

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND VILLAGES

A project to help young Myanmar generations to use the cultural heritage of their villages for achieving a better life standard, for not leaving their home place, for protecting monuments, religion and traditions. The project is based on three major facts:

Myanmar has an huge amount of cultural heritage (temples, buildings, natural areas) which are distributed in all territory . There is **the risk of loosing this humanity's patrimony specially in areas where tourism is not yet developed and population has problems to survive.** If they abandon the territory the monuments suffer and to avoid the depletion is difficult.

Myanmar ongoing **economic growth** ,among other effects, **increases the population internal migration.** People move towards metropolitan and city areas leaving the rural and coastal zones where often cultural heritage is located. **Migration is affecting mainly Myanmar young people.**

Tourism is increasing in Myanmar and new business initiatives are attracting international tourists. Cultural , social and natural interests are strongly characterising the tourism specially from western countries. The, so named, cultural tourism is expected to play a relevant role in the near future.

Many not-famous areas contain unique cultural heritage and there is absence of tourism infrastructures.

Culture2All, who realised the first Collective Exhibition of Myanmar Artists <http://www.culture2all.com/catalogo-myanmar-art-italy-2016/> is promoting a sustainable exploitation of the cultural heritage. For consensus raising the project has been shared with Embassy of Italy in Yangon, Myanmar Embassy in Rome, Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Myanmar Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Religion, Chamber of Commerce Italy Myanmar, private stakeholders and enterprises both in Italy and in Myanmar, with artists and professionals and many citizens of both nations.

Contacts as in the footer.

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The schools or orphanages of small villages in the vicinity of cultural heritage are the best places for performing a teaching art laboratory for letting young pupils to understand how to respect, to preserve and to use the cultural heritage. A task force of artists and teachers will teach basic concepts and abilities in strict collaboration with residential teachers. The most sustainable techniques will be used together with the teaching aids and equipments, which will be donated to the school. **After being involved in the issue the students will share the acquired knowledge with the parents and they will be motivated to respect the monuments and to consider the cultural heritage as a resource for their own future.** In the next few years some of them, growing up, might be interested in becoming **artists and masters for restoration**, some to become **professional guides**, some will be **involved in hotels and restaurants**, and some others will go to **university or become artists, entrepreneurs , etc..** During the project Burmese artists and experts teach a laboratory of arts education fundamentals to young students using aids and equipments which will be donated. The teaching will be particularly oriented to cultural heritage monuments .

At the same time some experts of C2A NGO visit the cultural heritage place/s and carry out a quick survey of monuments, of surrounding environment and of population settled in the area. The action identifies also local players (monks, teachers, people) to create and maintain a network and to monitor the follow-up.

The rationale is that: **arising awareness and building capacity in young generations the monuments will be preserved, people will find job opportunities, territory will be protected and, first of all, traditional culture and religion will be maintained in the place.**

A tentative list of cultural heritage places and villages:

- Kakku Pagodas in the Shan State ;
- Sa Lay in Magway State ;
- Mrauk U in Raikine State ;
- Kyaukpadaung, Mandalay Division ;

The preparation phase of the project already started.

Funds and resources raising plan is based on :

- donations and financing ;
- in kind donations;
- effort of voluntaries.

Contacts as in the footer.