

# Message from the Director (4 May 2020)

New Year, New Opportunities, New Ways to Build Trust and Understanding

Dear all

As we start a new year in Myanmar, I would like to update you all on how we are re-shaping our activities in Myanmar in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

As I mentioned in my last message, due to the current situation, we are not able to deliver some of our planned face to face activities. However, our desire to build trust and understanding between the UK and Myanmar remains as strong as ever, so we're finding new ways to connect people and institutions in the UK and Myanmar.

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For English learners, we launched our virtual classes on 27 April. Over 1,600 students joined 170 classes in the first week. We aim to re-open our Kanna Road centre and branches as soon as we can.

Our other free online content for [teachers](#) and [learners of English](#) remains accessible 24/7.

Our Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are available 24/7, 365 days year. You can study a wide range of subjects from IELTS, to Shakespeare, or boost your professional development skills. You can find out more [here](#).

For exams candidates, we launched IELTS Indicator on 22 April, an online test that can be taken from the comfort and safety of your home. As IELTS Indicator provides an indicative score only, it is not accepted by all organisations so before you book, please check with your university or educational institution. You can find out more [here](#).

For other UK examinations and qualifications, we are working with our UK partners to re-schedule as soon we can.

We've also found new ways to deliver other programmes. We're continuing our education work with Myanmar universities and education colleges in new ways, delivering training digitally.

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Our EU-funded [MyJustice](#) programme and DFID funded [Sone Sie](#) programmes are also finding new ways to respond to the current situation.

Our digital library is open 24 hours a day in all corners of Myanmar here. You can find out how to join and access the best digital books, magazines, music and cultural content [here](#).

We're also planning trials to re-opening our Yangon libraries in May, respecting social distancing and health advice.

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On behalf of the British Council, I would like to once again re-assure you of our ongoing commitment and support to Myanmar. We feel very proud of our long-standing friendship with Myanmar and, despite the many challenges presented by the current health pandemic, we look forward to the new year ahead and finding new ways to connect people and institutions in Myanmar and the UK.

Dr Richard Sunderland  
Director, Myanmar  
British Council