



Diverging Agendas and Realities – Taking Stock of Myanmar's Peace Process

After decades of civil war and repression by the military regime, Myanmar is still the most conflict-ridden state in Southeast Asia. Under the former Thein Sein government a peace process was initiated to bring the ethnic armed groups together with the military and the government to the negotiating table. The outcome of dozens of negotiation rounds accompanied by fighting has been a so called "Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement" signed by 8 ethnic groups out of 21. The de facto head of state of the current National League for Democracy- government, Aung San Suu Kyi, took this legacy to a new level. With the "Panglong Conference of the 21st Century" she aimed to further the peace process by reviving the pre-independent Panglong conferences and the following agreement between her father Aung San and several ethnic leaders, which has never been realized.

The challenges posed by the current conflict landscape are marked by a deep mistrust between the different parties and diverging interests are enormous. New ethnic coalitions like the "Northern Alliance" have been formed to counter the peace strategy of the government. And the big neighbor

of Myanmar, China, is increasingly engaging as facilitator in the peace negotiations.

We would like to invite you to a Talk and Discussion with Dr. N. Ganesan about the current developments in the peace process in Myanmar and the challenges ahead.

Dr. N. Ganesan is Professor of Southeast Asian politics at the Hiroshima Peace Institute in Japan. His major research and publication interests focus on interstate and intrastate tensions and conflict. Recent edited works include *State Violence in East Asia* (2013) and *Bilateral Legacies in East and Southeast Asia* (2015). In Myanmar he serves as coordinator and trainer for the Myanmar civil service and for faculties at Yangon, Mandalay and Yadanabon Universities. Both projects are funded by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.

Moderated by Christina Grein Coordinator of the Burma-Initiative, Stiftung Asienhaus and **Dr. Colin Dürkop**, former Director Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.

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