

Foreword by H.E. Professor Dr. Kyaw Myint, Minister for Health

Uplifting health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation is one of the social objectives laid down by the State in building a modern developed nation. The Ministry of Health is playing a pivotal role in promotion and maintenance of health of the people for ensuring their health and longevity.

With the commitment, guidance and support of the State, the Ministry of Health could strengthen and expend health services throughout the country including the remote areas. Infrastructures for service delivery and production of human resources for health could be strengthened and upgraded. With expansion of quality services in every aspect of care, many achievements had been made and conquering some communicable diseases and removing them from the list of public health problems are some examples to be cited. In the year 2003 alone, Myanmar was declared Leprosy and Poliomyelitis free. These achievements are also the outcomes of collective efforts exerted by all partners working with the Ministry under the leadership and guidance of the State and the National Health Committee.

How immense and enviable the achievements may be, we will not remain content and complacent as there still are formidable challenges lying ahead. With development and prosperity of the country, diseases and health problems associated with wealth and unhealthy life styles will become much more prevalent. Expectations for high quality and sophisticated high technology care by the rich and the need for the health system to be efficient and equitable will put added burden to the Ministry. Environmental health problems, accidents and injuries in workplaces, roads will also be in the list.

Myanmar is also actively involved in regional health matters as a member of the WHO South East Asia Region. As a member of the Association of South East Asia Nations (ASEAN) Myanmar is also involved in tackling health problems and related issues common to the member countries as well as People's Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea through ASEAN+3 high level meetings. Myanmar will continue to sustain the achievements made in building partnership with member countries and look forward to enhancing further collaboration.

This book provides the overview of the Myanmar health system along with efforts and achievements made while fulfilling its commitments and objectives for raising the health status of the country.

The Ministry will continue to work along with all partners, both national and abroad, in sustaining the achievements made and conquering the health challenges that still are on the way in realizing the noble objectives set by the State.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kyaw Myint'.

*Professor Dr. Kyaw Myint
Minister for Health*