

**UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT
COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)**

MYANMAR BUSINESS EXECUTIVES ASSOCIATION (MBE)

**REPORT PERIOD COVERED
FROM 2019 to 2021**

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Statement of Continued Support

To our stakeholders:

We are pleased to confirm that Myanmar Business Executives Association reaffirms its continued support to the United Nations Global Compact and its ten principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

This is our communication on engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We warmly welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication on Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support to the UN Global Compact and its ten principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

Lynn Lynn Tin Htun

President

Myanmar Business Executives Association

MBE Profile

MYANAMR BUSINESS EXECUTIVES ASSOCIATION



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Executive Summary

Myanmar Business Executives Association (MBE) is a network of more than 2000 prominent business actors. It is driven by **12 staff members**, an office, a training-center and 138 active members who are business entrepreneurs and owners dedicated to contribute to Myanmar's sustainable development through responsible business practices.

MBE's activities include business development, community development programs on livelihood, education, health, and infrastructure. It has training and capacity development programs related to business education, social development, human rights, organizational development and microfinance.

It is also a social enterprise and an advocate for corporate social responsibility with an innovative mindset.

MBE was formed in 2008 and started functioning in three areas; Humanitarian and Development, Business Capacity Building (BCB) Center and Social Business. Currently there are 8 working committees in the organization namely-

1. Advocacy and Collaboration Committee
2. Business Education Committee
3. Fellowship and Networking Committee
4. Financial Capacity Development Committee
5. Learning & Development Committee
6. Public Relation Committee
7. Responsible Business Development Committee
8. Strategic Management Development Committee

Since its inception in 2008, MBE has implemented a variety of management trainings, seminars, workshops to promote capacity building of Myanmar citizens. The trainings include Regular Business Management trainings, E-Learning for Entrepreneurs, Business English Trainings, Career Enhancement Program, Training of Trainers (ToT)

partnering with Indiana University, and KV Zurich Business School.

From 2014 to 2016, MBE acted as implementation partner of Indiana University, Kelly School of Business to promote the economic development and entrepreneurship education of the people of Myanmar and conducted entrepreneurship programs and trainings. MBE also implemented the signature program Local Entrepreneurs Assistant and Development (LEAD) Program of mentoring the micro-SMEs and 50 SMEs in Bagan Nyaung - U areas and successfully completed the one-year program of mentoring and business training.

Since 2012, MBE has been assisting in “Sharing the Dream” scholarship program, the CSR Project of Siam Cement Group of Thailand which, so far has provided 1999 awards to high school students in Myanmar.

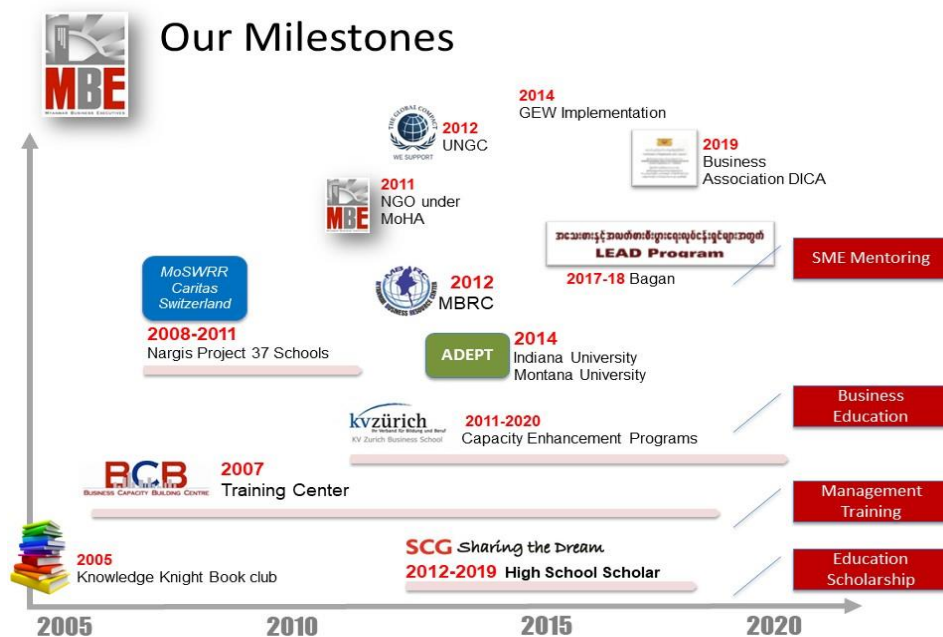
As the implementing partner of an independent NGO called Caritas Switzerland, MBE has reconstructed 37 school buildings in Pyapon, Dedaye and Kyaik Latt townships in Ayeyawaddy Region to be cyclone and earthquake resistant facilities. The school children from more than 40 village tracts have benefited from the reconstruction of the facilities. The total project cost was US\$5.9 million during three years.

We are registered under Myanmar NGO (Reg.NO. 1/Internal/0095) and newly registered under Myanmar Business Executives Association INC. (Reg.No.119998638) at Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) which acts as a primary interface between businesses and the government. MBE is led by a president, two vice presidents, one secretary and three joint secretaries.

Business Capacity Building Center

MBE set up Business Capacity Building (BCB) Centre officially to enhance capacity at individual and institution level. At BCB center, theories are taught by well-known teachers from management and economic fields, and hands-on business

practices are shared by the experienced business executives and entrepreneurs from BCB/MBE members. Interactive and participatory teaching, group discussion, brainstorming and problem-solving techniques are unique competitiveness of BCB center in the real time business environment of Myanmar. Not only regular business courses but also series of customized corporate trainings are conducted.



VISION

A successful yet highly responsible business community which contributes to improving living conditions and creating a sustainable environment for all, while preserving Myanmar's unique business culture.

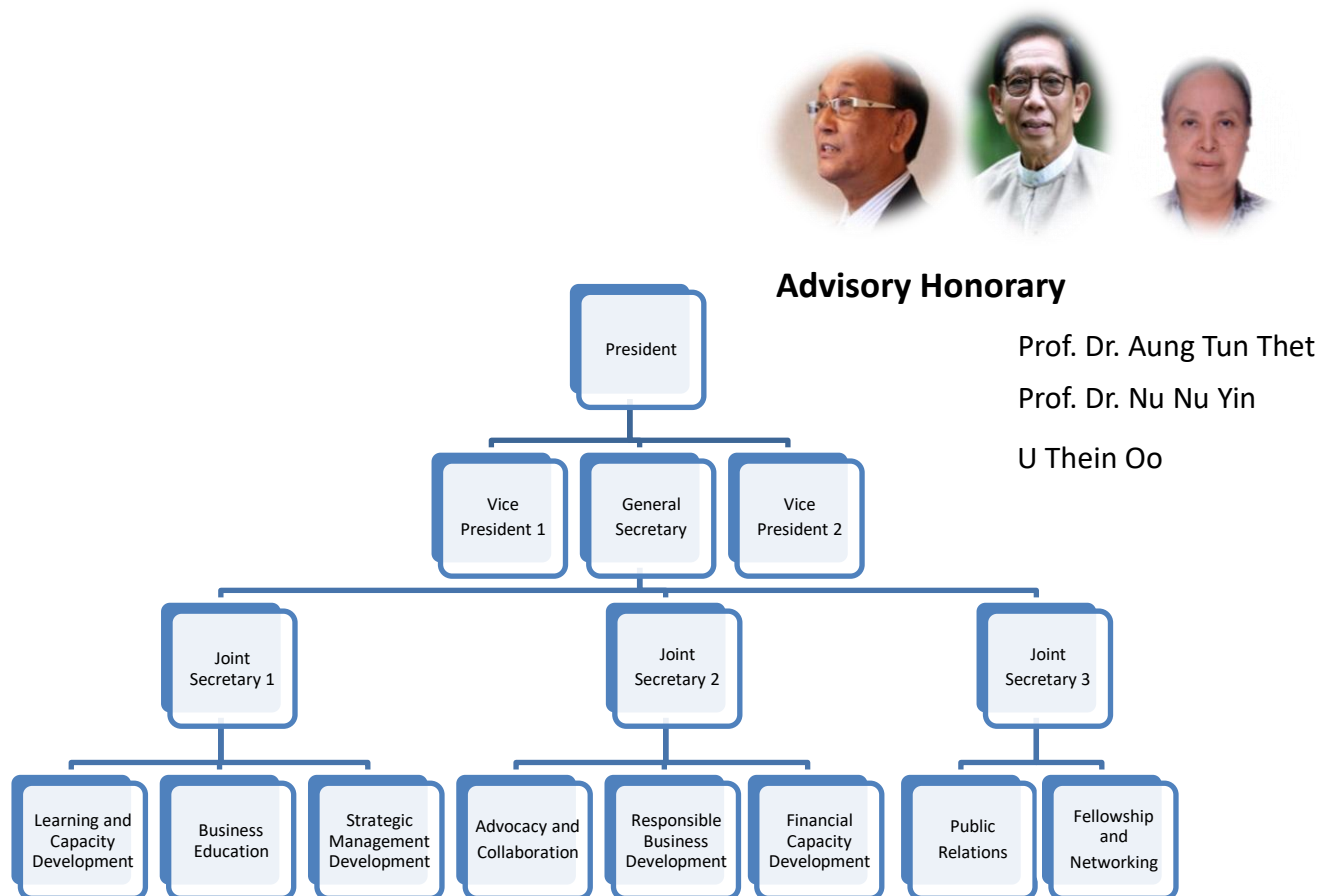
MISSION

To become a key actor within the sustainable and responsible business development of Myanmar through education, social development, microfinance and concrete corporate social responsibility initiatives.

Objectives

- To help upgrade Myanmar business community with professional and systematic management tools and system
- To promote the development of potential leaders and entrepreneurs through training and skill development
- To build capacity at the individual level with the eventual aim of contributing to the society at large

Organization Structure



Myanmar Business Executive Association's activities during 2019-2021

In the following pages, we have highlighted the MBE's activities in chronological order. Because of that, its adherence to the principles will not be in order and we like to request your understanding. Due to its peculiar nature, one activity could comply with more

than one principle. And also, more than one committee could engage in one activity.

2019 Activities

“HUMAN RIGHTS PRINCIPLES”

[Principle 1](#): Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

[Principle 2](#): Make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

The main mission of MBE is to set up the guideline for our association to comply with basic human rights. Our activities is not only for our staff by conducting awareness training session on human right issues, and issuing staff hand books in order for them to understand employee's right, equality of gender right, freedom from discrimination, belief and religion and opinion but we also occasionally share those principles with our member entrepreneurs and follow up with these principles.

MBE is opposed to all sorts of human rights violations. MBE is in favor of educating sexual harassment prevention in members' organizations as well as in mentees' businesses.

Business Education Committee

The Myanmar Business Executives Association's educational committee has been providing the following courses which include considerations not only on economic values, but also social and environmental values to be sustainable in every business undertaking. Internationally proclaimed human rights are also being disseminated and to ensure the businesses are not complicit in human rights abuses. With the excellent designing of each course, enthusiastic support of professors, lecturers, successful business tycoons, international experts and the trainees' strong desire to learn, the courses are of enormous help for all the stakeholders.

- Business Management Module I
- Business Management Module II
- Business Management Module III
- Human Resource Management
- Intensive Business English

- Sales and Marketing Management
- Management and Leadership Skill
- Career Enhancement Program (INEDUCO Basic Course)
- Financial Accounting Course (3 Months)
- SME Development Course (3 Months)
- Microfinance Course (1.5 Month)
- Career Enhancement Program (INEDUCO Advanced Course)
- Financial Management Course (3 Months)
- SME Management Course (3 Months)
- Microfinance II Course (3 Months)



LABOUR PRINCIPLES

Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

Principle 4: The elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

Principle 5: The effective abolition of child labour

Principle 6: The elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

We are committed to providing equal employment opportunity to all staff and not discriminate on race, religion, age, marital status, sex, etc. within our organization. MBE is also sustenance to SMEs in order to be more efficient and effective in implementing the goals of the organizations.

Committee performed MOU and cooperation with government as well as private sectors.

- Cooperation between the Ministry of Industry's SME Development Department and the MBE had been made during 2018-2019 financial year

- MoU between the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and the Myanmar Business Executives (MBE) Association was signed for the development of SMEs on February 16, 2018.

- Educative talks, workshops, panel discussions and training programs on the development of SMEs had been extensively conducted at several towns in five States and Regions

- Committee had carried out as mentors in the ASEAN Business Incubation Project in which the Ministry of Industry's SME Development Department will get involved across the ASEAN region. Selection of entrepreneurs to be participants in the project, mentoring an entrepreneur, giving advice for the Incubation Centre that the department will be establishing, coordination of work for smooth operation and success of the project.

Socio-economic committee

- By providing small loans to the farmers in rural areas, fishery workers, educational staff, teachers, employees from private enterprises and low-income people, MBE Association has been helping for the development of socio-economic situation.

- MBE has been managing the maintenance funds for 37 schools which had been built as storm resistant facilities in three townships in Ayeyawady Region so that the fund is used efficiently and effectively.

Social enterprises development committee

- MBE Association had been taking care of trainee selection and giving awards until 2018-2019 in the Scholarship Award Program for high school students from Myanmar under Thailand-based Siam Cement Group of Companies' corporate social responsibility project that began in 2012-2013.

- With the intention for the businesses and organizations to be responsible and accountable on the issues of human rights, labour rights, environmental conservation and anti-corruption processes, the MBE has been emphasizing to get more awareness about the United Nations Global Compact, its core principles, the membership programs and, also helping in writing Communication on Progress Report.



ENVIRONMENTAL PRINCIPLES

[Principle 7](#): Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

[Principle 8](#): Undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

[Principle 9](#): Encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

ANTI – CORRUPTION PRINCIPLES

[Principle 10](#): Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery

Business consultancy committee

This committee had arranged things-to-know discussion about topics like getting loans from foreign banks to expand businesses, merging and acquisition of companies, handling disputes and internal control system and thereby supporting individuals, members and their organizations.

- “Preparation to borrow money from foreign bank’ on 18 November 2018 by Dr Sa Sa Nyunt
- “Things to know about Merger and Acquisition” on 26 January 2019
- “Things to know about Arbitration” on 4 May 2019 by business consultancy committee chair Dr Cho Cho Myint
- ‘Importance of internal control in organization’ on 6 July 2019 by Business Consultancy Committee Member Daw Nwe Ni Soe

Member Affairs Committee

Moreover, the member affairs committee had organized other business seminar, business talk, MoU signing activities for MSMEs development and meeting with Ministry of Education to support for the opening of soft skill and business trainings. MBE Member Retreat Trip to Thuwunna Bomi Mountain View Resort Hotel in Mon State's Kyaikhto township was made as a two-day one-night trip on 13 and 14 October 2018.

Signing of MoU

MBE interacted with Myanmar HIDA Alumni Association (MHAA) on One Village/Town Product matters for the development of small and medium enterprises. Capacity Building for MSMEs Development from Successful OVOP/OTOP model of Thailand was held in Shan State's Inle Lake on June 6, 2019.

MOU with the Ministry of Education

MOU between MBE and Ministry of Education on 22 July 2019 at Ministry of Education at Naypyitaw. MBE discussed about opening of soft skill and business trainings currently being required in implementation of School and Industrial Partnership scheme.

Seminar and Talks

Myanmar Business Executives Association and Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry jointly held **"The Future We Want: 2020 and Beyond"** open invitation seminar at UMFCCI on 19 May 2019 (Sunday). It was attended by more than 350 people including responsible personnel from UMFCCI, MBE, government department, professors and guests from partner organizations, entrepreneurs, students and the media.

MBE also organized a health educative talks on **"Living with Stress"** on 7 September 2019 attracting a high number of audiences.



2020 ~21 Activities

ASEAN Leadership Award

Myanmar Business Executives Association took pride in being awarded the ASEAN Leadership Award on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication for 2019.

Donations for COVID-19

MBE donated 200 sets of PPE which had been urgently in need to prevent the spread of the pandemic, at Medicine and Medical Equipment Store in Yangon on 26 March 2020 for the first time.

On 4 June 2020, MBE also donated another 100 sets of PPE to Insein General Hospital in Yangon to be used in prevention, control and treatment of the COVID-19 disease. On 21 and 22 June, MBE provided cash assistance to buy rice and curries for the patients taking treatment at the same hospital.

The association donated 100 PPE and 500 surgical masks to South Okkalapa Hospital, 100 PPE and 500 surgical masks to Yangon General Hospital on 5 June, 2020.

In addition, MBE provided 200 PPE and 2,000 surgical masks and 10 sets of Scrub Suits to Mawlamyine Hospital in Mon State, 50 PPE and 250 surgical masks to Pha-an Hospital in Kayin State respectively on 12 June 2020.



MBE donated lunches for volunteers at COVID-19 healthcare centers of the We Love Yangon, a people-focused organization. Moreover, the association had sent two of its staff

members to help in COVID-19 System Data Entry at Myanmar Convention Center. And, a ceremony to advise and co-ordinate in combination of knowledge and technology was held at MCC meeting hall in Yangon on 6 May 2020. MBE provided knowledge and technology trainings which are required in creating physical and mental well-being of Yangon residents, high quality health, security and pleasant environment is shared equally among people, social welfare of the people during COVID-19 emergency period, deterrence of rise in commodity prices, food assistance to those who are in actual need and waste management between the donor and donee, all being the aims and objectives of We Love Yangon.



Learner Centered Teaching TOT (teaching of teachers)

Learner Centered Teaching TOT trainings accredited by Switzerland's Lucerne University of Applied Science and Arts are being provided in order to be more qualified, efficient and effective trainings under joint supervision of MBE and INEDUCO. TOT basic training course No 1 was commenced in 2015 and the TOT advanced courses could have been continued. TOT basic training course No 2 was opened in November 2018 and it was attended by 14 trainees. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the course had been switched to online program without disruption and finished successfully in August 2020.

In this online course, not only the classroom lectures of Learner Centered Teaching concepts were given by the teachers, but also the entrepreneurs were trained to make good use of the lectures practically in day-to-day management of their businesses and to consider their business as a learning organization. The advanced training course No 2 had been planned to open in October 2020.

Business Management and Development Committee opened a booth at “Japan-Myanmar Resource, Trade & Investment Expo 2019’ exhibition at Yangon Convention Centre in the compound of Inya Lake Hotel on 19 and 20 October 2019. It was aimed at promoting business cooperation between Myanmar entrepreneurs and Japanese counterparts.



Global Entrepreneurship Week-2019

Myanmar Business Executives Association had actively participated in the activities of Global Entrepreneurship Week that Myanmar Entrepreneurs Association had consecutively been organizing for the past 8 years starting from 2012. MBE went to various business fields in different areas across the country and organized educative talks on business to commemorate the week.

Involvement in the annual scholarship award program for 300 students

Myanmar Business Executives Association had contributed in selection of winners and presenting awards to 300 students under an annual scholarship program for poor but outstanding students in Mon State and Yangon Region up to 2018-2019. The program has been funded by Thailand-based Siam Cement Group of Companies since 2012-2013 as a corporate social responsibility project.

Cooperation for the MBA 25th Anniversary

The 25th Anniversary Silver Jubilee of MBA Program of the Department of Management Studies of Yangon University of Economics was held on a grand scale at Ruby Hall on Parami Road in Yangon from 1-2 February 2020. MBE opened an exhibition booth with the aim to disseminate awareness about business, education and social responsibilities among the MBA graduates and candidates, getting them more involved in

these tasks which MBE has been undertaking.

Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

Principle 8: Undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

Principle 9: Encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

With the aim to create green environment and to fight against global warming, the MBE Association members collectively planted monsoon trees with a ceremony in the compound of Ruby Hall of Yangon University of Economics on 26 July 2020. Altogether 30 big growing trees were planted in Hlaing Campus.



MBE helped another people-focused organization called We Love Rakhine in setting Standard Operations Procedure to be smooth, easy and systematic in fulfilling business, health, social and livelihood requirements of the people in Rakhine State. Discussions and recommendations were made through Zoom Meeting with We Love Rakhine on 15 November 2020.

During COVID period, MBE unceasingly arrange over all on line & life stream activities for all members and public to share information, education, knowledge sharing, chit-chat program, panel discussion, webinars, seasonal activities (Thadingyut Festival) etc. to enjoy in the comfort of any place.

- “Being Safe & Saving all Business” through Webinar on 30 May 2020.

- External experts such as the minister for Planning and Finance, U Ye Min Oo and the CEO and Chief Capability Officer of Maximax Solution Executive Learning Institute U Than Aung had been invited to talk on the topic “Where’s the fund?” took place on 5 July 2020.
- External expert on tax, U Nay Lin Aung had been invited to give a talk on the topic related to taxes ‘All about 3 %’ and MBE also participated in the discussions conducted through webinar on 20 September 2020. The deliberations were valuable and to the satisfaction of the audience.

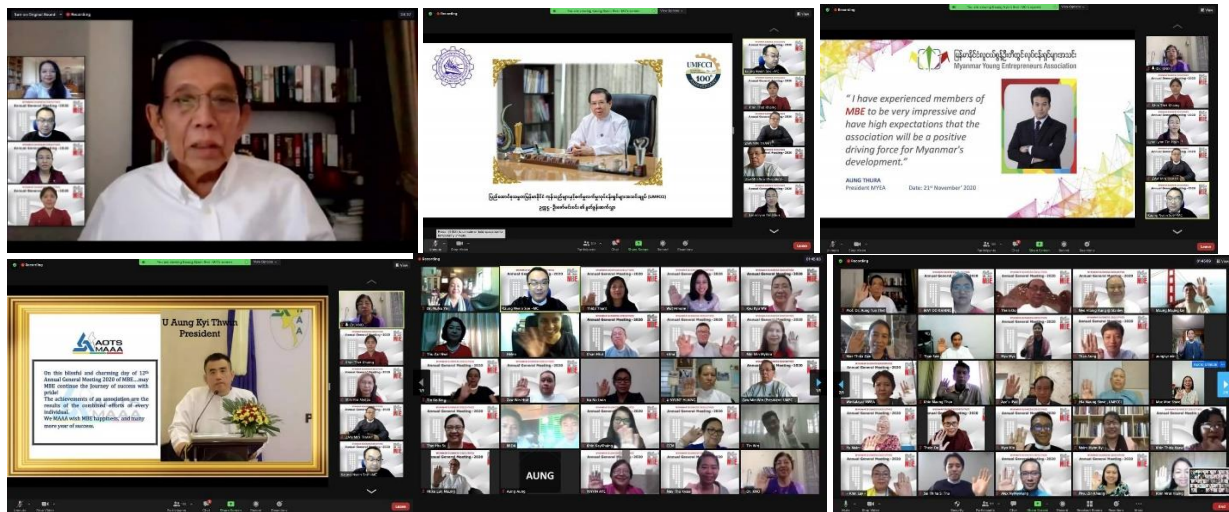


A ceremony to celebrate on the MBE’S winning of 4th ASEAN Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Leadership Award was held together with birthday party of the November and December-born association members in December 2019 and as 2020 New Year Eve dinner.

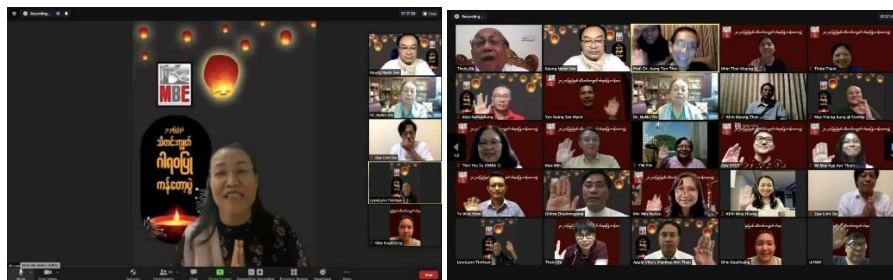
MBE Member Retreat was made on 22-24 November 2019 with a trip to Kanpatlet town in Chin State with two-night stay at Pine Wood Villa Hotel. 36 members participated

in the trip.

MBE successfully held Annual General Meeting on 21st Nov 2020.



Seasonal activities (Thadingyut Festival) – Pay Homage to Advisors of MBE



OVERALL OUTCOMES AND IMPACT OF MBE (2019-2021)

Obviously, Myanmar people know more about the contributions of MBE through seminars, talks and workshops which were found to be effective. Business persons become more aware about their responsibilities in their investment and doing business. Even the local media has shown interest in the importance of the social responsibility. Honestly, the businessmen here had in mind that only economic value matters most. They just knew how to maximize profits through getting the cheapest labour and raw materials. They had not taken into consideration the social values and environmental values. Now, many come to realize the sustainability of their business needs to think about these two aspects. Honestly, there are still a lot to be done. The United Nations Global Compact's core principles are the guiding principles for all the stakeholders. MBE has been playing a meaningful role in spreading more awareness among the public in general and the entrepreneurs and business persons in particular. To put it in a nutshell, the activities and efforts of MBE have been hugely impacting on the business environment motivating its players to keep moving ahead. Thanks to UNGC.