



# April *Update*

## MEINHARDT IN FOCUS

After a sluggish start to 2017, there are now promising signs of improvement in the Myanmar economy. Several of our projects have restarted and we have been awarded several new projects. It is excellent to see the Landmark and Peninsula projects moving ahead. **Now approaching 50 staff**, our Yangon office is well set up to take advantage of the improving economy.

This month in Myanmar and Thailand we celebrate the **Thingyan and Songkran Festivals**. The start of another new year, Meinhardt wishes all our valued clients and associates a prosperous year ahead.

*John S. Anderson*  
Managing Director, Meinhardt Myanmar  
Director, Meinhardt Thailand



## PROJECT IN FOCUS

Yangon can lay claim to one of the most interesting urban landscapes in the world. From the famous Buddhist landmarks constructed over 2,000 years ago, through to the buildings from its more recent colonial past.

Yangon in fact has more British Colonial buildings than any other city in South East Asia. For a long period, Yangon has been the centre of Myanmar’s political, economic and cultural life. **The 120 year old “Secretariat”** stands out as having played a critical role in the country’s history. It was the headquarters of British Colonial administration in Burma and the location where General Aung San and six cabinet ministers were assassinated.

Today, Yangon’s built heritage is at serious risk. After decades of neglect and under pressure from urbanization, time is running out to preserve many landmarks such as the Secretariat from the ravages of time. These buildings employed techniques, considered advanced technologies at the time such as the extensive use of steel.

Meinhardt is involved in this huge buildings renovation. Covering an area of over 40,000 sq.m., the building is being converted for use as a museum, offices, retail space and restaurants.

“The challenge and focus for the structural engineer in restoring the Secretariat is on strengthening and stabilizing of the building. It is a real honour to be able to play a part in restoring my country’s rich heritage.”

*May Sandar Soe*  
Senior Structural Engineer



## STAFF IN FOCUS

**May Sandar Soe**, Senior Structural Engineer recently joined Meinhardt in Yangon after having worked with Meinhardt in Singapore. May obtained MSc (Civil) from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore and ME and BE (Civil) from Yangon Technological University, Myanmar. A talented structural engineer, after 8 years of working in Singapore, May is happy to be home again in Yangon.



## FACT IN FOCUS

Throughout Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos during the month of April, Buddhists observe the water festival. In Myanmar “Thingyan” and in Thailand “Songkran” are celebrated over a period of several days culminating in the “new year”.

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