

Dear David,

In coming Myanmar convocation , I would like to propose to award Honorary Doctor of Humanities to U Kyaw Thu , (Former Actor and current President of Free Funeral Service Society) in Yangon.

As you will be main person in the convocation, it will be the best for you to personally award Doctor of Humanities to U Kyaw Thu.

The following is the profile of U Kyaw Thu regarding his Humanities Services and also attached is his Biography.

Kyaw Thu has used his prominence to help the country's poor. He is founder and vice president (now President) of the [Free Funeral Service Society](#) (FFSS), which provides free funeral services to the poor. <sup>[1]</sup>

In collaboration with the famous author/movie director U Thukha, Kyaw Thu and his wife Shwe Zee Kwet founded the Free Funeral Service Society (Yangon). The organisation offers funeral services free of charge to people of all race, religion and background. On January 1, 2001, the FFSS began providing free funeral services. The first funeral service was of the famous sculptor U Han Tin whose hearse Kyaw Thu himself drove. From 2001 January to 2012 October, the organisation has undertaken at least 120,000 funerals free of charge. The organisation currently undertakes up to 40 funerals each day.

In 2003, Kyaw Thu was elected vice president of FFSS (Ygn). Since 2008, he has been serving as the president of FFSS (Ygn).

Since 2003, his society has also helped pay medical costs in poor neighborhoods of Yangon. In 2007 April, the organisation was expanded to Thukha Charity Clinic where free healthcare is provided with the help of volunteer doctors, medical specialists and surgeons. As of 2013 March, the clinic has provided healthcare to over 143,000 patients. Similar clinics have been founded in Pyay, Pegu, and Kyobingauk regions as well.

Thukha Ah-lin library and free educational and vocational training classes are also run by the organisation. The organisation also provides Emergency Aid to disaster areas. FFSS organisation is fully run and operated by donations and volunteers by the Myanmar people.

Through his funeral services society, Kyaw Thu was active in rescue and support efforts in the aftermath of May 2008 [Cyclone Nargis](#) which completely devastated Burma's Irrawaddy delta and cost over 130,000 lives. As of June 2008, the society had helped to raise K500 million (~US\$400,000) for the victims of the disaster.

The humanitarian efforts Kyaw Thu has made through FFSS (Ygn) include Nargis Cyclone relief, contribution of potable water and building water wells and reservoirs in water shortage areas, distribution of relief aid to fire victims of [Mingalataungnyunt Township](#) and [Hlaing Thaya Township](#), rendering humanitarian assistances to war victims in Kachin State and refugees in the unrest area of Rakhine, donating medicines and cash to the injured monks and people in crash against the Letpatdaung copper mine project, providing foods, medicines and cash to the victims of the communal violence and Meiktila and speaking words of encouragement to them.

In 2007 Saffron Revolution, Kyaw Thu and Daw Myint Myint Khin Pe publicly supported the protesting monks. Because of this, they were detained by the junta for seven days. Kyaw Thu was also banned from the filming career.

[International recognition and awards](#)[\[edit\]](#)

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In 2009 April, he was awarded the prize “the artist who stands for the fellow people” by the Myanmar community in London. In April 2010, Myanmar community worldwide from 54 countries voted him to be honoured with the award “Citizen of Burma” presented by the Citizen of Burma Award Organization. In 2011 November, Immanuel Theological Institute (Main Church), Union Biblical Seminary (Yangon), International School of Theology (Bangkok), and Online Bible College International (Australia) together awarded him with D.H.S.S (Doctor of Humane Social Services) and his wife with M.A.S.S (Masters of Social Services) at the Emmanuel Church, Yangon. In 2012 September, National Endowment for Democracy (NED) honored him with NED award in Washington DC. He was honored with [Ramon Magsaysay Award](#) in 2015.<sup>[2]</sup>

At this stage, we have not contacted him yet. If St Clements University can award Hon Doctor of Humanities to him, my wife will go and see him in Yangon when she arrives there on 12 June 2019. She will go in advance to Myanmar to do our college matters as well as for our joint convocation.

Upon his willingness to accept the Doctor of Humanities, I will then follow up with formal paper works similar to the attached form that U Nay Myo Zin has done and will send them to you.

Regards,

Dr Kyaw Naing