

The 6th State Constitutions Seminar Statement

July 20, 2007

Under the aegis of the Constitutional Affairs Committee (CAC) of Ethnic Nationalities Council (Union of Burma), the 6th Seminar of State Constitution Drafting Committees was held successfully, at a certain place in the liberated area, for 5 days from July 16 to 20, 2007.

The meeting was opened by the ENC Chairman, Saw Ba Thin Sein, and attended by the Arakan, Chin, Kachin, Karen, Karenni, Mon and Shan State Constitution Drafting Committee members and special guests, a total of 55 participants, who had free and frank discussions.

The discussions were led by 6 resources persons, including two law professors of Indiana University and a federal judge of the United States.

In the first part of the meeting examination, in detail, was made of the weaknesses, strengths, common points and differences of each state draft constitution. In the second part of the meeting, a comparative study of each state draft constitution and the federal constitution drafted by the Federal Constitution Drafting and Coordinating Committee (FCDCC) was made, chapter by chapter. The chapters receiving special attention were chapters on “Division of Power”, “Individual Rights”, “Basic principle on gender equality”, “Federal and State Judiciaries”, “State of Emergency”, “Security Forces and Federal Armed Forces”.

Though the 6th State Constitutions Seminar discussed mainly about legal issues, the seminar can be regarded as a show of unity of the ethnic nationalities, because the members of the SCDCs are members of leading political organizations of their respective states, in actual existence.

In conclusion, we affirm that this seminar can also be regarded as a meeting giving new vigor to the reality that the aim of establishment of a genuine federal union composed of states with the rights of equality and self-determination is the main political goal.

*“ From emergence of a Federal Constitution, with guarantee-
To establishment of genuine federal union”*

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