



MEDIA RELEASE

New agreement with Ar Yone Oo Social Development Association

15 July 2017

Australian local government's peak national organisation, LG Professionals Australia, is entering a new working partnership with Ar Yone Oo Social Development Association in Myanmar. Via this agreement, LG Professionals Australia will create a presence in Myanmar to play its part in strengthening the democratic system in the country, by offering technical and governance support for local-level governance.

‘Working with Ar Yone Oo Social Development Association enables LG Professionals Australia to connect with and support the newly accessible civil society in Myanmar. This partnership will provide a platform to create new opportunities for the communities of Myanmar to build competencies and connect with skilled, local government professionals from Australia. Our members have a deep knowledge and technical expertise of local governance, and have applied that in our international programs throughout the region in a wide range of challenges faced by communities new to creating and running governance frameworks’, said Ricki Bruhn, President of LG Professionals Australia.

‘Local government has a long history in Australia, and there’s a lot of expertise we hope to share and learn from over the coming months. Initially, we will focus on building skills in project management, participatory planning, resource management and leadership’, said Cin Khan Lian, Director of Ar Yone Oo Social Development Association.

The first project to be launched as part of this new agreement will see Ar Yone Oo Social Development Association become the in-country implementing partner for the LG Professionals Australia International Mentoring Program (IMP).

The IMP, which currently operates in Nepal and Cambodia, links mentors from Australian councils with mentees in developing countries to design and implement a community-based project, which can be taken as examples of how community members can bring changes in their society with small interventions.

About LG Professionals Australia

LG Professionals Australia is a federation with offices in NSW, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC and WA, and a national office based in Melbourne. We are part of an international network that shares thought leadership, best practice, and the latest research to support good local governance and build better communities. Our members learn from and experience local government in other countries and broaden their perspective on the possibilities, as well as build networks and collaborate with like-minded peers from around the world. They gain experience in a wider capacity, test their expertise while extending their skills in an international context, and create and influence projects from the ground up. They contribute their knowledge and expertise, to make a real and practical difference to international and developing communities. For more information about LG Professionals Australia, visit www.lgprofessionalsaustralia.org.au

About Ar Yone Oo Social Development Association

Ar Yone Oo Development Association was formed in Myanmar in 2008. It is a non-political, non-sectarian and not-for-profit organisation, committed to serving the most vulnerable people in Myanmar society. It works to create, build and support community-based organisations (CBOs) for sustainability of development projects. With 100 staff, Ar Yone Oo runs several projects across the country; its head office is in Yangon.

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