

## **Honda “Y-E-S” Award Program Launched to Encourage University Students in Myanmar**

Yangon, July 9, 2014— Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA) and Honda Foundation (HOF) will jointly launch the Honda Young Engineer and Scientist’s (“Y-E-S”) Award, a grant program for university students studying science and technology, in Myanmar starting in July, 2014. Si Si Shein, President of MAJA and Hiroto Ishida, President of HOF, signed and exchanged Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the program today at a ceremony held at Chatrium Hotel Royal Lake Yangon.

The Y-E-S Award program aims to discover and encourage students who would become the future leaders to develop and implement innovative technologies that help realizing truly humane civilization, maintaining harmony of human being and its surrounding environment. The program initially kicked off in Viet Nam in 2006 and it has been also implemented in other countries in Asia; India, Cambodia, and Laos whose economies are growing at a remarkable pace. Specifications of the program vary country by country to attain optimal results.

In Myanmar the program will annually select up to 2 undergraduate students of its designated universities in Myanmar to award a USD 3,000 grant and an extra prize. With an admission to postgraduate study or an internship in Japan within three years the receipt of the Award, these awardees will be eligible for an additional non-restrictive grant up to USD 10,000. An awarding ceremony for the program is currently scheduled in January, 2015.

MAJA will be responsible for operating the Y-E-S Award program in Myanmar. An administrative office will be set up in the City of Yangon, which will be responsible for all administrative matters for the program, including public announcements and selection and awarding processes, and will serve as the liaison for HOF concerning the program.

The selection committee for the Award will consist of representatives from MAJA, Myanmar-Japan Center for Human Resources Development (MJC) and HOF.

MAJA is a non-profit organization of former students who have studied in Japan. Its objectives are to organize Myanmar alumni of educational and training institution in Japan to participate in economic, social and educational development activities of the country within the bounds of State policy, to deal directly with ASCOJA (ASEAN Council of Japan Alumni) as a regular chapter and to fully participate in its activities, and to co-operate with the ASJA (Asia Japan Alumni) International for mutually agreed purposes.

Honda Foundation was established in December 1977 by donations from the founder of Honda Motor Company, Soichiro Honda, and his younger brother, Benjiro. Its goal is to contribute towards the creation of a truly humane civilization through interdisciplinary approaches. The Foundation's belief is that science and technology should truly contribute to happiness and peace of mankind, and along that principle, Honda Foundation is engaged in a variety of activities which includes;

- Honda Prize: annual award to an individual or group in recognition of the recipient's remarkable achievement in the field of science and technology that is in harmony with both the natural and the human environment (what we call "ecotechnology");
- International Symposia and colloquia: opportunities for open discussions on the roles and possibilities of ecotechnology among experts in various disciplines; and
- Honda Y-E-S Award: a grant program to discover and encourage students who would become the future leaders to bring ecotechnology into action.

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