



# PRESS RELEASE

U.S. EMBASSY RANGOON

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## **U.S. Higher Education Delegation Visit Results in New Education and Exchange Initiatives**

**March 5, 2013** –Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Academic Programs Meghann Curtis joined the Institute of International Education’s CEO and President Dr. Allan Goodman together with representatives from ten U.S. universities in their historic visit to explore potential partnership opportunities in the higher education sector. February 25 to March 1 the delegation met with university counterparts and government officials in Yangon, Mandalay, and Naypyitaw to discuss ways to renew exchanges and scholarly collaboration.

As part of those discussions, Deputy Assistant Secretary Meghann Curtis announced on March 1 that the State Department will once again welcome and encourage university faculty, administrators, and government employees throughout the country to apply for the Fulbright scholarship program to complete a Masters degree in the United States. For more information, please see the Embassy’s website: <http://burma.usembassy.gov/scholarships.html>.

This coincided with the announcement of a number of university-led initiatives involving the following institutions: American University, Arizona State University, Ball State University, Hawaii Pacific University, Northern Arizona University, Northern Illinois University, Rutgers University, Samford University, the University of Massachusetts – Lowell, and the University of Washington. For example:

- Four American universities are committing to form a consortium to assist university libraries in Burma.
- Three universities have agreed to host librarians for up to a month to support the development of academic libraries in local universities.
- Northern Illinois University will fully fund four faculty members to travel to Burma to give lectures in the coming year.
- Samford University will sponsor one technology specialist from their faculty to come to the Myanmar Institute of Theology to help them upgrade their technological capacity.

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