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Union Minister for Education opens Asi@Connect National Launching Ceremony



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi delivers the speech at the Asi@Connect National Launching Ceremony in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Asi@Connect National Launching Ceremony was held at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon yesterday, with an opening speech by Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi.

Asi@Connect, begun at the Asia-Europe Meeting in 2001, is a project aided by the European Union for establishing a Trans-Eurasia Information Network – TEIN.

Universities and research departments from 24 Asian countries are cooperating on the project and conducting research by contacting 50 million European researchers via the GEANT network.

The programme seeks to reduce the gap in digital technology in the region, which is one of the six main tasks of the project.

With the assistance of Asi@Connect Project, 13 types of training courses for teachers at technological universities in regions and states are being conducted at the University of Computer Studies, Yangon, in the 2019-2020 academic year.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi said a good environment, encouraging learning,

training, research and creativity, is being established to expand the abilities of students, youths and lifelong learners in the higher education reform processes.

Research is the lifeline of a university, and also important to develop a nation's economy and ensure long-term harmonious development, he added.

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Financial authorities, Kayin State SMEs discuss loans

FINANCIAL authorities held a meeting with small- and medium-sized enterprises in Kayin State yesterday to discuss granting loans to enterprises.

Some 150 businesspersons from Kayin State attended the meeting with the committee on providing financial assistance for private sector development, which was led by Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win.

The local businesspersons requested that authorities relax rules for obtaining SME loans, extend the loan period and coordination from the governmental departments for granting land ownership documents, and decrease interest rates.

The officials from the committee explained the loan process and discussed the issues presented by the businesspersons. Kayin Region Chief Minister Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint, Kayin State Minister for Planning, Finance and Development Affairs, officials from the Myanma Agricultural Development Bank and from the Central Bank of Myanmar were also present at the meeting.

—MNA ■
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

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Ph: 09 346097733, 09 68800067
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STARMART nine mile showroom-
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