

MYANMAR TEAK TRADE (1962-1974)

PHD DISSERTATION

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ABSTRACT

Teak has been designated as royal tree since the time of Konbaung period. Similarly, the Revolutionary Council Government also specified the teak as state-owned commodity. With the patronage of the government, the country could seek a large amount of foreign exchange by exporting teak-logs, planks and veneers to international market. Following the Revolutionary Council Government in 1962, it nationalized the teak and hardwoods enterprises and initiated the centralized management for timber extraction and trading in line with the socialist economic principles. When distributing teak-planks for domestic market, the concerned department had to deal with the tasks in accordance with the socialist principles and procedures. For exporting teak-logs, planks and veneers to European market, a recommendation letter was necessary to identify them as legal. To effectively manage timber enterprise, the Revolutionary Council Government transferred the tasks of Land and Rural Development Department to Myanmar Timber Enterprise. In the forest sector development that publicized in 1966 – 1967, it mentioned to export teak-logs in most profitable means and to set up highly-efficient sawmills for sawing teak-logs into high quality planks and veneers. After nationalization of forest sector in 1962, the government centralized the forest products trade in March 1964 with the aim of maximizing profit for the country. In doing so, the government needs public participation in the tasks of protecting and preserving the precious forest resources. This dissertation was conducted personal interviews, collected data, and utilized the documents and literatures available at Forest Department (Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon), Myanmar Timber Enterprise (Head-office), Domestic Marketing and Milling Department, Export Marketing and Milling Department, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of Myanmar and other accessible libraries.

CONTENTS

	Page
Abstract	iv
List of Abbreviations	v
List of Tables	vi
List of Illustrations	vii
Introduction	viii
Chapter I	Background History of Myanmar Teak
	1
Chapter II	Extraction of Teak
	27
Chapter III	Teak Trade and Forest Conservation
	57
Conclusion	94
Appendix I	Forest Types in Myanmar
	97
Appendix II	Change of Forest Recover Area (1925-2002)
	98
Appendix III	Change of Annual Yield of Myanmar Teak (1946- 2000)
	99
Appendix IV	Statistic of Various Species of Tree
	100
Appendix V	Site Index Teak Plantations
	101
Appendix VI	Organization of The Extraction Department
	102
Appendix VII	Seal inscribed on the Teak-logs
	103
Bibliography	104