpone Pwint Pagoda is the only pagoda in Yangon which opens from 4 am to 11 pm. It is located in Pazundaung Township, one of the most crowded townships in Yangon. It is located within the dense neighborhood of many households, hence it is frequently visited by people living nearby. On special days, it is crowded with pilgrims and donors.



The team refilling the urn with water.

Sweeping at the Monasteries and Pagodas as a Weekly Routine

Kaba Aye Pagoda, Mayangone Township

On 21st September 2015, MCC team made a visit to Kabar Aye Pagoda which located at Mayangone Township.

Kaba Aye Pagoda (also spelt *Gaba Aye Pagoda*; lit. World Peace Pagoda), formally *Thiri Mingala Gaba Aye Zedidaw*, a pagoda located on Kaba Aye Road, Mayangone Township, Yangon, Myanmar. The pagoda was built in 1952 by U Nu in preparation for the Sixth Buddhist Council that he held from 1954-1956. The pagoda measures 111 feet (34 m) high and is also 111 feet (34 m) around the base. The pagoda is located approximately 11 km north of Yangon, a little past the Inya Lake Hotel. The Maha Pasana Guha (great cave) was built simultaneously with the Kaba Aye Pagoda and is located in the same complex. The cave is a replica of the Satta Panni cave, located in India, where the first Buddhist Synod was convened. The six entrances of The Maha Pasana Cave symbolize the Sixth Great Synod. The cave is 455 feet (139 m) long and 370 feet (110 m) wide. Inside, the assembly hall is 220 feet (67 m) long and 140 feet (43 m) wide.



On 28th September 2015, MCC team made a visit to Yankin Moe Kaung Pagoda which located at Yankin Township.

In total 17 MCC members joined this activity. It rained that morning but the rain stopped when we arrived.

It was difficult to sweep the floors but we managed to sweep the corridors, walkways and praying area of the pagoda in spite of the slippery conditions after the rain.

This pagoda has housed a statue called "Say Bo Bo Gyi". People say that if you have sickness or pain in your body you would pray and massage the part of the statue where you are feeling sick or pain and it will be cured.

Honoring Our Waso Tradition



Waso, the fourth month of the Myanmar calendar, marks the beginning of the lantern season. It is a time for sobriety, self-denial and religious contemplation. Marga's international and local staff joined hands to honor this tradition by doing good deeds and donation.

On 28th July, our celebration of the tradition started with a blessing ceremony at our office. Marga had the honor of having Tai Tayar Sayar Taw and 2 monks to perform a blessing ceremony and preach to our staff. The ceremony is ended with a sumptuous treat of Myanmar traditional food coconut noodles for all Marga's staff as well as security guards.



Highlight of the celebration was observance of Sa Thu Thida at the Shwedagon Pagoda. More than 20 members of the Marga Community Care team participated in the activity to distribute coffee and cakes to the public visiting the Shwedagon. Many of the members especially the international staff took part in honoring the tradition for the first time. The grateful smiles of those receiving our treats and the truthful, happy faces of those giving them remind us of the necessity and virtue of sharing and kindness in our society.



Beautifying the Landscape of Myanmar's Impressive Monuments

Tree Planting at Maharwizaya Pagoda

Keeping our communities green and sustainable is core to Marga Group's development works. Working together with community leaders, Marga is committed to help create a healthy and beautiful environment for Yangon.

The first of these initiatives was to transform the main garden promenade leading up to the Maharwizaya Pagoda. Together with trustees of the pagoda, Marga planted dozens of trees and flower bushes, and will further support the drainage and irrigation system of the area.

"Myanmar people believe that the tree planting would bring the blessing of "a peaceful life" to the next life. It is a merit to all who participate. I hope the tiny plants will grow healthily to give shades for visitors of the pagoda and a greener and more colorful environment to the neighborhood."

**Aung Bo Htike, Senior Marketing Officer,
Marga Landmark**



Working Together to Restore the True Color of a Decades-Old Monastery

The over-30-year-old Pyinsanikaya Monastery is located on a 6.5-acre compound in Yankin Township. The monastery is comprised of numerous buildings and houses a number of sayadaws and scholar-monks. Maintenance of the monastery is not easy, given its size. As soon as our company learnt about the need for maintenance of the monastery's assembly hall that frequently holds Dhamma talks and ceremonies with attendance by hundreds of pilgrims from the neighborhood and from other parts of Yangon, we promptly responded by donating the necessary cost for the repainting and repair and arranged for a site inspection by a professional contractor. Although much of the repainting works will be done by the professional workers, the MCC team was eager to offer a hand as a way to pay respect to the decades-old establishment.



The weather was really nice, a perfect day for painting.



Despite their first experience, the team did a decent job.



The team had a good time offering helping hands in restoring sacred Buddhist establishment.



The team pride themselves on giving back to community.

In consideration of the need of the monastery as well as the seasonal factor, we decided to finish the repainting in two phases with the first that targeted on the interior of the assembly hall to be finished during the rainy season. The last phase would be completed when the dry season returns with focus on the exterior of the hall so as to prevent the new paint from being washed away by the torrential rains that are common in the wet season.

In the early morning of 28th June, 2016, 20 MCC team members set out for the monastery with the painting brushes and other necessary gear. Given our first experience, the team did a good job in repainting the interior of the two-storey assembly hall. The head sayadaw hosted a delicious lunch for all of us to reward our hard work and good will. We felt proud that we had worked together in such a meaningful initiative and helped finish the first phase of the repainting works. Our first painting work proved to be a fantastic experience.

Working Together to Restore the True Color of a Decades-Old Monastery

We completed the restoration of the assembly hall by repainting the exterior of the hall on 26th November 2016. That morning, 15 MCC team members set out early with a humble heart as well as eagerness as we were about to see the true color of the old assembly hall. Everyone began working on the old exterior wall, repainting every corner that they could reach with diligence. After doing everything we could, we finally leave the professional painting workers to continue finishing the repainting of the roof and top of the walls. We all felt proud to be able to help to maintain the monastery hall that many people are using. Our MMC team also hopes that we can have more opportunities to participate in restoration and conservation work in the future.



Paying Respect with Humble Service

On July 30, 2016, 12 members from the MCC team went to Panditarama Shwe Taung Gon Sasana Yeiktha located in Bahan Township for our first cleaning service at this monastery. The monastery was established in 1990 by the Venerable Guiding Teacher U Panditabhivamsa after the great lineage of the late Venerable Mahasi Sayadaw.

The team set off from the office at 8:30 a.m with all the necessary cleaning tools. When we went inside the Sasana Yeiktha, we were immediately calmed by the peacefulness and tranquility of its environment. Even though Sasana Yeiktha is located amid the bustling city, the compound is filled with small front yards, small gardens and trees.



Four monks of the Sasana Yeiktha guided us the way where the cleaning was needed. We divided ourselves into 3 teams and team 1 started off the cleaning with sweeping the corridors and wiping the handrails. Team 2 cleaned inside of the meditation hall and Team 3 wiped the windows of the buildings and swept stairwell. With all the team members' hard work, we were able to finish cleaning the two buildings each with two floors in mere 3 hours. Once all sweeping and wiping was done, we cleaned the bathrooms and restrooms of the Sasana Yeiktha while washing all the cloths (provided by Sasana Yeiktha) we used for wiping the handrails and windows.

After all the cleaning was done, we were overjoyed to find out that the monks had thoughtfully prepared lunch for the team. Maybe it was the chance to serve, or the quiet, calming atmosphere of the monastery, our hearts were filled with gratitude and humility as we ate the simple but delicious food.



THE DISPLACED
AND
UNFORTUNATE

Victims of
Natural Disasters



Delivering Emergency Help to Flood Victims in Sagaing and Magway Divisions

Myanmar was severely hit by cyclone Komen that started causing havoc across the country in July. The cyclone caused heavy and incessant rains across Myanmar which had led to collapse of dams and landslides in many parts especially the rural areas of Myanmar. 11 out of 14 state and divisions were seriously affected, leaving hundreds of thousands of people homeless and stranded. This is the worst natural disaster that Myanmar has ever experienced.

Marga Community Care (MCC) team responded quickly to the victims' call for help and mobilized two teams comprising 15 staff members in total to deliver emergency aid to victims at Sagaing Division and Magway Divisions, two of the worst hit areas.



Our first flood relief team delivered relief supplies to the Kantbalu Flooding Rescue Committee Office.

First Mission to Kantbalu Township, Sagaing Division

On 25th July 2015, The first MCC flood relief team left with emergency aid for Kantbalu Township, Sagaing Division. Other than relief funds, the MCC team brought to the victims medicine for cold and flu, diarrhea, water purification tablets and rehydration salts. With the township committee's help, the team was able to reach victims stranded at Pay-Gone Village and Chung Gyar Village in Kantbalu Township.

More than 3800 units of medicine for diarrhea, cold & flu, water purification tablets and rehydration salts (dat-sarhtoke), 2700 units of nutritional drinks, noodles, and more than 230 pieces of clothes were directly handed over to the victims.



MCC team member passed the relief supplies to flood victims at Pay-Gone Village, Kantbalu Township.

Delivering Emergency Help to Flood Victims in Sagaing and Magway Divisions



MCC flood relief team with the flood victims at one of the shelters.

Second Flood Relief Mission to Magway Division

MCC flood relief team set out for the second time to deliver the much-needed survival kits to victims of the massive floods. The destination of this mission is 4 villages at Sedok Tara Township in Magway Division, namely, Le Pyin Su village, Than Sei village, Ngar Ma village and Taung Myay Ni village.

On 6th August at 5:15 am, MCC team set off to Sedok Tara Township with three truckloads of emergency supplies including food, medicine blankets, water and clothes. In spite of heavy rains and that one of the trucks broke down on the way, the MCC team managed to reach the first relief camp at Sekok Tara township after two days on the rugged road. After distributing supplies to the victims staying at the camp, the team proceeded to bring the medicine and food supplies to the Than Sel, Ngar Ma and Taung Myay Ni villages where they were still flooded and could only be reached by boats.

We donated 11,000 units of medicine including antibiotics, oral rehydration salt, and medicine for diarrhea, flu, insect and snake bite, lotions for cuts and bruises, medicine for children, 5,500 units of food items including canned food, nutritional drinks and biscuits, 1,500 blankets, more than

500 units of clothing and footwear donated by local staff of Marga Landmark, and 300 bottles of water to distribute.

The victims received help from all over the country. Many individuals and companies contributed through various formats and channels. Marga is glad that our help reached the victims.



Villagers collecting relief supplies directly from our flood relief team.

Helping out with Responsive Actions

Relief for Flood and Fire Victims in 2014

Each year the Myanmar rain season brings torrential rain and often negatively impacts hundreds of thousands of Myanmar citizens. In August 2014, continuous rain displaced tens of thousands in the Bago District, just North of Yangon. Over 500 households were destroyed by the flood and many more locals were left for days without food, fresh water or electricity.

Marga Landmark staff quickly rallied to collect donations among general staff for the flood victims. As part of Marga Community Care, Marga management matched the amount so that the team can purchase supplies such as clothes, rice, oil, instant noodle, bread, biscuit, water, soft drinks and salt. Distributing the supplies was no easy task either. Our staff bravely traveled on boats and waded through waist high water to ensure the arrival of the supplies.

“We want to do what we can. It is terrible for anyone to go through this. I’m really happy that we were able to collect a large sum of money amongst my colleagues to help.”

Ma Wutt Yee Soe Hlaing, Assistant HR & Administration Manager, Marga Landmark



“We can understand the difficulties these victims go through when they have lost everything. We need to help as quickly and as best we can to ensure the villagers affected are safe and secure, and can start to rebuild their lives and homes.”

Franco Cheung, Project Director, Marga Group

With dated infrastructure and emergency response systems, Myanmar is often susceptible to isolated but sometimes ferocious disasters. On 16th February 2015, a fire at Aye Ywar and Ba Lout Nyunt quarter broke out destroying 210 households, making more than 900 people instantly homeless. While many were able to seek refuge in nearby monasteries, necessary provisions were vastly undersupplied.

Once again Marga answered the call for help. On the 18th of February 2015, Marga Landmark senior team and 22 staff members went across the Hlaing River to the Kyi Myin Dine District and donated vital supplies including rice, oil, salt, storage bags, eating utensils, biscuits, instant noodles, bottled water and blankets. Marga also donated to the monastery for their rebuilding fund which later provided new housing to the victims of the fire.

Caring.
Giving.
Sharing.
Making A Difference.

