



# Developing a research service for the Myanmar Parliament

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# Agenda

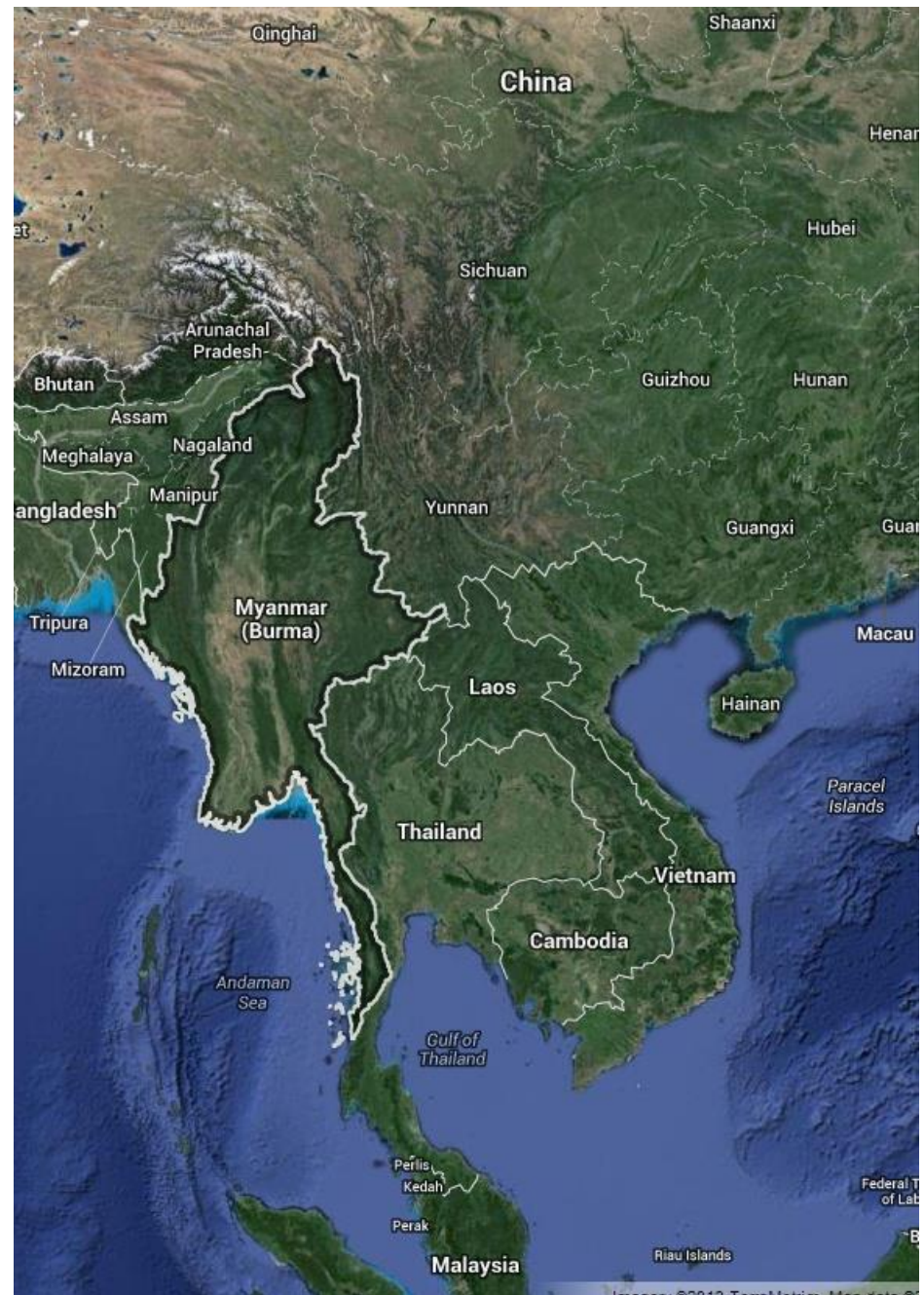
- Myanmar
- The Hluttaw (Parliament)
- LRIS Development
- Launching the Research Service
- Key milestones for the Research Service
- Plans for the future
- Acknowledgements



**MYANMAR**

# Myanmar

- The largest country in mainland South East Asia
- 160,000 sq miles or 677,000 sq km
- A population of 51.3 million
- Diverse ethnic groups
- Borders with China, Thailand, Bangladesh, Laos, India





# THE HLUTTAW (MYANMAR PARLIAMENT)

# 2015 General Election



- Election Laws were promulgated in March 2010
- About half the population were eligible to vote, and 76.6% of them did vote
- A by-election was held on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 to replace the members who had been appointed as Ministers and to allow a more democratic representation
- Our next election is eagerly anticipated on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2015

# The Hluttaw (Parliament)

- The Hluttaw or **Union Assembly** is a bi-cameral Parliament
- The **Pyithu Hluttaw** is the House of **Representatives**:
  - MPs are elected from geographic constituencies with a quarter from the military appointed by the Commander-in-Chief
- The **Amyotha Hluttaw** is the House of **Nationalities**:
  - MPs from Regions and States with a quarter from the military appointed by the Commander-in-Chief
- The **Pyidaungsu Hluttaw** is the Union Assembly with members of both Houses
- The **President** is elected by the MPs, not the people



# Goals for the Hluttaw

- Review about 300 laws by the end of 2015
- Improve the legislation by better informed debate on bills
- Increase parliamentary scrutiny of government activity, especially financial scrutiny
- Develop processes and procedures for public consultation on bills



# Parliament's Development Programme

- The Hluttaw rejoined the IPU after a long gap
- Parliamentary leadership requested IPU assistance
- UNDP/IPU Parliamentary Support Programme was developed and approved
- Speakers and Directors-General actively shape and steer the support programme
- Further assistance is most welcome to reach our goals more quickly

# Priority development areas

- Learning Centre
- Digital Parliament
- Research Services





## **EARLY LRIS DEVELOPMENT IN 2013**

# Development of Hluttaw Library

- In May 2012 there was an IPU assessment mission to evaluate the Hluttaw Library and ICT
- The Library was outside the parliamentary complex and there were only 7 staff at that time



# Information Needs Assessment

- Information needs assessment interviewed 40 MPs in February 2013
- Completed an analysis of the topics MPs were interested in



# LRIS Development Plan 2013

- Work on policy and guidelines
- Build a broader parliamentary library collection
- Recruit new staff
- Train staff to deliver new services
  - Research Services
  - Digital Library and services
  - Information management services



# Staff numbers have grown



September 2013 with international experts from NZ, and UK House of Commons



# CREATING A RESEARCH SERVICE IN 2014



# Key Outcomes in 2014

- There are now research services available for MPs in the Hluttaw, with the assistance of the House of Commons project
- The new research services had a direct impact on the behaviour and effectiveness of some MPs
- It was slower than anticipated to support the necessary skills improvements in the researchers.
- More work was needed in 2015 to continue the development of research services in the Hluttaw.

# Project approach

The long-term placement of the House of Commons parliamentary research specialist to manage the project, train staff and support the establishment of the research service,

with a skilled project officer/interpreter, appears to have been a successful approach.



# Project approach – key elements

- a strong focus on workplace-based training, with researchers working on research work for MPs
- a strong focus on individual and small group coaching and mentoring
- a tailored workshop programme (54 workshops on research and professional skills have been conducted from January to December 2014)



# Key elements of project approach continued

- the agreement of a Research Service Development Action Plan with Hluttaw managers to guide activities



- support for research managers, such as through the development of management guidelines, to develop the management of research services and to promote its long-term sustainability

# Launch of Research Service – May 2014

- the launch of research services to enable research staff to develop their skills on real research tasks, while also satisfying a strong demand from MPs for specialist support



# Service Delivery

- Two of the three Hluttaw now have functional research services
- 18 Research Briefings on topical political issues and legislation were prepared



- Confidential enquiries for MPs, Committees and senior staff:
  - 114 enquiries answered by November 2014 on subjects such as international development loans to the Government; domestic violence laws; economic development; dam construction; and land law reform.



# CONSOLIDATING THE RESEARCH SERVICE IN 2015

# Key outcomes in 2015

- Research services are now being guided by a Hluttaw Research Service Annual Work Plan
- Positive feedback was received from MPs about the services
- All 3 Hluttaws/Houses now have a Research Service and published Guides on how to use the Research Service





# Project approach

- the piloting of new services to enable staff to develop their skills on real tasks
- support for managers to promote the long-term sustainability of research services



# Research Services statistics

- 25 Research Briefings were published in the first six months of 2015 (up from 17 in 2014)
- The uptake of Research Briefings by MPs remains high. 4460 individual paper copies were taken by Members
- Overall enquiry numbers across the three Hluttaw have more than doubled from 114 in the year 2014, to 120 for the first six months of 2015



# Staffing and management

- Staffing levels increased to 41 to deliver more service
- Research Managers have developed service standards and training plans and are coaching their research teams
- Good processes for work flow management, editing and proof reading are now in place.

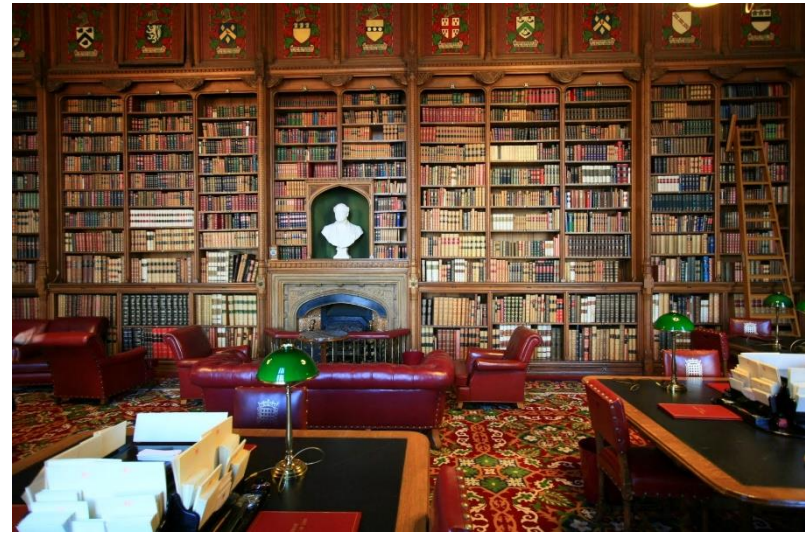




# LOOKING AHEAD

# Research Managers study trip

- Research Managers will visit the House of Commons for 2 weeks in October
- Intensive mentoring and on the job observation of a mature Research Service



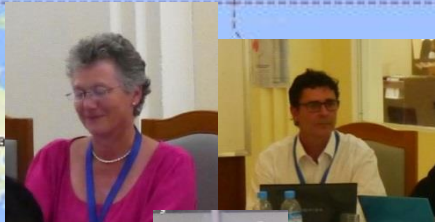
# Preparing for the 2016 Parliament

- Key Issues Briefings
- Planning to welcome new MPs and brief them about Research Services





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**