



Maung Maung
CTUM President
Founder of FTUB/CTUM in 1991
and exiled for 24 years in Thailand



Khaing Zar
CTUM Treasurer
Also a member of the
Executive committee

Support to CTUM

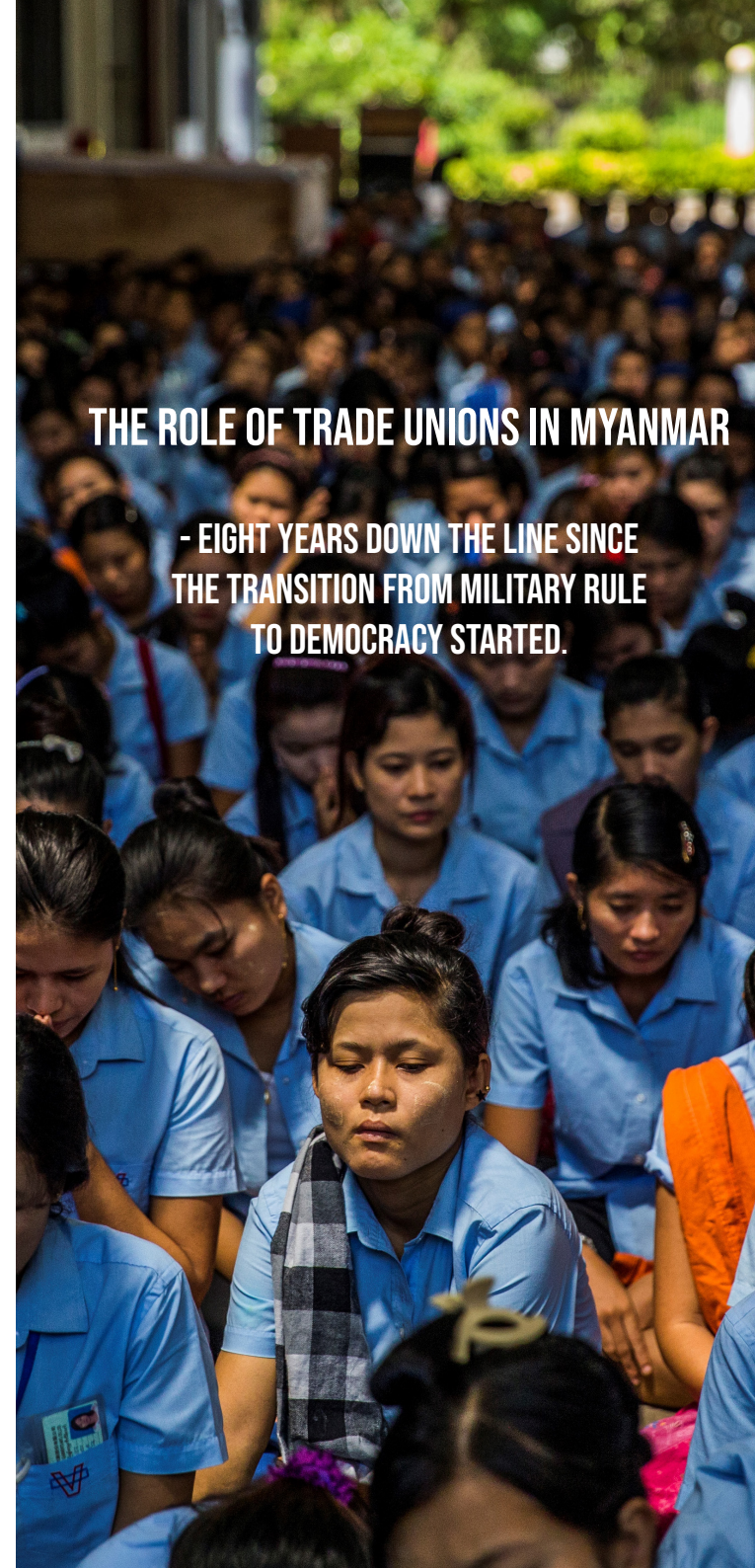
Building a trade union requires a lot of hard work. From organising members at the workplace level, setting up organisational structures, building capacity for negotiation and representation, raising awareness about labour rights and occupational Health and Safety, to establishing industrial relations, systems for dispute settlement, etc.

So, how can CTUM contribute to the comprehensive reform process? How does the trade union movement contribute to the development of a sustainable labour market through social dialogue and bi- and tri-partite negotiations? How does it develop services to its members, as a means to secure labour rights and build strong voice and representation in the quest for decent work?

Since its establishment, the trade union movement has built on solidarity, unity and the creation of opportunities and security for the individual. Hence, the Danish LO/FTF Council has been supporting CTUM in building organisational structures for trade union education and capacity for entering into social dialogue and collective bargaining.



Ulandssekretariatet
LO/FTF Council



THE ROLE OF TRADE UNIONS IN MYANMAR

**- EIGHT YEARS DOWN THE LINE SINCE
THE TRANSITION FROM MILITARY RULE
TO DEMOCRACY STARTED.**

Background

In 2011, Myanmar initiated a comprehensive reform process aiming to achieve a transition towards a more democratic, market-based and socially equal society. Following the general elections in November 2015, which saw the National League for Democracy (NLD) party and Aung San Suu Kyi win a landslide victory, this development accelerated. The opening of the economy and the easing of US and EU sanctions have greatly improved business prospects in Myanmar.

It is widely accepted, however, that continued progress on structural reforms, including on labour market institutions is a prerequisite for economic growth. Such institutions are particularly crucial in fostering an enabling business environment and inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Decent jobs and sound industrial relations are important conditions for fostering foreign investment and export-led economic development. Dangerous working conditions and the prevalence of industrial disputes impact negatively on the business environment. Currently the labour market institutions remain weak and social dialogue is in its infant stage.

It is generally understood among the Myanmar government, employers and unions that serious improvements in the industrial relations environment are highly desirable. The will exists to work towards a system of labour market governance based on a modern and coherent legal framework, respect for international labour standards and sound industrial relations. There is thus a clear need and demand for building the capacity of labour market actors to effectively engage in social dialogue.



CTUM

Since the military coup in 1988 and during the military rule in Myanmar (Burma), trade union organisations were illegal. Leaders were arrested or forced into exile. Trade unions did not become legal again until 2011, following the approval of the Labour Organisations Law, and trade union leaders and organisers were allowed to return.

While Burmese trade union leaders were in exile in Thailand, they founded the FTUB in 1991, which was turned into the Confederation of Trade Unions in Myanmar (CTUM) in 2014. The CTUM was formally recognized and registered in 2015. Today, it is the only trade union confederation in Myanmar.

The organisation represents 9 federations that cover 750 affiliated organisations with close to 65,000 members. It is affiliated to the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC).

