

Zaw Wai Soe

Name: **Zaw Wai Soe**



Professor Zaw Wai Soe is a Burmese physician, orthopedic surgeon, and professor who currently serves as Rector of the University of Medicine 1, Yangon since 20 May 2015. He previously served as Rector of the University of Medicine 2, Yangon from 2014 to 2015.

Career

Zaw Wai Soe graduated with M.B., B.S from University of Medicine 2, Yangon in 1986 and served as a civil assistant surgeon for 3 years in Myingan District Hospital. He attained M. Med. Sc. (Orthopedics and Traumatology) from University of Medicine, Mandalay in 1995. In 1997, he passed FRCS (Glasgow) examination and worked as an orthopedic registrar in Falkirk Royal Infirmary, Scotland, for 2 years.

After arriving back to motherland in 2000, he worked in Orthopedic Department of the Yangon General Hospital, Yangon Orthopedic Hospital and the University of Medicine (1) Yangon. He obtained Dr. Med. Sc. (Ortho) in 2005 and Diploma in Medical Education in 2006.

He also served as the Rector of the University of Medicine (2) Yangon from 2014 to 2015. In April 2018, he was nominated by the elected Government as the President of the Rectors' Committee of Myanmar, which comprises 161 Universities and has the task of renovating Myanmar Higher Education System.

His is one of the key founders of Spine Surgery and Emergency Medicine in Myanmar and was also working on the establishment of the first Ambulance System in Myanmar. He has founded the first Medical Skill, Simulation and Research center in Myanmar which is a highly equipped training center and made it available to medical doctors, nurses, and other sectors of medical science.

During the Covid-19 emergency, he has served as Vice-President of the Yangon Region Covid-19 Prevention, Control and Management Coordination Committee.

Relation with University of Parma & Emilia-Romagna Region

The University of Medicine 1 Yangon, under the lead of Rector Zaw Wai Soe, has started collaborating with the University of Parma already in 2016. A cooperation agreement has been signed between the University of Medicine 1 Yangon (UM1) and the University of Parma (UNIPR) in 2017. Following the Agreement numerous mutual exchanges of students, professors and technical personnel between the two Universities took place.

With the support of Professor Zaw Wai Soe, the collaboration has been extended to other Myanmar Universities, including the University of Medicine Mandalay and the University of Nursing of Yangon. Over the years, the collaboration has been extended to the Emilia-Romagna Region (RER) in particular to the Health Agency of the Region. In June 2019, the former Health Assessor of the Emilia-Romagna Region, Dr Sergio Venturi, and the Rector of the University of Parma, Prof. Paolo Andrei, visited Myanmar and met with Professor Zaw Wai Soe to further the collaboration between two countries. Thanks to the mediation of Professor Zaw Wai Soe, the Italian Delegation met with the Ministry of Health and Sports and with the Ministry of Education to officially give start to the Italian-Myanmar Laboratory for exchanges of health best-practices.

Professor Zaw Wai Soe himself came several times to the Emilia-Romagna Region, to foster exchanges of best practices in the health sector.

Below a list of ongoing projects between UM1 and UNIPR and others, realized thanks to the lead and support of Professor Zaw Wai Soe:

Overworld: students of the Department of Medicine and Surgery of UNIPR spend 3 months at UM1 to do internship and/or research.

- International Credit Mobility Erasmus + KA107, financed by the European Union. Project won in August 2018, expected deadline July 2020 (postponed because of COVID-19). The project allows to foster bilateral exchanges of students, professors and technical-administrative staff of the two Universities.
- International Credit Mobility Erasmus + KA107 Erasmus + KA107, between UM1, UNIPR and the University of Foreign Languages of Yangon. Project won in August 2020, deadline in July 2022.
- Collaboration between UM1, UNIPR, General Practitioners Society of Myanmar (GPs) and RER to strengthen the primary health care system in Myanmar.
- Italy-Brazil-Myanmar Laboratory for exchange of health best-practices.
- Advanced post-graduate course in Family Medicine and Integrated Primary Care in collaboration between UM1, UNIPR, GPs, and RER.
- Video-conferences for exchanges of best practices between the two countries for preparedness and response to COVID-19 pandemic.