

Workcamps In Myanmar - 2014



GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT COM

What is COM?

Charity Oriented Myanmar is registered as a Local Non Government Organization working for civil society, humanitarian aid and community development programs in accordance with Myanmar policies, laws, rules and regulations. COM is established by local youths since 2005 and it is working for gender equality, non-religious and non politics based organization. There are 18 staffs in COM with their specific program. COM started international voluntary service co organized with NICE-Japan in 2012 implementing 5 to 10 workcamps per year with international and local volunteers in Myanmar. The program is run by two staffs.

COM has 5 programs working together with Norwegian People Aid (INGO in Myanmar), Trocaire (Ireland based NGO in Myanmar), Diakonia (Sweden based NGO in Myanmar), US Embassy and workcamps program runs independently from other program but all programs work together under COM umbrella.COM current projects are as follow:

- Myanmar Program
- International Volunteer workcamp in Myanmar Program
- Young leadership and political awareness Program
- Women leadership and political awareness Program
- Mobile Training for Political Parties program
- Charity computer training centre program
- Mobile library Program

Head Office: Charity Oriented Myanmar, **No (40), Aung Myay Yadanar Road, Thumingalar Housing, Thingangyun Township Township**

www.commyanmar.org, info@commyanmar.org

Phone Number: 09 73131717, 09 73001220, 0943118897



International Volunteer WORKCAMPS In Myanmar

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Normally we host 15 volunteers on each of our workcamps (10 International volunteers + 5 National Volunteers) but some projects are optional and open to less or more participants.

The major language spoken in the workcamps is English.

Every day life: the group will organise teams so that everybody can participate in the cleaning, tidying up, and preparation of the meals. There will be daily evaluation meeting at every night and volunteers can share and suggest information for daily life.

Activities: In the workcamps, all activities are designed by local needs and decided together with all the volunteers and the camp leader. Volunteers will live an experience in a group and things are planned within the group. Activities are mainly, teaching, helping in agriculture, construction and social work. Volunteers can choose from several activities and can creatively implement with team in the workcamp.

Leading team: Camp leader, co-leader and sometime organizer is usually with the team to manage logistics and communication with local people. Apart from them, all volunteers work together with team work.

Age Limit: 18 years old minimum –no maximum on most of our camps.

Meeting point: Meeting point for all workcamps project will be in the same place in COM office: **No (40), Aung Myay Yadanar Road, Thumingalar Housing, Thingangyun Township Township.** It is located next to Aung Myay Yadanar Monastery and near to Junction Zawana Shopping Centre.

Insurance: There is no insurance to **cover lost or stolen objects, or illness. It's better to bring health insurance for any unexpected incident.**

No advance of money will be given to them.



WORKCAMPS Schedule

Contact person:

Thazin Aung, Program Director, Charity Oriented Myanmar

tza.thazinaung@gmail.com , Ph: 95 09 73131717

Code	Name of workcamp	Location	Date	Type
COM/01-14*	Mawlamyinegyun	Waedaunt village, Paung yoe chaung Village tract, Mwlamyinegyun	February 14 – 27	Kids, Social, Teaching
COM/02-14	Payartaung	Nyaung Shwe Southern Shan	March 15-28	Kids, Teaching, Social
COM/03-14	Payartaung	Nyaung Shwe, Southern Shan	April 27- May 10	Kids, teaching, Social
COM/04-14	Hopone	Taunggyi, Southern Shan	June 16 - 29	Kids, Cons, Cult, Teaching
COM/05-14	Payartaung	Nyaung Shwe, Southern Shan	August 1- 14	Kids, teaching, Social, Agri
COM/06-14	Ywar Ngan	Ywar Ngan, Southern Shan	November 15-28	Agri, Envi, Social, cul
COM/07-14	Payartaung	Nyaung Shwe, Southern Shan	December 8 – 21	Kids, teaching, Social

COM/01-14 Wae Daunt workcamp 14/2/2014 – 27/02/2014 Agri/kids/envi/social

The project: The Township Mawlamyinegyun was affected from Cyclone Nargis in 2008 and local people in that area try to settle up their livelihood and still suffer after post cyclone. Two COM alumni from Leadership Training Alumni Network has community development activities in their native village in delta.

Work: The volunteers will participate in the agriculture sector and helping to the local farmers. They will also work in planting and harvesting paddy, peanuts or local crops activities together with local volunteers involved in the activities.

Other Activities: In the workcamp meetings, leader will propose many activities for culture exchange, work and sharing and your creative ideas are welcomed and everything can be discussed. The workcamp is for having fun, team work and planned with group and we don't expect to work volunteer individually.

Location: It is located in We Daunt village, Paung Yoe Chaung village tract, Maw La Myine Gyun Township, Ayarwaddy Region. The village lies beside the stream that goes to Ayarwaddy river. The area is delta area that is the main agriculture area in Myanmar.

Accommodation: Volunteers will be accommodated in a local leader house in the village. Maps are provided for sleeping.

Meeting Time: 9:00 am and the bus will leave form Yangon about 12:30

Special requirement: Sleeping bag. Visa and passport soft copy should be arrived to local organizer ONE month in advanced for admission with local authority

COM/02-14 Payartaung workcamp 15/03/2014 – 28/03/2014 Kids, Social, Teaching

The project: The local partner PNO hosted many workcamps with COM and NICE-Japan in 2013 and this is fifth times implementing workcamp in Payartaung.

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Payartaung youth development centre monastery is also a young charity development centre and founded since 1982. There are over 400 students with diverse races from Shan, InnTha, PaOah, Li Su, Kayan and stays the whole year as dormitory in the monastery to attend government high school from the village.

Work: The volunteers will participate in the monastery school event and helping to the local community. They will also work in cleaning and cooking for the student together with local volunteers from the monastery. Teaching English or social knowledge also included in the work. Playing with kids from Kindergarten is also included. Based on the weather, volunteers can also work in the firm.

Other Activities: In the workcamp meetings, leader will propose many activities for culture exchange, work and sharing and your creative ideas are welcomed and everything can be discussed. The workcamp is for having fun, team work and planned with group and we don't expect to work volunteer individually.

Location: It is located in Nyaung Shwe Township, Southern Shan state. The landscape is surrounded with mountains and water from the lake. The area is peaceful and calm area. The mode of transportation from one village to another is mainly by boats.

Accommodation: Volunteers will be accommodated by Buddhist monastery. The monastery provides pillows, maps, blankets and mosquitoes nets for volunteers. They also provide locally cooked fresh food to volunteers.

Meeting Time: 2:00pm, The bus will leave at 6:00pm from Yangon

Special requirement: Teaching supply based on your teaching plan. Toys or games for the kids and students.

COM/03-14 Payartaung workcamp 27/04/2014 – 10/05/2014 Kids, Social, Teaching, Agri

The project: This project is co-organizing project with NICE-Japan. It is also opened to international volunteers. Partial volunteers are also accepted for 27th April to 4th March week. The local partner PNO hosted many workcamps with COM and NICE-Japan in 2013 and this is fifth times implementing workcamp in Payartaung. Payartaung youth development centre monastery is also a young charity development centre and founded since 1982. There are over 400 students with diverse races from Shan, InnTha, PaOah, Li Su, Kayan and stays the whole year as dormitory in the monastery to attend government high school from the village.

Work: The volunteers will participate in the monastery school event and helping to the local community. They will also work in cleaning and cooking for the student together with local volunteers from the monastery. Teaching English or social knowledge also included in the work. Playing with kids from Kindergarten is also included. Based on the weather, volunteers can also work in the firm.

Other Activities: In the workcamp meetings, leader will propose many activities for culture exchange, work and sharing and your creative ideas are welcomed and everything can be discussed. The workcamp is for having fun, team work and planned with group and we don't expect to work volunteer individually.

Location: It is located in above 2000 sea level, Nyaung Shwe Township, Southern Shan state. The landscape is surrounded with mountains and water from the lake. The area is peaceful and calm area. The mode of transportation from one village to another is mainly on boats.

Accommodation: Volunteers will be accommodated by Buddhist monastery. The monastery provides pillows, mats, blankets and mosquito nets for volunteers. They also provide locally cooked fresh food to volunteers.

Meeting Time: 2:00pm, The bus will leave at 6:00pm from Yangon

Special requirement: Teaching supply based on your teaching plan. Toys or games for the kids and students.

COM/04-14 Hopone workcamp 16/06/2014 – 29/06/2014 Kids, Social, Cul, Cons, Teaching

The project: the local partner PNO hosted many workcamps with COM and NICE-Japan since 2013 and this is second time implementing workcamp in Hopone. There are over 1000 students stays in the monastery to attend government high school from the village. The area is very peaceful and quite area and only 12 miles away from Taunggyi and it takes 45 minutes to get to city. There are over 5 ethnic groups living in the area such as Pa Oah, Lesu, Shan, InnTha, Danu, Kayan, Kayar, Palaung.

Work: The volunteers will participate in the monastery school event and helping to the local community. They will also work in cleaning and cooking for the student together with local volunteers from the monastery. Teaching English or social knowledge also included in the work. Playing with kids from Kindergarten is also included. Volunteers can also help in local people work such as constructing toilets or local house.

Other Activities: In the workcamp meetings, leader will propose many activities for culture exchange, work and sharing and your creative ideas are welcomed and everything can be discussed. The workcamp is for having fun, team work and planned with group and we don't expect to work volunteer individually.

Location: It is located in Hopone Township, Southern Shan state. The landscape is on the top of the mountain and surrounded with mountains. It's also near to the city of Southern Shan state, Taunggyi. The area is peaceful and calm area.

Accommodation: Volunteers will be accommodated by Buddhist monastery. The monastery provides pillows, mats, blankets and mosquito nets for volunteers. They also provide locally cooked fresh food to volunteers.

Meeting Time: 2:00pm, The bus will leave at 5:00pm from Yangon

Special requirement: your creative idea for the activity

COM/05-14 Payartaung workcamp 1/08/2014 – 14/08/2014 Kids, Social, Teaching, Agri

The project: The local partner PNO hosted many workcamps with COM and NICE-Japan in 2013 and this is fifth times implementing workcamp in Payartaung. Payartaung youth development centre monastery is also a young charity development centre and founded since 1982. There are over 400 students with diverse races from Shan, InnTha, PaOah, Li Su, Kayan and stays the whole year as dormitory in the monastery to attend government high school from the village.

Work: The volunteers will participate in the monastery school event and helping to the local community. They will also work in cleaning and cooking for the student together with local volunteers from the monastery. Teaching English or social knowledge also included in the work. Playing with kids from Kindergarten is also included. Based on the weather, volunteers can also work in the firm.

Other Activities: In the workcamp meetings, leader will propose many activities for culture exchange, work and sharing and your creative ideas are welcomed and everything can be discussed. The workcamp is for having fun, team work and planned with group and we don't expect to work volunteer individually.

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Location: It is located in Nyaung Shwe Township, Southern Shan state. The landscape is surrounded with mountains and water from the lake. The area is peaceful and calm area. The mode of transportation from one village to another is mainly on boats.

Accommodation: Volunteers will be accommodated by Buddhist monastery. The monastery provides pillows, mats, blankets and mosquito nets for volunteers. They also provide locally cooked fresh food to volunteers.

Meeting Time: 2:00pm, The bus will leave at 6:00pm from Yangon

Special requirement: Teaching supply based on your teaching plan. Toys or games for the kids and students.

COM/06-14 Ywar Ngan workcamp 15/11/2014 – 28/11/2014 Envi, Social, Agri, cul

The project: The local partner **Danu National Democracy Party** has had one workcamp with COM and NICE-Japan in 2013 and the leader from DNDP is also from the COM training alumni network. The local area has never experience of hosting foreigners before the workcamp start. The local young people also need to improve their knowledge on globalization, English proficiency and cultural exchange. It is also need to educate in agriculture and environmental awareness to the local community.

Work: The volunteers will participate in the village by helping to the local community in their field of work. They will also work in cleaning and cooking by themselves. Sharing knowledge to the local community included in the work. There are planting, harvesting paddy, picking fruit and coffee, digging mud and other farms work are included. The farm work may change based on weather.

Other Activities: In the workcamp meetings, leader will propose many activities for culture exchange, work and sharing and your creative ideas are welcomed and everything can be discussed. The workcamp is for having fun, team work and planned with group and we don't expect to work volunteer individually.

Location: It is located in above 3500 sea level, Ywar Ngan Township, Southern Shan state. The landscape is surrounded with mountains and farms. It is located over 3500 feet of sea level. The area is peaceful and calm area. There are ancient cave, waterfall and ancient pagodas nearby area.

Accommodation: Volunteers will be accommodated by local leader in his house. There are 7 family members in their house. Volunteers will get chance to cook local fresh food to themselves everyday. There are two toilets in the house and volunteer will experience on open bathing near the well. Based on the workcamp size, there are one more host house near by.

Meeting Time: 2:00pm, The bus will leave at 5:00pm from Yangon

Special requirement: Sleeping bag, personal use, full of energy

COM/07-14 Payartaung workcamp 8/12/2014 – 21/12/2014 Kids, Social, Teaching, Agri

The project: The local partner PNO hosted many workcamps with COM and NICE-Japan in 2013 and this is fifth times implementing workcamp in Payartaung. Payartaung youth development centre monastery is also a young charity development centre and founded since 1982. There are over 400 students with diverse races from Shan, InnTha, PaOah, Li Su, Kayan and stays the whole year as dormitory in the monastery to attend government high school from the village.

Work: The volunteers will participate in the monastery school event and helping to the local community. They will also work in cleaning and cooking for the student together with local volunteers from the monastery. Teaching English or social knowledge also included in the work. Playing with kids from Kindergarten is also included. Based on the weather, volunteers can also work in the firm.

Other Activities: In the workcamp meetings, leader will propose many activities for culture exchange, work and sharing and your creative ideas are welcomed and everything can be discussed. The workcamp is for having fun, team work and planned with group and we don't expect to work volunteer individually.

Location: It is located in Nyaung Shwe Township, Southern Shan state. The landscape is surrounded with mountains and water from the lake. The area is peaceful and calm area. The mode of transportation from one village to another is mainly on boats.

Accommodation: Volunteers will be accommodated by Buddhist monastery. The monastery provides pillows, mats, blankets and mosquito nets for volunteers. They also provide locally cooked fresh food to volunteers.

Meeting Time: 2:00pm, The bus will leave at 6:00pm from Yangon

Special requirement: Teaching supply based on your teaching plan. Toys or games for the kids and students.

Finance

Workcamp fee: 200 US\$ for new international vols and 180\$ for old international vols. 180 US\$ for those from less expensive countries and 25000 Kyats for Myanmar volunteers and 20000 Kyats for old Myanmar volunteers that will cover;

- * Transportation cost only for administration (5%)
- * Stay permit and travel permit of the vols. in Myanmar from local authority and government
- * Meal cost in the workcamp and in the village (buying grocery), (only in the workcamp) (20%)
- * Accommodation cost for electricity and water (10%)
- * Travel cost of the organizer and the leaders between Yangon and workcamp place (10%)
- * Tools and materials for the voluntary works
- * Future fund for International voluntary service in Myanmar (training, networking, salary of paid staff, etc.) (10%)
- * Communication and Internet in preparation phase with sending organizations and COM (10%)
- * Copying and printing travel documents (10%)
- * Water, basic medicine and advocacy (15%)
- * Staff salary for management team (10%)

Volunteers travel cost is NOT included in the fees. The transportation can be changed based on the area and the season.

The travel cost is approximately 60 to 70\$ by bus depends on area (For Shan state) 20\$ to 30\$ for delta

* **Admission for the project:** According to Myanmar law, foreigners can only visit permitted area so we highly encourage volunteers to stay only in the workcamp area and not to travel other area by themselves without team. Volunteers have to inform to the leader when going outside of the workcamp area.

The requirement as follow has to submit at least one week (for War Daunt is one month) before to the regional authority and/or other required ministry/government sector to get permission.

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The profile of sending organization, hosting organization, Passport, Travel document, Personal information and scanned passport, photo, scanned visa

Do's and don't

- * Vols. need to wash clothes and dishes by themselves and should bring medicine, warm clothes, sleeping bag in some workcamps, mosquitoes net for some place (they can also buy in Myanmar that is cheaper) and personal use.
- * Vols. need to bring toilet paper since in Myanmar toilets, people use not paper, but water! But they are also welcome to try a local way that can be more comfortable.
- * Vols. have to cook for the groups in rotation with local freshly vegetables and stuffs. The grocery will be provided by the co-leader. The meal will only sometimes have meat like chicken and fish but mostly with local fresh variety of vegetables since to follow the local way. Vols. can also bring recipe cook from their country. Sometimes the local villagers may provide their local snacks and food.
- * Myanmar is rich of culture and tradition so the volunteers should not wear short skirt, neither short pants nor sleeveless shirts (no spaghetti blouse and no short pants) for both ladies and gentlemen to respect to local culture.
- * In most of the village, the bathing (shower) area is in the open space so the volunteers can try the local way of bathing.
- * Based on Myanmar culture, men and women sit separately in the village community event.
- * It is not reliable to access internet in most of the workcamp area so it's better for volunteers to inform their family before coming.

What to bring

Working clothes (long sleeved shirts & trouser, gloves, socks, sports shoes or boots, cap, flip-flop or slippers which better for wet and rainy season)

- * **Rain coat, flashlight, umbrella, towel, mosquitoes repellent, sandal, toilet paper, sun block lotion and medicine** you like to bring
- * **Souvenirs for the friends and local host!!**
- * **Charger** (you may be able to charge a battery while accessing electricity) In Myanmar, two pin is widely used. Caution: the electricity can access from 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm in some area
- * **Clothes and snacks/food for culture night**
- * **Big smile and happy, friendly heart!**
- * Please also bring some equipment for kids such as toys, clothes and teaching materials if possible
- * Be prepare for giving attention from local people

