

BACI

Burmese American Community Institute

Advocating • Connecting • Educating • Serving



Spring Flowers International Conference on Myanmar

Feb 5, 2022 - Feb 12, 2022

Opening Ceremony

Welcoming Message



Governor Eric Holcomb

Eric Joseph Holcomb is an American politician serving as the 51st and current governor of Indiana since 2017. A member of the Republican Party, he served as the 51st lieutenant governor of Indiana from 2016 to 2017 under Governor Mike Pence, who left the governorship in 2017 to become the vice president of the United States. Holcomb was nominated to fill the remainder of Lieutenant Governor Sue Ellspermann's term after she resigned on March 2, 2016, to become president of Ivy Tech Community College. He won the 2016 election for governor of Indiana over Democratic nominee John R. Gregg. Holcomb was reelected in 2020 over Democratic nominee Woody Myers and Libertarian nominee Donald Rainwater.



Time : 6:30 PM - 10:30 PM

Date : Feb 5, 2022

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Spring Flowers International Conference on Myanmar

Feb 5, 2022- Feb 12, 2022

Opening Ceremony

Keynote Address



H.E. Duwa Lashi La

President of National Unity Government of Myanmar

Duwa Lashi La is a Burmese Kachin politician and lawyer who is the president of the Kachin National Consultative Council. He was named by the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, on 13 April 2021, as the vice-president in the National Unity Government of Myanmar, a parallel government to the State Administrative Council formed after the 2021 coup. On 7 September 2021, Duwa Lashi La announced that from today the defensive war against the military junta has been launched — urges the citizens to revolt against the junta in every corner of the country.



Time : 6:30 PM - 10:30 PM EST

Date : Feb 5, 2022



Spring Flowers International Conference on Myanmar

Feb 5, 2022- Feb 12, 2022

Opening Ceremony Keynote Address



Daniel J. Kritenbrink
Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of State

Daniel J. Kritenbrink became Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs on September 24, 2021. A career member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, Kritenbrink has been an American diplomat since 1994.



Time : 6:30 PM - 10:30 PM EST

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Spring Flowers International Conference on Myanmar

Feb 5, 2022 Feb 12, 2022

Opening Ceremony



Keynote Address

H.E Dr Zaw Wai Soe
Union Minister of Health and Education, NUG

Zaw Wai Soe is a Burmese orthopaedics surgeon, physician, and professor who currently serves as the acting Union Minister for the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Health and Sports since 2 March 2021, appointed by the CRPH. He is the current Rector of the University of Medicine 1, Yangon since 20 May 2015, and previously served as Rector of the University of Medicine 2, Yangon from 2014 to 2015. He acts furthermore as the task force leader for reforming sixteen medical related universities in Myanmar.



Time : 6:30 PM - 10:30 PM EST

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Spring Flowers International Conference on Myanmar

Feb 5, 2022~ Feb 12, 2022

Opening Ceremony

Keynote Address



H.E Dr. Sa Sa

Union Minister of International Cooperation, NUG

Dr Sasa, is a Chin medical doctor, philanthropist and civil society activist who currently serves as the Minister of International Cooperation in the cabinet of National Unity Government. He previously served as the Special Envoy of Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) to the United Nations. He is the founder of Health and Hope, A Christian health organization that works with churches to promote development in Chin State and trains villagers to become community health workers. Sasa has been recognised as one of the "Tearfund's Inspired Individuals" for his contributions in Myanmar.



Time : 6:30 PM - 10:30 PM EST

Date : Feb 5, 2022

Spring Flowers

International Conference on Myanmar

Humanitarian Emergencies, Protection of Refugees/IDPs, and Voices of the Margins

Feb 9, 2022

Keynote Address



H.E. Dr. Win Myat Aye
Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management

Dr. Win Myat Aye is the holder of M.B.,B.S (Ygn), M.Med.Sc (Paediatrics), Dr.Med.Sc (Paediatrics), Diploma in Medical Education and FRCP (UK). He served as a civil servant for 26 years in various positions from medical doctor to Consultant Paediatrician to Professor, then from Professor to Rector. After his retirement, he was elected as a member of parliament for Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) in the 2015 General Elections and then served as the Union Minister for the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement since 1st April 2016. With his leadership, the ministry became one of the most high-performing and key ministries in the first civilian-led government after decades of military rule in Myanmar. He took part in the 2020 General Elections representing Bago Region Number (5) Constituency from the NLD party and won his seat. After the military coup, he was appointed as the Union Minister for the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management of National Unity Government (NUG) Myanmar.



Spring Flowers International Conference on Myanmar Federal Democratic Constitution-Making and Durable Peace

Feb 10, 2022 at 7:30-11:00pm via zoom
Keynote Address



H.E. Mai Win Htoo
Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Federal Union Affairs

Mai Win Htoo, Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Federal Union Affairs of the National Unity Government, was born in Myo Thit Village, Namsang Township, and belongs to the Ta'ang ethnicity. He obtained a Diploma Degree in AGTI-MT in the year 2002 and LL.B in 2013 respectively. During a year term from 2009 to 2010, he worked as the Second Joint Secretary for the Ta'ang Students and Youths Organization (TSYO), and Vice Chairman for the Ta'ang Youth Association (TYA) for 2 years beginning from 2012 to 2014. After another two years in 2016, he participated as the Pyithu Hluttaw Representative of the Namsang electoral district until 2020. While he was working as the Pyithu Hluttaw Representative, he also worked as the member of Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee, a standing committee of the Pyithu Hluttaw. At the same time, he was involved in the Defence budget Scrutiny Team as a member. Besides these responsibilities, the Deputy Minister also took responsibility as a General Secretary of the Ta'ang (Palaung) National Party from 2015 to 2020. During the 2020 General Elections, he competed and won as the Pyithu Hluttaw Representative for No. (2) Namsang electoral district. In the meantime, he is simultaneously serving as the Committee member of the Ta'ang Political Consultative Committee (TPCC) and the Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Federal Union Affairs of the National Unity Government.

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Spring Flowers International Conference on Myanmar

Feb 9, 2022

The Roles and Conflicting Interests of the UN, Regional Powers, and ASEAN



Daw Khin Ohmar

Khin Ohmar is a veteran activist from Burma/Myanmar with over 30 years of experience working for a free and democratic Burma. As a student, she was involved in organizing the nationwide pro-democracy uprising in 1988 and later continued campaigning from exile for democracy, human rights, justice, and accountability in Burma. She is a founding member of a number of civil society organizations including Women's League of Burma (WLB) and Progressive Voice, a Myanmar human rights research and advocacy organization that amplifies voices from the ground. Ohmar testified before a number of esteemed legislatures and international bodies including the US Congress and UN Human Rights Council. She is the 2008 Anna Lindh Prize recipient and co-recipient of the Vital Voices Global Leadership Award for Human Rights. In 2012, drawing from her own experience with activism and trauma at individual and community level, she co-authored "Trauma and Recovery on War's Borders: A Guide for Global Health Workers", a guide for mental health workers in regions traumatized by war, human rights violations, and poverty across the globe. Currently, Ohmar serves as Chair of the Advisory Board of Progressive Voice.

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Spring Flowers International Conference on Myanmar

Feb 9, 2022

**Humanitarian
Emergencies, Protection of
Refugees/IDPs, and Voices
of the Margins**



Ms. Debbie Stothard

Debbie Stothard is an active promoter of human rights in Burma and the ASEAN region. During her 32-year career, she has worked as a journalist, community education consultant, governmental advisor, and trainer in Malaysia, Australia, and Thailand. In 1996, she founded the Alternative ASEAN Network on Burma (ALTSEAN-Burma) and was elected Secretary-General of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) in 2013. Ms. Stothard has served as an instructor at multiple Global Raphael Lemkin Seminars.

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Spring Flowers International Conference on Myanmar Feb 5-12, 2022

**The Struggles for
Ethnic Equality,
Press Freedom, and
Human Security**



Dr. Khen Suan Khai

Mae Fah Luang University, Social Innovations
Department, Faculty Member. Studies Social
transformation, International Development.

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Spring Flowers International Conference on Myanmar

Feb 9, 2022

The Roles and Conflicting Interests of the UN, Regional Powers, and ASEAN



Dr. Michal Lubina

Michal Lubina is Associate Professor of Political Science at the Jagiellonian University, Poland. He is the author of seven books, including "The Moral Democracy: The Political Thought of Aung San Suu Kyi" (2019) and "Russia and China: A political marriage of convenience - stable and successful"

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Spring Flowers International Conference on Myanmar

Keynote Address



The Power of PDF- EAO-Community Collaboration

H.E. U Yee Mon
Minister of Defense, NUG

U Yee Mon is a Burmese poet, former political prisoner, and politician currently serving as Minister of Defense of National Unity Government of Myanmar.

He was in medical school during the pro-democracy uprising of 1988 against the military junta that ruled Burma. He participated in the protests, and was imprisoned by the regime for seven years. In the 2015 general election, he successfully ran as a candidate for Parliament with the National League for Democracy in a district in the national capital of Naypyidaw. He received 27,321 votes, narrowly defeating U Wai Lwin, a powerful former military general who had been defense minister until a few months before the elections. His victory was viewed as a surprise because the district has more than 7,000 soldiers and 2,000 police officers, who were seen as likely to favor an ex-general.

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Time : 9:10 PM-10:50 PM (EST)

Date : Feb 8, 2022

Spring Flowers International Conference on Myanmar

Feb 8, 2022, 7:30 PM (EST) via Zoom

**Security Sector Reform,
Creating a Federal Army
and Civil-
Military Relations**



Dr. Donald M .Seekins

Dr. Donald M. Seekins is an Emeritus Professor of Southeast Asian Studies at Meio University in Okinawa, Japan. He is the author of Historical Dictionary of Burma (Myanmar)(Rowman & Littlefield,2017), State and Society in Modern Rangoon (Routledge, 2011), and Burma and Japan since 1940: From ‘Co-prosperity’ to ‘Quiet Dialogue’ (2007). Currently,Professor Seekins co-edited a book entitled Social Transformations in India, Myanmar, andThailand: Volume I Social, Political and Ecological Perspectives (2021). He was also an Adjunct Professor of History at the University of Maryland University College.’

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Spring Flowers International Conference on Myanmar

Feb 9, 2022

Panelist

**Institution building, public
finance and provision of
public goods**



Saw Kapi

Saw Kapi is the Founding Director of the Salween Institute for Public Policy where he provides leadership for the Fellowship. He previously served as the Executive Director of Thabyay Education Foundation and has spent more than twelve years working within the U.S. higher education system – including as the Director of Admissions and Records at California State University, Bakersfield. Since his return to Myanmar, Saw Kapi has been actively advocating for a better education system in his native country. He has been involved in the national efforts for education reform through a broad network of Myanmar educators. Saw Kapi earned his B.A. in International Relations from San Francisco State University, and holds an M.A. in Development Economics from Williams College.

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Spring Flowers International Conference on Myanmar

Feb 10, 2022

Panelist

Progress of Federal Democratic Constitution Making and Durable Peace



Professor David C. Williams
Indiana University Bloomington

David C. Williams graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University, where he served on the Board of Editors for the Harvard Law Review. He is a popular lecturer on Native American people and on the Second Amendment. Winner of the Wallace Teaching Award and the Leonard D. Fromm Public Interest Faculty Award, Williams teaches constitutional law and Native American law. Williams has taught at the University of Paris and lectured around the world. He was a member of the faculty of law at the University of Cambridge and a fellow at that university's Wolfson College. He was also a fellow at the European University Institute in Fiesole.

A noted constitutional law scholar, Williams has written widely on constitutional design, Native American law, the constitutional treatment of difference, and the relationship between constitutionalism and political violence. He is the author of *The Mythic Meanings of the Second Amendment: Taming Political Violence in a Constitutional Republic* (Yale University Press, 2003). He is also co-editor and primary author of *Designing Federalism in Burma* (UNLD Press 2005), which is widely read in the Burma democracy movement.

As Executive Director of the Center for Constitutional Democracy, Williams consults with a number of reform movements abroad. He advises many elements of the Burma democracy movement on the constitutional future of that country. He is a consultant to the government of Liberia on its constitutional revision process and has helped to write Liberia's law reform and anti-corruption statutes. He is also the primary author of the first treatise on the meaning of the Liberian constitution (forthcoming). More recently, he has become a constitutional advisor to the Democratic Party of Vietnam to help the party find ways to work with the government of Vietnam for peaceful reform.

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Spring Flowers International Conference on Myanmar

Keynote Speaker



Dr. Larry Diamond
Stanford University

**Inclusive
Democracy,
Press Freedom
and Open Society**

Larry Diamond is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, the Mosbacher Senior Fellow in Global Democracy at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI), and a Bass University Fellow in Undergraduate Education at Stanford University. He is also professor by courtesy of Political Science and Sociology at Stanford. He leads the Hoover Institution's programs on China's Global Sharp Power and on Taiwan in the Indo-Pacific Region. At FSI, he leads the Program on Arab Reform and Democracy, based at the Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law, which he directed for more than six years. He also co-leads with (Eileen Donahoe) the Global Digital Policy Incubator, based at FSI's Cyber Policy Center. He is the founding coeditor of the Journal of Democracy and also serves as senior consultant at the International Forum for Democratic Studies of the National Endowment for Democracy. His research focuses on democratic trends and conditions around the world and on policies and reforms to defend and advance democracy. His latest edited book (with Orville Schell), *China's Influence and American Interests* (Hoover Press, 2019), urges a posture of constructive vigilance toward China's global projection of "sharp power," which it sees as a rising threat to democratic norms and institutions. He offers a massive open online course (MOOC) on Comparative Democratic Development through the edX platform and is now writing a textbook to accompany it.

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Wednesday, Feb 9, 2022, 7:30 PM EST

Spring Flowers International Conference on Myanmar

International Instruments and Responses to Ongoing Atrocities



Benedict Rogers

Benedict Richard Victor Rogers (born 14 June 1974^{[1][2]}) is a British human rights activist and journalist based in London. His work focuses on Asia, specialising particularly on Burma, North Korea and Indonesia, but has also covered the Maldives, East Timor, Pakistan and Hong Kong. He is a regular contributor to The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times and The Huffington Post and has appeared on BBC, CNN, Sky, Al Jazeera and other television and radio stations.

He is the co-founder and deputy chairman of the Conservative Party's human rights commission and the co-founder of the International Coalition to Stop Crimes Against Humanity in North Korea.^[3] He is also the East Asia Team Leader at Christian Solidarity Worldwide and the founder of Hong Kong Watch. He is also a member of the advisory group of the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC) and an advisor to the World Uyghur Congress.^[4] On 31 July 2020 it was announced that he will be appointed to the new role of Chief Executive of Hong Kong Watch late September the same year.^[4] He has written three books which focus on Burma and co-authored two others on Christian human rights obligations.

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Feb 9, 2022

Spring Flowers International Conference on Myanmar

February 9, 2022

Inclusive Democracy, Press Freedom and Open Society



Ma Thida

Ma Thida is a Burmese human rights activist, surgeon, writer, and former prisoner of conscience. In October of 1994, she was arrested and sentenced to 20 years in Insein Prison on the charges of “endangering public peace, having contact with illegal organizations, and distributing unlawful literature.” In 1996 she was the recipient of that year’s PEN/Barbara Goldsmith Freedom to Write Award, but she was not released until 1999, after serving six years in harsh conditions. She was released on humanitarian grounds due in part to her declining health, international pressure, and advocacy on the part of human rights organizations like Amnesty International and the PEN network.

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Spring Flowers International Conference on Myanmar

The Roles and Conflicting Interests of the UN, Regional Powers, and ASEAN



Phil Robertson is the Deputy Director of Human Rights Watch's Asia Division. He oversees the organization's work throughout Asia, with special focus on Southeast Asia and the Korean peninsula. He serves as a human rights advocate engaging with government and UN agency officials, a spokesperson representing the organization's views who regularly contributes to national and international media stories on SE Asia, a strategic campaigner on rights cases and causes, and a researcher and writer on topics of human rights, labor rights, refugees and migration.

Prior to joining Human Rights Watch in 2009, he worked for fifteen years in Southeast Asia on human rights, labor rights, protection of migrant workers, and counter-human trafficking efforts with a variety of non-governmental organizations, international and regional trade union federations, and UN agencies. As program manager of the UN Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking (UNIAP), he oversaw the successful negotiation of the first regional inter-governmental agreement on human trafficking in the greater Mekong sub-region. As a consultant, he researched and wrote the seminal report on trafficking and rights abuses in the Thai fishing industry in 2009. Working for the Task Force on ASEAN Migrant Workers, he co-led the multi-stakeholder, multi-country process and served as primary drafter of the comprehensive civil society proposal to ASEAN for a legal instrument to protect and promote the rights of migrant workers. He directed the Mainland Southeast Asia office of the AFL-CIO's Solidarity Center, working on trade union rights, democratic political reform, and rights of migrant workers, focusing on Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, and Thailand. He also worked as a professional staff member of the Asia Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee in Washington, DC. A 1997 graduate of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, he is fluent in Thai and Lao.

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Feb 9, 2022

Spring Flowers International Conference on Myanmar

Feb 9, 2022

International Instruments and Responses against the ongoing Atrocities



U Aung Htoo

Mr. Aung Htoo was born in Burma/Myanmar, graduated in 1972, and became a lawyer in 1977. He has been active in the pro-democracy movement since 1974. In a demonstration, he was shot at his right leg, which was broken and was also detained in Insein prison for six months. While practicing as a lawyer in Yangon, he was detained again, without being tried at the court, from 1981 to 1983 under the 1975 State Protection Act. When the nationwide popular democratic uprising against the military regime occurred in August 1988, Mr. Htoo became the Joint General Secretary of the Central Strike Committee, in Taunggyi. In 1992, he initiated to form Burma Lawyers' Council, with a group of democratic lawyers who have got to liberated area of Burma; and, took responsibility as the General Secretary of the organization up to February 18, 2012. As an attempt to indict the leaders of Myanmar military in the ICC, Burma Lawyers' Council convened an international seminar held in Bangkok, Thailand, in May 2009. The regime issued an arrest warrant against him and attempted to kidnap him. Then, Mr. Htoo and his family took refuge in Sweden and now they have become Swedish citizens. On Oct 30, 2012, Mr. Htoo founded Legal Aid Network.

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Feb 9, 2022, 7:30 PM EST via Zoom



Catherine Renshaw

Inclusive Democracy, Press Freedom and Open Society

Catherine Renshaw is a Professor in the School of Law at the Western Sydney University. Her research focuses on human rights and democracy in Southeast Asia. She has also been a Visiting Scholar at the Centre for International Governance and Justice at The Australian National University.

She is the author of numerous journal articles and book chapters, an editor of the Journal of South Asian Law and between 2008 and 2010 she was Director of an Australian Research Council project based at the Australian Human Rights Centre at the University of New South Wales. She is admitted to practice as a lawyer in the Supreme Court of New South Wales and the High Court of Australia.

Catherine's research focuses on international law, international human rights law, particularly in Southeast Asia, and regional systems for the promotion and protection of human rights.



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Spring Flowers International Conference on Myanmar



Dr. Ashley South

**Institution Building,
Public Finance and
Provision of Public
Goods - Education**

Ashley South has 20 years' experience as an independent author, researcher and consultant. He has a PhD from the Australian National University, and an MSc from SOAS (University of London), and is a Research Fellow at Chiang Mai University. Main research interests: ethnic conflict and peace processes in Burma/Myanmar and Mindanao; forced migration (refugees and internally displaced people); politics of language and education; climate change (mitigation, adaptation and resilience).

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Spring Flowers International Conference on Myanmar Feb 5-12, 2022



Dr. Terese Gagnon

Terese Gagnon is a PhD candidate at Syracuse University, where she is writing her dissertation in dialogue with Karen individuals from Myanmar, exploring relationships between people, plants, and sensory politics in forced migration and exile.



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Ms. Khin Mai Aung

Khin Mai Aung, JD, is the Director of the Educational Equity Program at the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) in New York City, NY. AALDEF's Educational Equity Program advocates on issues such as bilingual education, language access, bias-based harassment, school discipline, post 9-11 and gang profiling, affirmative action, and school integration in kindergarten through 12th grade and higher education. Under Ms. Aung's direction, AALDEF launched the first National Asian American Education Advocates Network with affiliates across the country, and filed Supreme Court amicus briefs supporting affirmative action, school integration and English Language Learner rights. Among her most notable achievements for individual clients, Ms. Aung won reinstatement for three Massachusetts teachers fired after discriminatory English fluency testing, and overturned the suspension of an Iowa honors student who protested her misclassification as an English Language Learner. Previously, she was the Director of Policy and Civic Engagement at Youth Leadership Institute, a Staff Attorney at Asian Law Caucus, and an Associate at Morrison and Foerster. Ms. Aung is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley School of Law, and received her undergraduate degree from Georgetown University.

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**Spring Flowers
International Conference on Myanmar**

Feb 12, 2022

**75th Union Day of Myanmar
Union Day Message**



H.E. Mahn Win Khaing Than
Prime Minister , NUG

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Spring Flowers International Conference on Myanmar

Feb 12, 2022

75th Union Day of Myanmar Union Day Closing Message



Dr. Lian Hmung Sakhong
Union Minister of the Ministry of Federal Affairs, NUG

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Spring Flowers International Conference on Myanmar

Feb 12, 2022

75th Union Day of Myanmar Keynote Message



Congressman Andre Carson
U.S. House of Representative

André D. Carson (born October 16, 1974) is an American politician serving as the U.S. representative for Indiana's 7th congressional district since 2008. A member of the Democratic Party, his district includes the southern four-fifths of Indianapolis, including Downtown Indianapolis. He became the dean of Indiana's congressional delegation following the retirement of Representative Pete Visclosky in 2021.

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Feb 12, 2022

75th Union Day of Myanmar

Welcoming Remarks



Joe Hogsett
Mayor of Indianapolis

Joseph "Joe" Hogsett is the 49th mayor of Indianapolis. Before taking office in 2016, Mayor Hogsett served as Indiana's Secretary of State and United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana.

Mayor Hogsett's focus is on preventing crime, protecting taxpayers, and creating opportunities for working families. He is also dedicated to investing Indianapolis' resources back into our neighborhoods.

A lifelong Hoosier, Mayor Hogsett has lived and worked in Indianapolis for more than 30 years. He earned his undergraduate degree and law degree from Indiana University. He received graduate degrees from Butler University and the Christian Theological Seminary. He and his wife Steph have three children.

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Spring Flowers International Conference on Myanmar

Feb 5-12, 2022

Keynote Speaker



U Min Ko Naing

Min Ko Naing is a leading democracy activist and former political prisoner. Imprisoned from 1988 until 2012, on his release he helped to found the 88 Generation Peace and Open Society. The New York Times once described him as Myanmar's “most influential opposition figure after Daw Aung San Suu Kyi”. His first love is art, especially writing and drawing.

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**Spring Flowers
International Conference on Myanmar
75th Union Day of Myanmar**

Union Day Keynote Address



H.E. U Aung Kyi Ngynt

Chairman, Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw



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Spring Flowers International Conference on Myanmar



Ambassador Scot Marciel

Former United States Ambassador to Myanmar (Burma)

April 27, 2016 – May 15, 2020

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Tuesday, Feb 8, 2022 at 7:00 PM EST via ZOOM