



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. EMBASSY RANGOON

110 University Avenue, Kamayut Township, Rangoon, Burma

June 15, 2014

U.S. Helps Strengthen Local Courts' Capacity to Protect IPR

For Immediate Release

Nay Pyi Taw, July 15, 2014 – Today, over 60 judges from union, regional and district levels along with officials from related government ministries gathered in Nay Pyi Taw to learn from U.S. legal experts about international practices used by courts to protect Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).

At a three-day workshop organized by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in collaboration with the Myanmar Supreme Court, U.S. judges and IPR legal experts from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will share practical insights into the importance of protecting IPR, including complying with requirements in key international IPR agreements such as the WTO's Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement and the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint.

"The United States strongly supports efforts to strengthen IPR protection. We believe a sound IPR protection system will encourage innovation and creativity among a wide range of local individuals and businesses, ensuring that the people of this country benefit from the reforms," said USAID Mission Director Chris Milligan.

Strengthening the legal framework for protecting IPR is part of the United States' support to help accelerate inclusive, private-sector-led economic development in Myanmar, to strengthen bilateral economic relations, and to facilitate the country's integration into regional and international markets. As seen with many regional neighbors, spurring innovation can be a critical stimulus for generating economic development and long-term growth.

For more information, please contact Saskia Funston at funstonsa@state.gov or Htin Aung Kyaw at kyawha@state.gov.

###