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

The State has laid down political, economic and social objectives to build a modern and developed nation and the Ministry of Health is playing an important role in realizing one of the social objectives, namely "uplifting of health, fitness and educational standards of the entire nation". Under the leadership and guidance of the State Peace and Development Council and the National Health Committee the Ministry, in collaboration with all partners, could make major achievements in reducing morbidity and prolonging the lives of the citizens through strengthening and expanding health services through out the country, expanding and upgrading infrastructures for service delivery and enhancing the capacity of the human resources for health.

In a changing and developing world, science and technology is developing at a rapid speed and the need for the health sector to cope with these advances is enormous. Expectations of the people as clients of public services on the other hand are also growing. Disease patterns are changing with new diseases emerging while the old ones are still threatening the well being and lives of the people. Under these circumstances, challenges faced by health systems, which are striving to be effective, equitable, responsive and efficient are growing more than before.

Notwithstanding these challenges there still are factors supporting the health systems in reaching their goals and objectives. Good health is an integral part of a healthy and contributing society, which is paramount for advancing development. Health is recognized as an important component of many policies and as a key factor in development and in achieving a more secure world. Increased understanding of the role of broader determinants of health has led their incorporation in national development policies.

Given the fact that health is a component of development and is influenced by complex and interdependent factors a strong partnership is mandatory among all stakeholders, both nationally and internationally. An overview of the Myanmar health system along with efforts and achievements made in meeting its commitments and objectives is provided in this book. The achievements made were the outcomes of collective efforts by all partners. The Ministry is committed to working with all partners and will continue to sustain the partnership developed, nationally, regionally and globally.

Professor Dr. Kyaw Myint
Minister for Health

Four Political Objectives

- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four Economic Objectives

- Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four Social Objectives

- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation