

Message

Mr. Myint Zaw

Recipient of the 2nd Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award

Mingalaba.

I humbly accept this award, knowing that in my country, our people are going through a difficult struggle to regain peace, dignity, and human rights. I also humbly accept this award knowing that, across the region, so many people are engaged in different initiatives toward a shared vision: the right of every person to live in peace.

I am a civil society activist involved in environmental and peace movements. In activism, as we all understand, friends and networks are a crucial part of our struggle. In Pali, we may refer to this as Kalyana Mitta—the good and supportive friendship that helps us along our journey.

My sincere thanks to the Niwano Peace Foundation and my friends from Japan; to SNF and my friends from Thailand; to the International Network of Engaged Buddhists; and to friends from the global interfaith community. For the vision of peace and justice, we are all friends, no matter where we are.

Finally, I would like to share a message of hope.

Coming from a land of distress and ongoing tragedies, I believe that we will overcome. We are going to build bridges of compassion and understanding, because we realize that a country in crisis has many divisions to cross and much harmony to build starting from now on.

In Myanmar, many individuals, communities, and members of the new generation are already on this journey of building bridges. Within the country and across the region, we will strive to become friends of peace.

Together, we will envision communities where people can live in a green and resilient environment. To realize that vision, we will create daily acts of peace and justice—taking daily steps toward the well-being of all species.

We will continue.

Thank you. Jesutimaray.

Myint Zaw