



Press Release

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Mayor and officials tour Europe for study on Heritage protection

Yangon: Myanmar officials from various government institutions started a study tour on June 22, 2014 to three European countries.

The 15-membered delegation led by the Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint, including high-level leaders and working level staff from Regional government, Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development, Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library, Department of Hotel and Tourism and Yangon Heritage Trust, will visit Amsterdam (Netherlands), Antwerp (Belgium) and London (UK) to gain heritage management knowledge and insights to aid in the conservation work of Yangon's urban heritage.

Aiming to provide high-level exposure to cities that have made heritage protection a key to their success as a competitive city, the trip is designed to help anchor the concept of heritage protection into urban planning policy-making in Yangon. The trip is also intended to provide opportunities for Yangon officials and local specialists to discuss how integration of heritage into urban planning has been achieved in Europe.

The tour is a part of an EU funded project to build capacity within the YCDC Urban Planning Unit for a better Yangon, jointly implemented by the YCDC and YHT.

The founder and Chairman of Yangon Heritage Trust, Dr Thant Myint-U, said, regarding with the trip, "the European cities that the Mayor and delegation will visit are amongst the most beautiful and economically vibrant anywhere in the world. They have integrated their architectural heritage into modern and dynamic cities that are great places to live and work and that attract millions of tourists a year. I am sure that he and the other delegates will return with practical and concrete new ideas for Yangon."

During the 8-day trip, the delegation will be visiting several institutions working on traffic and transportation, architecture and urban maintenance, waste and recycle management in Amsterdam including a tour to UNESCO World Heritage Canals of Amsterdam.

Also in Antwerp, the delegation is expecting to observe the renovation of an old harbour and a museum and it is likewise scheduled in London to meet conservation experts and to tour developments which conserve urban heritage and Central Westminster.

U Cho Tun Aung, the head of Public Relations and Information Department of YCDC, expressed that he is glad as one of the member of delegation for the upcoming trip.

“Since I will be able to see heritages of European countries, I am so pleased for the invaluable experience I will get,” he said.

Yangon Heritage Trust (YHT) is a local NGO founded in January 2012 by a group of historians, architects, and business people and dedicated to the proper modernisation of Yangon through conserving the city's unique heritage. Its mission is to protect and promote Yangon's rich urban heritage within a cohesive urban planning framework by advocating for heritage protection and revitalization of the historic city, advising the government and developers on heritage law and public policy and undertaking research and public outreach on conservation projects, studies, conferences, and training.

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