

# *Distance-Facilitated Myanmar Student Dialogue Using Zoom Internet Webcam Technology*

Saturday, 12 January 2019 • Kyaukse Technological University, Myanmar (Asia)



Facilitated from San Mateo, California, USA (North America)



## Context and Preparation

**On campus in Myanmar**, diverse university students were often dividing into familiar ethnic clans, cultural cliques, and interest groups – with few skills of civil communication for bridge building between them. A few older scholars responded by initiating a student-driven campus Dialogue experience to realize the power of listening-to-learn and that “an enemy is one whose story we have not heard.”

**Two weeks earlier**, organizers Thiri Aung Kyaw and Thae Ma Ma Zin met online in Zoom with facilitators Libby and Len Traubman, co-founders of the 26-year-old Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue on the San Francisco Peninsula of California, USA. The four shared their life stories and began planning intensely for the Kyaukse student community-building experience to follow within the week. **Eight years earlier, in 2010**, the Myanmar seed engagements of this Dialogue were planted by the young women’s mentor, visionary educator Mr/Ko Hla Myo “No Sea” Naing, illustrated at <http://traubman.igc.org/myanmardialogue.pdf>



## The Dialogue

For two hours on Saturday morning during 12 January 2019, beginning at 9:30 am Yangon Myanmar time 25 eager students gathered in a large, Internet equipped classroom at Kyaukse Technological University. With Dialogue's new quality of listening-to-learn, the diverse participants experienced that "an enemy is one whose story we have not heard," and "story is the shortest distance between people."





(Video and more photos coming)

### **Facilitors**

Libby and Len Traubman • [Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue](https://traubman.igc.org/myanmardialogue2019.pdf) (California, USA)

### **in Myanmar**

Thiri Aung Kyaw and Thae Ma Ma Zin

This document is on the Web at <https://traubman.igc.org/myanmardialogue2019.pdf>

Report from Thiri Aung Kyaw

## **Video Conference of Youth Leadership and English Language Enrichment Program with Libby & Len Traubman**

Topic - Dialogue

On 29th of December, 2018, plans were begun for the 12th of January 2019 Saturday Dialogue organized in Kyaukse Technological University, Mandalay Region, Myanmar. The main purpose of the conference was to raise the mutual understanding among the young talents.

The participants were the engineering students with **diverse family backgrounds**. The ethnic groups of the participants were Burmese, Shan, Kachin, Chin and Rakhine. Some were Chinese. Religious backgrounds represented were Christianity, Buddhism, and Islam. They came from diverse states including Shan, Kachin, and Chin, and from the regions of Mandalay and Yangon. The participants were mostly from middle class and working class families.

They were the comrades of the second cohort of **Youth Leadership and English Language Enrichment Program (YL-ELEP)** in Kyaukse Technological University. They are the young talents specializing in different engineering subjects, actively participating in extra-curriculum activities and volunteering in numerous social services. They have high potentials and strong interest to be good leaders for their community and nation.

The conference helped them upgrade their communication skill which is the most important tool in leadership and changed their perspectives on the world. It was their first experience of video conferencing with these decent professionals. The participants were invited to join this Saturday Dialogue Video Conference by the communication officer of Youth Leadership and English Language Enrichment Program (YL-ELEP).



**"Enemy is the person whose story you have never heard before."** It was a trigger that encouraged them to listen to the other people's stories and speak out their inner voices. They grasped the opportunity to learn the different perspectives of life. Some of their feedbacks on this dialogue conference are mentioned below.

***"When I share my story to my friend, I recalled all my past actions. That made me know what I did in my past, which things were good for me, which problems were too difficult for me to solve, how I overcame the hardest time of my life. "***

- Wut Yee Maung, a participant

***"I cried a lot because it reflects me. I am the enemy of me because I didn't know myself. I didn't know what I want to be till now. You help me know myself more."***

- Lwin Tun Aung, a participant

