**Summary of Discussion with U Zaw Min, Chief Minister of Kayin State**

**22 May, 2014 (Thursday) Hpa-An, Kyain State**

* The government has **its own development priorities** – those may not be exactly the same what what people want – people may have different priorities based on their own feelings and opinions
* It is important to listen to what people want – it’s important to be inclusive such kind of meeting – to learn from each others – the government officials, MPs and CSOs
* **Development priorities in Kayin State**;
  + Access to finance for small and medium enterprises
  + Technical know-how, modernized equipment and tools, capacity building for farmers
  + To increase productivity
  + To improve the whole supply chain system of rice/agricultural products production
  + **Education** – not only hard infrastructure like school building, teaching aids – but also soft infrastructure e.g to improve quality of teachers
* In order to reduce/ eliminate poverty – it’s important to promote **health and education sectors**
* It’s also important to invite **private sector in health sector** – that the government service cannot meet the needs of public in each and every corner of the country – **Public Private Partnership** model must be applied – to promote investment and create jobs
* **Peace** is also crucial for development and economic growth– e.g the previous government encouraged people to private-owned forest farming. Due to lack of peace, people are not able to go those areas which are in the conflict-affected zone
* Without peace there is no development. For example, the selection of township for CDD has been done in Kayin State– but the township which was chosen is in the ceasefire area – due to lack of cooperation from the other side – the plan has been postponed. Another example for importance of peace is we cannot build infrastructure (e.g bridges, roads, school building, etc.) in the conflict zone – we cannot send the staff to work in those areas
* Another important issue for Kayin State is **migration**. People mostly young people move to Thailand to work and people from Ayeyarwady Region (those who suffered from Cyclone Nargis in 2008) – in order to employ young people in their own villages, the initiatives such as **one-village-one-product program** should be introduced – or **tourism sector** should be promoted