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UNDP, Myanmar opens a new chapter of partnership

UNDP Assistant Administrator visits Myanmar to strengthen cooperation between Myanmar and UNDP

9 April 2013, Nay Pyi Taw – Myanmar and United Nations Development Programme signed a 3-year Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) on 8 April that outlines the development agency's engagement in the country for 2013 to 2015. The action plan follows the UNDP's Executive Board decision in January 2013 to approve a normal country programme for Myanmar after 20 years.

UNDP's USD150million programme aims to strengthen institutions of democratic and local governance, environment and disaster risk management and to support government's efforts for poverty reduction during three-year period.

“With the approval of the normal country programme and the signing of the action plan, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and UNDP just opened an exciting new chapter of partnership,” said Dr. Ajay Chhibber, United Nations Assistant Secretary General and UNDP Assistant Administrator.

The CPAP was signed by U Set Aung, Deputy Minister of National Planning and Economic development and Mr. Toily Kurbanov, UNDP Country Director in Myanmar. Dr. KanZaw, Minister of National Planning and Economic Development, Dr. Chhibber and Dr. Ashok Nigam, UNDP Resident Representative in Myanmar, witnessed the signing of the action plan.

During his visit to Myanmar Dr. Chhibber and U Set Aung, Deputy Minister for Economic Planning and National Development officially opened an office in Nay Pyi Taw that houses UNDP, UNFPA and UNOCHA. “Opening of the office in the capital allows closer and strengthened partnership between UN agencies and the Government,” Dr. Chhibber said.

Dr. Chhibber made courtesy visits to U Thura Shwe Man, Speaker of *PyithuHluttaw* and U Mya Nyein, Deputy Speaker of *AmyothaHluttaw*, during which the parties discussed Parliament's role as an active institution supporting democratic transformations and socio-economic reforms in the country and the support that UNDP is providing.

As part of UNDP's support to Parliament, Dr. Chhibber handed over more than 300 books for the Parliament library. The collection includes titles on law making, democracy, human rights, international law, development and globalization.

During his visit, Dr. Chhibber also had meetings with U Tun Tun Oo, Chief Justice of the Union,

Dr. Tun Shin, Attorney General of the Union, U Kyaw Thu, Chairman of Union Civil Service Board to discuss priorities for UNDP's cooperation in the areas of justice sector development, access to justice and support to public administration reform.

His Excellency President U Thein Sein pronounced reforms in the area of democratization, socio-economic development, and people-centered governance and public administration. UNDP interventions are in line with Myanmar's transformation efforts and it remains committed to support the Government in realizing those reforms.

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