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Ministry of Education
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Japan International
Cooperation Agency
(JICA)

**DEVELOPMENT STUDY
FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF QUALITY AND ACCESS OF
BASIC EDUCATION IN THE UNION OF MYANMAR
(MBESS)**

**FINAL REPORT II
(Main Report)**

March 2004

International Development Center of Japan
(IDCJ)

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PREFACE

In response to a request from the Government of the Union of Myanmar, the Government of Japan decided to conduct a “Study for the Improvement of Quality and Access of Basic Education” and entrusted the study to the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

JICA selected and dispatched a study team headed by Dr. Norimichi Toyomane of the International Development Center of Japan to the Union of Myanmar from March 2001 to March 2004. In addition, JICA set up an advisory committee headed by Mr. Yu Sato, Professor of Hokkaido University of Education at Iwamizawa Campus during the period of the Study, which examined the study from specialist and technical points of view.

The team held discussions with the officials concerned of the Government of the Union of Myanmar and other stakeholders in the education sector, and conducted field surveys and pilot activities in the study area. The team conducted further studies and prepared this final report 2. I hope that this report will contribute to the further development of basic education of the Union of Myanmar.

Finally, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the officials concerned of the Government of the Union of Myanmar for their close cooperation extended to the study.

March 2004

Kazuhisa Matsuoka
Vice President
Japan International Cooperation Agency

Letter of Transmittal

March 2004

Mr. Kazuhisa Matsuoka
Vice President
Japan International Cooperation Agency
Tokyo, Japan

Dear Mr. Matsuoka:

I am pleased to submit to you the second final report of the Development Study for the Improvement of Quality and Access of Basic Education in the Union of Myanmar. This report presents the results of the study carried out by the International Development Center of Japan in accordance with the Terms of Reference given by your Agency.

A team of consultants headed by me conducted the study in Myanmar during March 2001-March 2004 in collaboration with the counterpart agency, the Department of Educational Planning and Training (DEPT), Ministry of Education. Originally, the study period was set as March 2001-October 2002. However, it was later extended until March 2004 to answer the DEPT's request. The first final report submitted in December 2002 presented the results of the original period. This second final report summarizes the outcome of the extended period during November 2002-March 2004.

The central issue addressed by the study was how to introduce the child-centered approach into the basic education of Myanmar. To tackle this issue on three fronts simultaneously, the study consisted of three components: Component A for developing Teacher's Guides (Basic Science, Social Studies and General Studies); Component B for strengthening Education Colleges; and Component C for improving primary school buildings. The extended period only dealt with Component A, completing the three Teacher's Guides. This report describes theoretical background for the child-centered approach and the process in which the Guides were developed.

In conducting the study, we worked closely with the DEPT, Department of Basic Education No. 1, Department of Basic Education No. 2, Department of Basic Education No. 3 and other related authorities. On behalf of the team, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the officials concerned for their commitment and cooperation.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the JICA representative office and the Embassy of Japan in Myanmar for their generous encouragement and assistance. Finally, my heartfelt appreciation is also due to all the people who worked for the study.

Yours faithfully,

Norimichi Toyomane
Team Leader
Development Study for the Improvement of Quality and Access
of Basic Education in the Union of Myanmar

**DEVELOPMENT STUDY
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FINAL REPORT 2

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ABBREVIATIONA AND GLOSSARY

ATEO	Assistant Township Education Officer
BEHS	Basic Education High School
BEMS	Basic Education Middle School
BEPS	Basic Education Primary School
CCA	Child-Centered Approach
DBE	Department of Basic Education
DEPT	Department of Educational Planning and Training
EC	Education College
GOJ	Government of Japan
GOM	Government of Myanmar
IDCJ	International Development Center of Japan
IQ	Intelligence Quotient
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KG	Kindergarten (This grade is included in the primary education in Myanmar)
G1	Grade one
MBESS	Myanmar Basic Education Sector Study
MOE	Ministry of Education
PL	Pilot Lesson
SCCA	Strengthening Child-Centered Approach
S-R	Stimulus-Response
TEC	Thingungyun Education College
TEO	Township Education Officer
YEC	Yankin Education College
YECPS	Yankin Education College Practicing School
ZPD	Zone of Proximal Development