

Agreement signed for cooperation in anti-AIDS activities

YANGON, 27 Aug — The Health Department under the Ministry of Health and the Pact Myanmar social organization signed an agreement on cooperation in anti-AIDS activities at the meeting hall of the department on Theinbyu Road here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Director-General U Wan Maung of the Health

Department, Deputy Director-General Dr Soe Aung, directors, resident representative Mr Fahmid K Bhuiya of the Pact Myanmar and members, and guests.

After delivering an address, Dr Wan Maung signed the agreement together with Mr Fahmid K Bhuiya and exchanged the documents. Mr Fahmid K Bhuiya also spoke on the occasion. — MNA



Director-General Dr Wan Maung and Mr Fahmid K Bhuiya sign the agreement. — HEALTH

'The New Lights of Myanmar'
Aug. 27 '03

US aid group to launch health program in central dry zone

By Nwe Nwe Aye

AN American non-profit development organisation has reached agreement with the government on a program to improve the health care of needy people in the central Myanmar dry zone.

A memorandum of understanding signed in Yangon on August 27 by the Washington-based organisation, Pact, and the Health Ministry, provides for a five-year collaboration to strengthen community responses to AIDS, tuberculosis and preventive health needs.

The MOU was signed by the department's director general, Dr Wann Maung, and Pact's country representative, Mr Fahmid Bhuiya.

Mr Bhuiya said the program, involving two projects in 10 dry zone townships, recognised the importance of health interventions in improving the lives of underprivileged people.

He said that Pact Myanmar, which has been involved in income-generation projects in upper Myanmar since 1995, had realised that increasing income alone was not enough to assist community development.

If a family was affected by illness it was a drain on their income, Mr Bhuiya said.

The project will provide villages with health fund which to be managed by a community

health committee.

"When there is a health emergency, villagers can borrow money from the village health fund since they may not have enough cash to see doctors and buy medicine," Mr Bhuiya said.

The program follows the success of a pilot project for tuberculosis and HIV-AIDS at Kyaukpadaung, in Mandalay Division in 2001.

"The pilot project was very effective in activating the participation of the local community to manage their own health affairs and emergencies," Mr Bhuiya said.

"Unlike urban areas where there is easy access to health care facilities, people in certain villages have to take three hours to travel to the nearest towns to buy over-the-counter drugs that need no prescription," he said.

Mr Bhuiya said the program would enable village residents to access medicines and treatment more easily through partnerships to establish primary health care services.

Villages would also be provided with health education to help reduce the incidence of disease.

Pact-Myanmar opened its Yangon office in 1995 and its income-generation activities in Mandalay, Magwe and Sagaing divisions have benefited 55,000 families in 580 villages.

THE MYANMAR TIMES, Sep. 1-7, 2003