

**Remarks by H. E. U WunnaMaungLwin, Union Minister for
Foreign Affairs at ceremony of the 65th Anniversary of Myanmar-
Thai Diplomatic Relations**

on 14 August 2013, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangkok

**His Excellency Dr. SurapongTovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime
Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of
Thailand,**

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen

Good evening everyone and allow me to thank all of you for joining us this evening to celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Diplomatic Relations between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Kingdom of Thailand.I am also deeply

honored to be attending this auspicious occasion hosted at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand in Bangkok.

At the same time, I would like to extend our appreciations to His Excellency Dr. SurapongTovichakchaikul for inviting me to attend this auspicious occasion and for the kind sentiments that he just expressed about our two countries relations and cooperation.

I congratulate everyone in this room and to each and every individual that have relentlessly endeavored to strengthen and sustain our ties.

Both Myanmar and Thailand have come a long way. Our two countries are not just the largest mainland countries in Southeast Asia but we also shared many historical backgrounds, traditions and culture. But today, in addition to the historical ties, our peoples can also talk about the success that our two countries have achieved to others.

As you know, Myanmar regained her independence in 1948 from the British colonial rule and shortly after that our leaders were reaching out to the world with the hope of building a better future for the people.

With this in mind, 65 years ago, on 24 August 1948, both of our leaders have decided to establish diplomatic ties between our countries for mutual understanding, support and bring prosperity for the peoples of our two countries.

Over the years, Governments may have changed, differences may have come across and new policies may have been adopted by both countries but the peoples of Myanmar and Thailand continue to live hand-in-hand to realize the objectives that our forefathers have laid down.

And this is exactly what President U TheinSein and Prime Minister Yingluck are doing today also.

Myanmar, like Thailand, wants to become a prosperous nation in the world so that our people can live in dignity among the people of the world. Myanmar, like Thailand, is the land of great potentials and opportunities. We are rich in natural resources and the people are friendly and enthusiastic. With these great potentials that our two countries embrace, I strongly believe that through consistent and persistent mutual engagement and good-will, our relations will continue to grow and become wider and deeper.

To achieve this, we will need the same steadfast determination and faith that our leaders have demonstrated ever since our two countries have established diplomatic ties 65 years ago.

Looking back at our recent achievements, Her Royal Highness MahaChakriSirindhorn visited Myanmar on 2 July. The visit confirms the sincere feelings of goodwill and friendship that Royal family of Thailand has for Myanmar. In addition to that, Prime Minister Yingluck visited Myanmar in October 2011 and in return President U TheinSein visited Thailand in the following year. Both leaders have the will and enthusiasms to further strengthen our ties through economic, trade and investment cooperation.

According to our statistics of 2012, Thailand is the second largest investors in Myanmar with investment of over USD9 billion dollars, accounting for 23.32% of the total foreign investments in Myanmar and the bilateral trade volume have reached USD4515.0 million dollars for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

We are also developing Dawei Special Economic Zone and inviting foreign investors as well.

In addition to existing engagements between the governments and the peoples of our two countries, we also have official activities made between the legislative bodies. Parliamentarians from Thailand have visited the Myanmar Parliament on many occasions to build parliament-to-parliament ties and to exchange legislative views and experiences.

Myanmar has now emerged as a peaceful and thriving democratic nation and becomes a prosperous nation like the rest of the countries in the world.

We still have much more to do to fulfill our aims but with the will and enthusiasms of our leaders and support from our friends, there is no doubt that we will achieve this goal in the very near future.

I would also like to thank the Government and the people of Thailand for the support given toward our endeavors, both in the past and at present. I look forward to receiving this continuous support in our future endeavors also. Therefore, you can all see that the bilateral relations and cooperation between our two countries is not just a progress but it is a progress that is continuous.

Dear friends and colleagues,

Tonight we celebrate this auspicious occasion not just to commemorate the 65th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Diplomatic Relations between Myanmar and Thailand but also to further strengthening our existing friendly ties and to work together toward achieving our glorious and common goals. Therefore, I would like to invite you all to join me in a toast:

- To the good-health, success and prosperity of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej and the royal family of the Kingdom of Thailand;
- To the good-health and success of Her Excellency Prime Minister Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra;
- To the good-health and success of His Excellency Dr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs;
- To an everlasting friendship between Myanmar and Thailand;
and
- To the good-health and continued success of the people of the Kingdom of Thailand and to all the distinguished guests present here tonight.

Thank you and I wish you all a pleasant evening.
