

Capacity Building for Transition to Democracy in Myanmar: Phase 3 September Programme in Mandalay

The Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CERSSE) of Jain University as part of its Memorandum of Understanding with the Forum of Federations (FOF), Canada, helped organize two workshops at Mandalay, Myanmar from 21 to 26 September 2015.

The Chief Resource Person of the joint programme coordinated by the Forum of Federations and Myanmar Egress was Dr. Sandeep Shastri, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Jain University. In the first workshop held from 21 to 23 September at Mandalay, 30 senior region level political leaders and military officers participated. Many of them were members of the state parliament, were contesting the elections due in November 2015, and were drawn from different political parties. The workshop focused on the different dimensions of decentralization, federalism, and democratization and exposed the participants to global experiences. There were several group work sessions where participants were able to reflect on the global experiences in the specific context of Myanmar.



Political leaders from the Mandalay region at the start of the first workshop



Dr. Sandeep Shastri, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Jain University, welcomes the participants



Delegates and resource persons pose for a group photograph

The second workshop was held from 24 to 26 September and was attended by senior civil servants working in the Mandalay region of Myanmar. These officers brought to the workshop their years of practical experience and this facilitated a meaningful dialogue with the resource persons on the range of practical administrative issues linked to decentralization and federalism.



The officers participating in the discussion at the workshop



Dr. Sandeep Shastri, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Jain University, making a presentation to officers



Officers from Mandalay region with the resource persons at the workshop

The two workshops were greatly appreciated by the participants who felt that the learnings at the workshop had allowed them to view the global experiences from a more nuanced perspective and would help them in taking the process of transition forward in Myanmar.