

HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

Objectives and Strategies

To realize one of the social objectives of “Uplifting health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation”, the Ministry of Health has laid down the following **objectives**.

1. To enable every citizen to attain full life expectancy and enjoy longevity of life.
2. To ensure that every citizen is free from diseases.

To realize these objectives, all health activities are implemented in conformity with the following **strategies**.

1. Widespread disseminations of health information and education to reach the rural areas.
2. Enhancing disease prevention activities.
3. Providing effective treatment of prevailing diseases.

Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Health is the major organization responsible for raising the health status of the people and accomplishes this through provision of comprehensive health services, viz promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative measures.

The Ministry of Health is headed by the Union Minister who is assisted by two Union Deputy Ministers. The Ministry has seven functioning departments, each under a Director General. They are Department of Health Planning, Department of Health, Department of Medical Science, Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar), Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar), Department of Medical Research (Central Myanmar) and Department of Traditional Medicine. All these departments are further divided according to their functions and responsibilities. Maximum community participation in health activities is encouraged. Collaboration with related departments and social organizations has been promoted by the ministry.



HE Professor Dr Pe Thet Khin, Union Health Minister delivered an inaugural speech at 2011 World Health Day Commemoration Ceremony

Department of Health Planning

The Department of Health Planning comprises of the following divisions:

- Planning Division
- Health Information Division
- Research and Development Division
- E-Health Division
- Administration Division

For optimum utilization of human, monetary and material resources, in the context of the National Health Policy and with the need to provide comprehensive health services, it is necessary to systematically develop health plans. The availability of reliable statistics and information is a vital prerequisite in such an effort. The Department of Health Planning is responsible for formulating the National Health Plan and for supervision, monitoring and evaluation of the National Health Plan implementation. The Department also compiles health data and disseminates health information.



**National Health Plan
(2011-2016)
Formulation Meeting**



**Health Information Display in Central
Evaluation Meeting**



**Training of Trainers on Multiple Indicators
Cluster Survey**

Department of Health

The Department of Health, one of the seven departments under the Ministry of Health is responsible for providing health care services to the entire population in the country. Under the supervision of the Director General and Deputy Directors General, the following divisions are running.

- Administration
- Planning
- Public Health
- Medical Care
- Disease Control
- Health Education
- Food and Drug Administration
- National Health Laboratory
- Occupational Health
- Nursing



Among these divisions, the public health division is responsible for primary health care and basic health services, nutrition promotion and research, environmental sanitation, maternal and child health services and school health services. The medical care division is responsible for setting hospital specific goals and management of hospital services. The division also undertakes procurement, storage and distribution of medicines, medical instruments and equipment for all health institutions. Functions of the disease control division cover prevention and control of infectious diseases, disease surveillance, outbreak investigation and response and capacity building. Health education division is responsible for wide spread dissemination of health information and education. Food and drug administration division is responsible for registration and licensing of drugs and food, quality control of registered drugs, processed food, imported food and food for export. The National Health Laboratory is responsible for routine laboratory investigation, special lab-taskforce and public health work, training, research and quality assurance. Occupational health division takes the responsibility for health promotion in work places, environmental monitoring of work places and biological monitoring of exposed workers. The division is also providing health education on occupational hazards.

Department of Traditional Medicine

Myanmar Traditional Medicine is truly an inherited profession whose development has interrelations with the natural and climate conditions, thoughts, convictions and the socio-cultural system in Myanmar. Traditional Medicine has been practiced in Myanmar since time immemorial. Over 2000 years ago Myanmar has possessed and nurtured a civilization, high enough to set up city states and Traditional medicine had flourished significantly by a major part of Myanmar culture. It was chronicled that Myanmar traditional medicine has been considered to be prestigious in the earliest history of Myanmar such as Tagaung, Srikittira and Bagan periods which was about 600 BC. Myanmar Traditional Medicine is a broad, deep and delicate branch of science covering various basic medical knowledge, different treaties, a diverse array of therapies and potent medicines.



Traditional Medicine promotion office was established under the Department of Health in 1953. It was organized as a division in 1972 managed by an Assistant Director who was responsible for



the development of the services under the technical guidance of the State Traditional Medicine Council. It became the focal point for all the activities related to traditional medicine. The Government upgraded the division to a separate Department in August 1989. It was reorganized and expanded in 1998, to provide comprehensive traditional medicine services through existing health care

system in line with the National Health Plan. The other objectives of the department are to review and explore means to develop safe and efficacious new therapeutic agents and medicine and to produce competent traditional medicine practitioners.

Department of Medical Science

Human Resources for Health are the most important resources for successful implementation of National Health vision and mission. The Department of medical science is carrying out this responsible duty of training & production of all categories of health personnel with the objective to attain appropriate mix of competent human resources for delivering the Quality Health services.

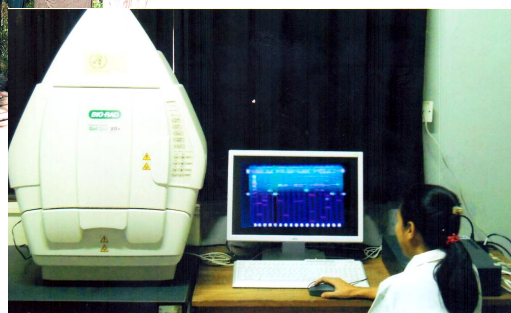
The Department has five divisions namely Graduate/Nursing Training Division, Postgraduate Training & Planning Division, Foreign relation & Library Division, Administrative & Budget Division and Medical Resource Centre. The Department also has one community field Training Centre for practicing the Community Medicine and Field Training.

Supervision of the reviewing, revising and upgrading of the educational programmes and training processes for Quality assurance and Management of faculty development and infrastructure development are the major activities of the Department.



Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar)

The Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar) comprises 22 research divisions, 8 supporting divisions and 10 clinical research units of various disciplines. The department is conducting research on six major diseases as well as investigation of reputed medicinal plants and health systems research under the guidance of Ministry of Health. Its main function includes organizing research in various fields, promoting research capability, and supporting researchers from health institutes, universities and other departments under the Ministry of Health. Research capacity strengthening has been achieved through provision of regular research methodology training, diagnostic laboratory training and advanced technology training. During 2010, as an inter-department cooperation, the department has participated in Yangon Regional Communicable diseases prevention and control projects such as DHF surveillance and outbreak response activities in the region. Also sentinel surveillance of dengue viruses from various endemic regions in Myanmar has been implemented with the aim for consecutive tracking of dengue virus strains to detect currently circulating genotypes and determine changes or emergence of new viral strains for prediction of dengue outbreaks.



Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar)

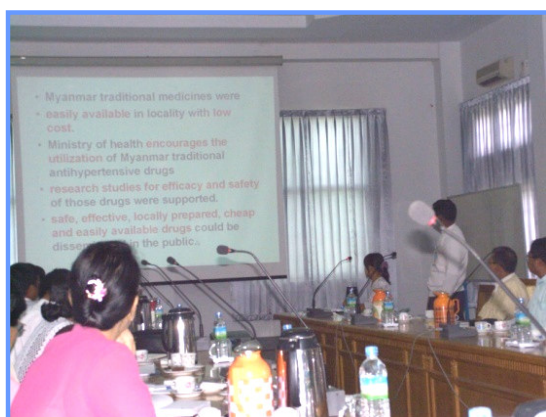
Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar) has been established near *Ani Sa Khan* Airport of Pyin Oo Lwin township since March 2001. Under the guidance of the Ministry of Health, it is actively involved in research studies on identification of novel medicinal plants for treatment of six major diseases, namely tuberculosis, malaria, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, diarrhea and dysentery diseases. Medicinal plants of rare species are collected from states and regions and grown in the herbal gardens of the department. Up to now, 518 species of medicinal plants are grown and maintained.

Ten research units and eight supporting units are currently functioning in the department.

Research areas covered by these units included: reproductive health studies, monitoring of therapeutic efficacy of anti-malarials, operational research on performance of various categories of health staff, assessment of efficacy and side effects of medicinal plants for treatment of diabetes mellitus, hypertension and diarrhea,



seasonal prevalence of malaria vectors and health services utilization status by minor ethnic groups. The studies aim to identify the solutions for problems encountered in implementation of various health activities in the country, particularly in Upper Myanmar.



Research studies are generally formulated and conducted in collaboration with health staff of other departments under the Ministry of Health as well as with renowned international health institutions. Research findings are disseminated to the concerned national programmes of the department of health. Research seminars,

Department of Medical Research (Central Myanmar)

Department of Medical Research (Central Myanmar) [DMR (CM)] was established in December, 2002. During (8) years period, it has collected machines and instruments for the establishment and development of technologies on various fields such as basic histological, immunological, microbiological, hematological, parasitological, pharmacological, biochemical and malaria culture techniques, and these techniques have already been established. Furthermore molecular biological techniques including DNA and RNA



Technology and in-situ hybridization, Real Time (RT-PCR) and Sequencing techniques have



already been established in DMR(CM). Research activities concerned with oral cancer, breast cancer, urinary tract cancer, viral aetiology and carcinogenesis, antibiotic sensitivity testing of dysentery and diarrhoea diseases are being performed and research on various aspects of infectious diseases including influenza, leprosy and cholera are also being conducted in collaboration with local and foreign institutions.

Epidemiological and health system research on Hepatitis C infection, sexually transmitted infection, contraception and dengue hemorrhagic fever are also being carried out. Public services such as cervical cancer screening clinic and laboratory services of Mitter San Yay Clinic, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MMCWA) are being undertaken by staffs of DMR (CM). In addition to technical advices, technological and research methodology training are being performed through workshops, seminars and practical demonstration to various health and related sectors for the establishment of new technology for research and clinical utilization.

