

Speech by, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister of Education World Standards Day Celebration

14th October 2016

**The Parliament Members,
Members of National Standards Council,
Experts from PTB (Germany), USAID
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen:**

Good morning.

I am very pleased to join you today to celebrate World Standards Day. This event marks the 69th year of the founding of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

The world standards days was first celebrated on 14th October 1970 to highlight the importance of the International Standards that are issued by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and the pivotal role of these Standards in promoting commercial, scientific and technological exchanges among countries of the world, in addition to recognizing the efforts of the technicians and experts working in standardization whether in international, regional standardization organizations, and national standards bodies worldwide, and hailing the results of their efforts that result in producing various standards.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The theme of this year chosen by the three above international organizations is “**Standards build Trust**”. This theme indeed, truly coincide with the principles and concepts advocating by standardization, namely conserving and ideal usage of resources, protection of the consumer and environment, ensuring the suitability of products and services for their intended purposes, avoiding duplication of efforts, promoting exports and ensuring safety of imports, and to improve the quality of life in general.

Department of Research and Innovation DRI and our counterparts around the world use this occasion to highlight the importance of standards and their impact on improving trade, productivity, safety and health as well as protecting the environment. The occasion is also used to pay tribute to those who have supported and contributed to the national standardization programmes in their own countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today, a growing number of countries have introduced new product standards in response to consumer demands for better health, safety and environmental protection. Notwithstanding the intent, many of these standards have turned into technical barriers to trade. This is because they impose mandatory testing and certification requirements on manufacturers and traders. Such requirements not only add to business costs, they also hinder global trade of goods, services and eliminating technical barriers to trade through standardization activities

As the national standards body for Myanmar, National Standards and Quality Department, under the Department of Research and Innovation DRI focuses on developing that Myanmar Standards are used to benefit industry and to help local enterprises improve their competitive advantage. DRI has been implementing National Quality Infrastructure and National Quality Policy to ensure that our national standardization programme supports economic growth and helps to eliminate technical barriers to trade.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

DRI has been implementing three key main Factors to ensure that our national standardization programme supports economic growth and helps to eliminate technical barriers to trade.

Firstly, whenever feasible, Myanmar Standards are aligned with international and regional standards. This makes it easier for Myanmar-made goods and services to gain access and entry into overseas markets.

Secondly, Myanmar, through NSQD, actively participates in international and regional standardization activities. The aim is to influence the development of new standards particularly in areas that are important to our industry and economy. Myanmar has joined to ISO in 2005 as a correspondent member and has also joined to IEC in 2007 as a affiliate member and DRI has been

nominated as a Country Focal Point of ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standards and Quality-ACCSQ in 1997.

Thirdly, NSQD, DRI will support government initiatives to forge mutual recognition agreements- MRAs, with overseas partners. Myanmar has signed ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standards and Quality- ACCSQ –MRA and these MRAs are strategically important as they enable manufacturers to gain greater access to overseas markets, achieve quicker time to market and reduce cost by doing away with duplicative testing and certification requirements.

International Organization such as PTB (Germany) UNIDO, USAID, GIZ have been providing technical and financial assistance to Department of Research and Innovation- DRI to strengthen National Quality Infrastructure. The other benefits extend to include enhancement of industries in member states and promoting their exports to international markets, improving the quality and safety of imports which will lead to integrating the joint interests of consumer, traders and industrialist.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

DRI is capitalizing on its output of standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures to boost the action of the ASEAN free trade area, and the free movement of goods, products and services among member states.

All these achievements would not have been possible without the efforts of our partners and volunteers. We thank you all for the support and contributions that you have made to the success of the national standardization, accreditation and metrology and programmes.

Finally, I conclude by extending my sincere thanks and appreciation to all those working in standardization in different levels; be them national, regional or international, for all their sustained efforts, and to thank the International Standardization Organizations for issuing the international standards that serve the requirements of international trade, liberalization of markets and elimination of technical barriers to trade.

In conclusion, I wish all of you a pleasant morning and Happy World Standards Day celebrations.