

ROUNDTABLE

Federating the Future: Reimagining Higher Education in Post-Coup Myanmar

Coordinator

Bencharat Sae Chua

Roundtable Description

Since the 2021 coup in Myanmar, access to higher education has been significantly disrupted. Following the widespread participation of students and faculty in the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM), enrollments at universities controlled by the State Administration Council (SAC), now the State Security and Peace Council (SSPC), have plummeted. As students and lecturers continue to resist the militarization of campuses, a critical shortage of experienced staff has undermined state-run academic standards. In response, a “federating” landscape of alternative education has emerged, driven by a commitment to social justice and federal democracy. This roundtable explores the implementation and impacts of these alternative initiatives, focusing on three pillars essential in addressing Myanmar’s crises: legal education, human rights and peace studies, and natural resource management and forest governance.

By examining these sectors, the panel will discuss how alternative education aims to cultivate a generation capable of navigating ethnic diversity and historical grievances to build sustainable peace. Panelists will address the practical challenges of virtual and physical implementation, including the digital divide and resource scarcity faced by independent education institutions and educators across Myanmar and in the border regions.

This panel will discuss and seek to identify sustainable pathways for education interventions in a volatile political landscape.

Keyword: Alternative education, Human rights studies, Education pathway