

Contributors

Vicky Bowman received a BA (Hons) in Natural Sciences (Pathology) from Pembroke College, Cambridge, before winning a scholarship to the University of Chicago, where she took courses in Latin American Studies. She entered the East Africa Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1988 and studied Burmese at London's School of Oriental and African Studies, before being posted as Second Secretary to the British Embassy in Rangoon from 1990–1993. From 1996 to 1999, she was First Secretary/spokeswoman at the British European Union Mission in Brussels, before moving to the European Commission in 1999, where she was a member of the Cabinet of External Affairs Commissioner, Chris Patten, until 2002. From 2002 to 2006, she was British Ambassador to Myanmar. She has published translations of various Burmese short stories, a translation of Mya Than Tint's *On the Road to Mandalay*, and contributed to editions of Lonely Planet's *Burmese Phrasebook*.

Mary P. Callahan is an associate professor of International Studies at the University of Washington. She is author of *Making Enemies: war and state-building in Burma* (2003), which received the Harry J. Benda Prize in Southeast Asian Studies in 2006. Author of numerous articles on modern Burmese politics, Callahan's current research looks at relations between the international community and Burma, the privatisation of security in Southeast Asia and comparative civil–military relations. She received her PhD in Political Science from Cornell University in 1996 and has taught at the US Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California.

Guy Lubeigt is a geographer who graduated from the Sorbonne University and National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilisations. He obtained his PhD in Tropical Geography in 1975 for *Le palmier à sucre en Birmanie Centrale* (Sugar palm tree in Central Burma: culture and exploitation). In 2001, he received his PhD in Asian Studies at the Sorbonne University for *Birmanie: un pays modelé par le Bouddhisme. Essai de géographie religieuse et politique* (Burma: a country modelled by Buddhism: religious and political geography). Now Senior Field Researcher in the National Scientific Research Centre, he is also a member of the Doctoral School of Geography of

Sorbonne University and Visiting Professor at the Southeast Asian Studies Centre of the Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. He has lived in Burma since 1968. He has specialised in the geography of Buddhism in Burma and has authored 13 books and 55 articles on Burma and Thailand. His publications on religion include *Pagan: histoire et légendes* (1998) and *La Birmanie: l'âge d'or de pagan* (2005).

Ken MacLean holds a PhD in Anthropology and a MSc in Environmental Justice, both from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He is an Assistant Professor in the Department of International Development, Community, and Environment (IDCE) at Clark University. During 2001 and 2002, he served as the Associate Director of EarthRights International's Burma Project. Since then, he has worked as a consultant for EarthRights International on a wide range of research projects. MacLean is the author of numerous research monographs, academic articles, policy briefs submitted to the International Labour Organization and other publications related to contemporary Burma.

Tun Myint is a Research Associate at the Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis at Indiana University, Bloomington. He left Burma after the military coup on 18 September 1988, which cracked down on the people's movement for democracy in which he was involved as a student activist. He came to Indiana University in 1993 after he was awarded a scholarship by the US Information Agency-funded Burmese Refugee Scholarship Program, administered by the Office of International Programs at Indiana University. At Indiana University, he graduated with a BA in Political Science with Honours and East Asian Studies as a double-major degree in 1997, completed a Masters of Public Affairs in 1999 from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs and a PhD in Law and Social Sciences jointly conducted at the School of Public and Environmental Affairs and Indiana University School of Law. He is also a Research Fellow at the Institutional Dimension of Global Environmental Change program, a core science project of the International Human Dimension Program, which strives to achieve scientific understanding of the human dimensions of global environmental change.

Ikuko Okamoto joined the Institute of Developing Economies, Japan, in 1992, after completing a masters degree at the Food Research Institute, Stanford University. She completed a doctoral degree at Kyoto University in 2006, where her PhD topic was 'A study on economic disparity in rural Myanmar: focusing on pulse production after market liberalisation'. Her current major research interests are agricultural and rural development and transitional economies, particularly Myanmar's economy. She is the author of a number of articles in Japanese and English on Myanmar's rural economy.

Matthew Smith is a Project Coordinator for the Burma Project with EarthRights International, focusing on the social and environmental impacts of oil and gas development and the mining of natural resources in Burma. He received a BA in Political Science from Le Moyne College in Syracuse, New York, and a MA in Human Rights Studies and Religion from Columbia University in New York City. During graduate studies, he held an internship at the Early Warning Analysis and Contingency Planning Unit at the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in New York. Previously, he worked with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps as an emergency services social worker with low-income communities in Alabama, and he has experience in grassroots organising in East Harlem, New York. Before joining EarthRights International, he worked under Kerry Kennedy for Speak Truth to Power, a project of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Human Rights.

Monique Skidmore is Associate Dean, Postgraduate, College of Arts and Social Sciences and a Fellow in the Research School of Humanities, The Australian National University (ANU). After graduating in anthropology from the ANU, she completed her Masters and PhD degrees at McGill University, Canada. She is the author of many articles and book chapters on Myanmar. Examples of some recent publications are: *Burma at the Turn of the Twenty-First Century* (2005), *Karaoke Fascism: Burma and the politics of fear* (2004), *Women and the Contested State: religion, violence and agency in South and Southeast Asia* (2007, University of Notre Dame Press) and *Medicine in Myanmar: past and present* (2007, NIAS Press). Her research interests include medical anthropology and peace and conflict studies in Southeast Asia.

Ashley South is an independent consultant and analyst, specialising in ethnic politics and humanitarian issues in Burma/Myanmar. He is the author of a political history of lower Burma, *Mon Nationalism and Civil War in Burma: the golden sheldrake* (RoutledgeCurzon; reprint edition 2005), and of an influential essay on the strategic roles of civil society in promoting democratisation, 'Political transition in Myanmar: a new model for democratization' (*Contemporary Southeast Asia*, 26[2]). Research for this paper was conducted during consultancies for the Thailand Burma Border Consortium (2002), International Crisis Group (2003), Human Rights Watch (2004–05), United Nations Development Programme (2005), and with a grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation (2003–04). He has a Masters degree in Asian Politics from the School of Oriental and African Studies (London University).

Tint Lwin Thaug, a native of Burma/Myanmar, was trained as a forester, natural resource manager and restoration ecologist in Burma, Thailand and Australia. He has worked on natural resource conservation and community development in Burma/Myanmar and Australia for 20 years. From 1993 to 1997, he worked for the Wildlife Conservation Service in Myanmar. He is dedicated to promoting conservation and development assistance in Burma/Myanmar and to providing training opportunities for younger generations from Myanmar. He has degrees in Forestry from Rangoon University (1985), a Masters degree in Natural Resources from the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok (1992), and a PhD from the University of Queensland (2002). He currently lives in Australia. He has published numerous articles on conservation based on fieldwork undertaken in Myanmar.

Sean Turnell is an economist and former central banker with a long-time interest in Burma's financial system. He is based at Macquarie University in Sydney, where he is Senior Lecturer in Economics. Together with colleagues at Macquarie University, in 2001, he founded *Burma Economic Watch*, an online journal of commentary and analysis of Burma's economy. His primary research focus is on Myanmar's financial institutions. He is currently completing a book on Burma's monetary and financial system for the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies. He has lectured on Burma all over the world and, in 2006, he was invited to testify on the country's economy before the US Senate.

Trevor Wilson is a Visiting Fellow in the Department of Political and Social Change, The Australian National University, Canberra. He retired in August 2003 after working for more than 36 years in the Australian government, 30 years of which was spent with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. He served as Australia's Ambassador to Myanmar for three years from mid 2000 to mid 2003. He was assigned to Australia's embassy in Tokyo three times: first in the late 1960s, then in the early 1980s, and finally as Deputy Head of Mission in the second half of the 1990s. He also had tours of duty in Washington and Laos. In Canberra, he also worked in the Defence Department, the Prime Minister's Department and the office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Gareth Evans. Since 2004, he has been co-convenor of the Myanmar/Burma Update conference series for the ANU and edited *Myanmar's Long Road to National Reconciliation* (2006).

Khin Zaw Win is a citizen of Myanmar. He was educated at schools in Yangon, New Delhi, Madras and Colombo, before training as a dental surgeon in Yangon, graduating in 1971. From 1973 to 1979, he served in the Department of Health, Myanmar; from 1980 to 1983, in the Ministry of Health, Sabah, Malaysia; and, from 1991 to 1992, he was a consultant for UNICEF in Yangon. He attended the Master in Public Policy program at the Centre for Advanced Studies (now the Lee Kwan Yew School of Public Policy), National University of Singapore, in 1993–94. From 1994 to July 2005, he was a prisoner of conscience in Myanmar for 'seditious writings' and human rights work. He is at present working on the care and treatment of, and facilitating community support for, people with HIV/AIDS. A participant in Dialogue for Interfaith Cooperation and Peace-Building, his recent publications are: *Reality Check for Sanctions* (Hiroshima Peace Institute, Japan), *Poverty, Isolation and AIDS* (European Institute for Asian Studies, Brussels) and 'Transistion in a time of siege: the pluralism of societal and political practices in the ward/village level in Myanmar/Burma', in *Active Citizens Under Political Wraps: experiences from Myanmar/Burma and Vietnam* (Heinrich Böll Foundation, 2006).