

HISTORY OF THANBYUZAYAT TOWNSHIP

(1988-2010)

Ph.D (DISSERTATION)

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MYANMAR

APRIL 2017

ABSTRACT

This dissertation, History of Thanbyuzayat Township (1988-2010), is an attempt to examine background history of Thanbyuzayat Township, its administration, and socio-economic conditions in the period of study. Thanbyuzayat was not existed as a town during Myanmar kings' administration but Kyaikkhami, which was later included as part of Thanbyuzayat was situated as an outlying area under the administration of Mottama Myowun. Thanbyuzayat area was just a transit for pilgrims who visited Kelatha Pagoda in Ye Township. Thanbyuzayat earned its name after a Mon couple built a rest place in the place which was later emerged as a village. This village later became strategically important place when Myanmar-Thai railway was built under Japanese occupation of Myanmar in 1942. Although Thanbyuzayat became a township in 1962, the villages included in Thanbyuzayat had early inhabitants. Among them, Wagaru was an prosperous town during Myanmar kings administration and included as a town in the 32 Satellite towns of Mottama. After Second World War, Thanbyuzayat became well known town in the world because of Death Railway. In the period of study about Thanbyuzayat, two successive administrative township authorities of the State Law and Order Restoration Council and the State Peace and Development Council had carried out restoration of law and order, peace and stability in Thanbyuzayat Township. These measures were carried out in cooperation with Tatmataw, militia and Anti-insurgent Organizations. The development works in township and rural areas of township were carried out with government funds and contributions from townspeople. As being a border town, Thanbyuzayat faced the problems of human trafficking, and drug

abuse cases, township authorities in collaboration with Anti-human trafficking and Anti-narcotic drugs organizations tried to solve these problems. It is learned that some successful measures were taken against human trafficking and drug abuses but it is still needed further to solve. Although agriculture is main occupation of township, the rubber plantations are now extending as a main occupation which could earn more foreign income. Salt making stands as second most important business in township and 40% of total salt production of Mon State is obtained from Thanbyuzayat salt farms. Fisheries and shrimps breeding prevail once as a business but it is now producing for local self-sufficiency. Livestock breeding also provide sufficient food for townspeople. Some small scale and cottage industries are available in township but it needed rubber related factories to manufacture local rubber products. As the majority of people living in township are Mon and Buddhists, old traditions, culture and customs of Mon are still visible in township. The Pre-primary school, Primary School, Middle Schools, High School and Hanthawady New Monastery in Thanbyuzayat could provide basic education to the students in township and township hospitals, rural health centers and project plans of malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases are also provided for the healthcare of townspeople in Thanbyuzayat Township.

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