

**Short greetings by Dr. Myint Htwe, Union Minister for Health and Sports in the opening of ceremony of “SMM 2018 Asian Men’s Club – Asia World Federation-Volleyball Championship”**

Nay Pyi Taw

30<sup>th</sup> July 2018

- Greetings! Mingalarpar!
- Vice President of Asian Volleyball Confederation, President of Myanmar Volleyball Federation and Executive Committee Members, Deputy Minister, Directors-General, Deputy-Directors General, Directors, officials and staff of MoHS.
- Distinguished players, coaches, referees, officials of participating teams from Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkmenistan and Vietnam.
- Invited guest, Ladies and Gentlemen,
- It is my honor and distinct privilege to be here to deliver the short greetings on the auspicious occasion of the opening of the “SMM 2018 Asian Men’s Club ‘Asia World Federation’ Volleyball Championship”.
- On behalf of the Government of the Union of the Myanmar and citizens of Nay Pyi Taw, our capital city, I would like to extend my warmest greetings and good wishes to all participating athletes, coaches, referees, officials and guests who are here in this Stadium.
- This year’s championship game is our second experience to host in Myanmar: the first event was in 2016, also in this capital, Nay Pyi Taw.
- This championship is a highly competitive event given the fact that it is a “qualification tournament” for 2019 Men’s World Club Volleyball Championship.
- Having had this championship event in our country, I could clearly sense that it

will nurture and augment the enthusiasm of our sports loving youngers in playing the volleyball game.

- It will definitely rekindle the inherent interest in playing volleyball especially in schools and universities.
- The love of sports is in fact very much conducive to achieve “national fitness” in our country.
- It will also help achieve one of our currently applied mottos of MoHS which is “Exercise is medicine”.
- As the host country, we will be supporting and facilitating all-out so that all participating countries will never ever forget the courtesies and warmth of Myanmar people.
- Through this championship volley game, we will get strong and lasting friendship not only among the participating athletes but also among the competing countries.
- Friendship among participating counties is really desirable for further promoting social, economic, education and health collaboration and cooperation.
- With all these expectations in mind, I would like to sincerely thank the government officials and organizers of the Asian Volleyball Confederation for given us the strong leadership and support to make this events reality in my country.
- I wish the championship event meets with resounding success, reverberating all over the sporting associations and confederations for many years.
- We are looking forward to having a fair-play with high sporting spirit by the athletes.

- Finally, I wish that all players are in good health and a very pleasant stay in Nay Pyi Taw.
- Thank you very much.

*(The speech is prepared by the Union Minister himself)*