

## 19<sup>th</sup> National-level monsoon forum held

UNDER the aegis of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the Ministry of Transport and Communication, Department of Meteorology and Hydrology and Thailand-based Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System held the 19th national-level monsoon forum yesterday at the Royal ACE Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

Dr Kyaw Moe Oo, director-general (joint) of the department of meteorology and hydrology, gave a welcoming speech, followed by an address from Ms. Ruby Rose S. Policarpio, Institutional Development Specialist of the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES).

Afterward, responsible offi-

cial of the department of meteorology and hydrology and RIMES made reviews of preparations as per season, an assessment of suggestions from the monsoon discussions, preparation of the implementation process, a review of the wet seasons in 2017 and a pre-review of the dry seasons in 2018, sharing knowledge on uses of weather forecasts, news releases on weather for Myanmar and major facts from the research of necessities, preparations for the dry season (winter) 2017-2018, risks of earthquakes and preparations. In response to the clarifications, those present at the meeting engaged in discussions. Concerning holding the monsoon forum, Dr Kyaw Moe Oo said, "The forum was held with a view to making bet-

ter forecasts by taking the advantages and disadvantages of weather forecasts after applying previous forecasts on natural disasters and making preparations for worksites by making known to public natural disasters from the weather forecasts."

Ma Su Su Myint, Project Officer of RIMES said, "Since the advent of the 2017 national level monsoon forums were held, two times in a year — pre-monsoon and post-monsoon. By using suggestions received from previous forums, at the 18<sup>th</sup> national level monsoon forum we introduced an application on agriculture in monsoon season for farmers. This year, the application can be used in Myanmar. This is a success gained from holding monsoon forums."—MNA ■



Participants pose for a documentary photo after holding 19<sup>th</sup> National-level monsoon forum. PHOTO: MNA

## Thura U Shwe Mann receives outgoing UN Resident Coordinator



Chairman Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with United Nations Resident Coordinator Ms. Renata Nicola Lok-Dessallien in Nay Pyi Taw on 25 October 2017. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

PYIDAUNGSU Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Chairman Thura U Shwe Mann yesterday received United Nations Resident Coordinator Ms. Renata Nicola Lok-Dessallien, who is concluding her tour of duty in Myanmar, at the Hluttaw Building Hall in Nay Pyi Taw, at 10:00 am.

During the meeting, the Commission Chairman ex-

pressed thanks to the UN Resident Coordinator for her cooperation and efforts for assisting Myanmar within her tour of duty.

Also present at the meeting were officials from UN Resident Coordinator Office, U San Shwe Aung, member of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and officials from the office.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Terrifying new elephant poaching epidemic to meet demand for 'health' jewellery made from their skin

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"It could be disastrous. With China banning ivory, more traders are going to think, 'Why don't we sell skin instead?' We need to stop this before demand for beads really takes hold." Charities are working with the Myanmar government to deploy anti-poaching teams, fit tracking collars to elephants and crack down on illegal wildlife markets.

Last year, Elephant Family, a London-based elephants conservation group, enlisted British detectives to probe the trade. They found it was growing rapidly. Most skin is trafficked through Mong La, a

border town where Myanmar's government has no control. It is a notorious hub for the illegal wildlife trade and child prostitution.

Ex-policeman John, whose name has been changed to protect his undercover work, said: "One trader told us he delivered 30kg of elephant skin to a customer for the first time and he sold it all. He ordered more straight away. Several traders said the same thing.

"That rang alarm bells. If they can see there is a growing market, they're going to push it more."

Over the border, smugglers head to Xishuangbanna, in South West China. Investi-

gators did not find much skin, a sign that most was being shipped further into the country, where it can fetch \$120 per kilo — seven times the price in Myanmar.

But they found numerous traders looking for ways to refine the elephant skin to make it less likely to deteriorate when wet. The team also found bracelets being sold widely on Chinese websites.

There is a risk they will become a status symbol for China's rapidly growing middle class — and criminal gangs will muscle in.

With a population of 1.4 billion people, a Chinese obsession could kill off the world's

elephants within decades.

If demand increases, African elephants could be next. Vietnam and Thailand have previously been exposed as hubs for traffickers moving endangered animal products out of Africa.

John said: "We have to target the demand for elephant skin. If we fail, the consequences will be catastrophic."

### Huge threat to gentle giants

In 1997 there were some 10,000 Asian elephants in Myanmar. It is feared there are now just 1,400 and the skin trade boom could kill them off in two years.

There are about 30,000 to 40,000 Asian elephants left, down from about 100,000 in 1900. They are endangered.

On the African continent, about 350,000 African elephants remain in the wild — a 97 per cent decline from the estimated 12 million in 1900.

The ivory trade was banned in 1990, yet this and antique ivory has still been booming.

Last year's Great Elephant Census found 144,000 African elephants killed for ivory in the past decade. The animals are also slain for meat and body parts.

*This article is originally appeared in the Daily Mirror.*

### Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to the Global New Light of Myanmar at No. 150, Nga Htat Kye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to [dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com](mailto:dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com) with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Real name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.). — Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar news office