

Opening remarks by HE Minister for Health and Sports on Inauguration Ceremony of Project for Human Resource Development of Medical Engineering

(Draft)

University of Medical Technology, Yangon

1st June 2018

- Mingalarbar!
- Good morning everybody who are present in this room especially Counsellor from Japanese Embassy, Chairperson of Japan-Myanmar Association, Mr. Watanabe, Professors and officials from Okayama University, representatives of Japan-Myanmar Association.
- I am very much thankful to all big group who are coming here to lunch the opening ceremony of the project which is extremely important for our country.
- Rectors, professors, associate professors, lecturers from University of Medical Technology and the student who are going to attend this particular course which is the first of its kind in Myanmar.
- It is somewhat like a milestone for my country.
- I should not say it is the one of the milestone.
- It is the biggest milestone in the history because it is the best investment and it is 100 percent sure dividend or return will be extremely high.
- It will continue to benefit Ministry of Health and Sports for many years to come.
- You may recall that we are going all out to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in my country.
- Without this project it cannot be happened.
- The reason why I am saying is that in order to give quality care to all the patients in my country, the doctors alone are not sufficient.
- The paramedical staff, staff from medical technology, especially the engineers who are going to repair all these medical equipment is very important.

- Without the equipment or the equipment is not well calibrated, the results may be wrong.
- So, the medical engineers are the people who will really support the clinicians, professors, surgeons, physicians, radiologists, etc.
- All of the clinicians are relying on the state-of-the-art equipment.
- During my student days, the equipment were not that sophisticated.
- So, in order to give quality care, these students or engineers are going to help the Ministry of Health and Sports, and will give a lone way in promoting the quality care to the patients and to the population at large.
- The medical equipment needs to be functioned properly and well calibrated, and it is very important.
- Without properly equipment, the results may be wrong.
- The biggest advantage is that when the medical engineers are attending the course, the will be trained using certain types equipment, and they can even suggest us which types of equipment we should buy.
- We should buy the equipment which is durable and last long.
- We should not buy the equipment which is cheap but not last long.
- These are the people who will give us many perspectives in terms of equipment like what to buy, what not to buy, and how to take care of them.
- Likewise, they are going to tell the one who is going to handle the equipment about dos and don'ts and how to maintain the equipment so that it can last long.
- If certain equipment breaks down, it will affect the treatment process- the treatment process will be disrupted.
- Without the results of that particular equipment, the physicians or clinicians cannot give quality care in a timely manner.
- What we are facing right now is if particular equipment breaks down right in this point in time, we do not know what happened; we have to call the agent who imported that equipment.
- The agent will see, repair and charge.
- Whatever they charged, we have to pay.

- We have to spend millions of money to repair the equipment.
- We actually have no idea of why this particular equipment breaks down.
- Sometimes, it takes time for the agent to call engineers from Singapore or Bangkok, etc. to come
- During that time we have to wait and the equipment is not functioned.
- Doctors have difficult in treating the patients without the results.
- And also this problem of equipment break down is happening all the time, everyday one or two or three equipment may break down.
- Your supports will directly or indirectly help medical doctors to give quality care to the patients in a timely manner.
- This group of 18 medical engineers will be a great asset for Ministry of Health and Sports.
- We have 1,134 hospitals in my country, the equipment varies from very simple equipment to very sophisticated state-of-the-art ones.
- So this group of 18 medical engineers will take care of this equipment.
- The medical engineers can repair the equipment, so Ministry of Health and Sports can save a lot of money, and that money can be used for many other purposes.
- I also believe that the medical engineers will also be trained to maintain the equipment properly.
- And also there will be series of courses will be conducted.
- I would like to request the professors and lecturers to listen and see some of the courses because some of the professors and lecturers will become the faculty members of subsequence courses.
- We cannot rely all the time on Japan.
- For certain lectures, we can take care of it.
- Because it is not appropriate to ask everything from Japan, we have to rely on ourselves as well.
- You are giving a key which we really need, which we are in dire need of it.
- I would like to urge the candidates of the course to be very serious about the course and learn as much as you can by asking questions or make clarifications.

- Do not be shy in asking questions.
- Do not feel humiliated if you do not understand and ask questions.
- The principle is “once you know that particular thing, you become a teacher to all those who do not know that thing”.
- Each and every lecture is very important for you.
- The principles of asking questions must be in the mind of every candidate.
- And I was informed that this course is not coming out of the blue moon.
- Since May 2007, there were several meetings, discussions made with the officials for the fact finding mission on the human resource development of medical engineers.
- At the time, JICA people and the people from Okayama University came here several times and discussed.
- I would like to thank Department of Human Resource for Health, University of Medical Technology and officials from Department of Medical Department for this course to be happened.
- You have done very important for the country because this course is very unique.
- I would also like to mention one particular point; this project was initiated by previous Director-General of Department of Medical Care so I would also like to thank him as well.
- I would like to thank Japanese government, JICA and Japan-Myanmar association on behalf of my country government.
- To have this type of course in place is not easy.
- But because of the commitment and support of JICA, Okayama University, this has happened.
- This project, as you are aware, is five years project from 2018 May to 2022.
- This is, in fact, one of the mile stones of Ministry of Health and Sports, and the field of medical technology.
- I was told that the diploma course in medical engineer is a totally hands on training course with supportive lectures.

- Some of the particle trainings will be conducted in six general trainings, Yangon general hospital, Insein general hospital, Yangon specialist hospital, JICA hospital, Yangon children hospital and Central woman hospital.
- Particle engineering workshops will be conducted at Central Medical Store Depot (CMSD).
- Hostels will be provided for the candidates to reside comfortably as much as possible.
- I was also informed that those who are going to pass the course with flying colors will be allowed to study Master course in Japan.
- Do not miss out that opportunity.
- Be determine to finish the course will full understanding of the mechanical, electrical and electronics.
- I would like to profoundly thank JICA, Okayama University, and Japanese Embassy for facilitating and making this course happen which is the most important requirement of the Ministry of Health and Sports at this particular time.
- Thank you.