

## Study of Galon U Saw's Experiences in Japan in 1935

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## Study of Galon U Saw's Experiences in Japan in 1935

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This paper deals mainly with the relations between Myanmar and Japan. In this study, a prominent figure from Myanmar politics who visited Japan and his endeavor to develop the relations between the two countries will be presented. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the cordial relations between Myanmar and Japan did not exist. In 1907 Sayadaw U Ottama's visit to Japan that the Myanmar began to take an interest in Japan. After Japan appeared as a modernized nation, the reform movements and achievements of Japanese was emulated by Myanmar. Likewise, it is assured that Myanmar nationals such as political leaders and entrepreneurs from all sectors have the desires to achieve as an Asian country like Japan. Therefore, how did the prominent figures from Myanmar nationals at that time study and observe about the achievements of Japan will be discussed in this paper. Moreover, the advantages of the Japanese developed achievement under observation and the some disadvantages of Myanmar under British administration and the necessary factors to make reforms will be researched. By conducting this research, it aimed to know not only the efforts to develop the Japan - Myanmar relations at present but also efforts to develop the relations in the past and it also aimed to observe costumes and traditions of both countries. The primary and secondary sources to write this paper was obtained from the National Library of Myanmar, Universities' Central Library, University of Yangon Library, University of Maubin Library and Internet Archive.

### U Saw's Biography

His father, U Po Kyu, landowner and his mother, Daw Pan give birth Galon U Saw at Okepo Township in Tharrawady District on 16 May 1900. He attended to study at Roman Catholic missionary school in Gyobingauk Township from his childhood to the 7<sup>th</sup> standard. He also learned English language at Calcutta in India.<sup>1</sup> He used to practice reading newspaper from

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<sup>1</sup> Soe Myint Latt, *Biographical Dictionary of National*, Vol.1, Yangon, Sait Kuu Cho Cho Press, 2013, p. 1 (Soe Myint Latt, *Bio Dictionary*)

his childhood because of his father's suggestion. By reading the newspaper daily, the hereditary pride and courage arose to wave war based on the First World War. Moreover, it encouraged him to travel around the world since his childhood.<sup>2</sup> He had passed sixth standard examination held by the said school and had failed in his subsequent efforts to matriculate at Calcutta and London Universities.<sup>3</sup> He entered politics in the early 1920's.<sup>4</sup> Instead of continuing his studies for further education status he took interest in politics and passed lower grade pleader examinations in 1927.<sup>5</sup>

U Saw had the ability to exploit the circumstances which would favour to draw public attention. After he had offered his service for his defense at the trial of Saya San, he admired Saya San and wrote a spirited pamphlet about rebellion which promptly got prescribed, won fame and fortunes for himself in politics.<sup>6</sup> It was because the pamphlet he published a brochure containing a letter to the Secretary of State for India, complaining against the ruthless methods adopted the Government Officers, especially the police, in suppressing the rebellion. The brochure was prescribed by the Government.<sup>7</sup>

As he had severely condemned the Government drastic actions gainst Saya San, Mr. Booth Gravely, Secretary of Home Affairs remarked that U Saw became Galon, a mythical bird which had been Saya San's emblem. From there on he was popularly known as Galon U Saw.<sup>8</sup> To become one of the Myanmar Political leaders U Saw left no stone unturned. He first attempted to have a contact with the Thuriya newspaper.<sup>9</sup> As a separationist in 1932 U Saw was attached to

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<sup>2</sup> U Saw, *Japan Lan Nyunt*, Yangon, Thuriya Press, 1935, p. 5 (U Saw, *Japan Lan Nyunt*)

Japan Lan Nyunt mean Japan Guide (This book title is refer to advise the Myanmar youths how should to do to progress the Nation in the future, especially to imitate in matters of behavior of Japan)

<sup>3</sup> Kyi Nyunt, *Historic The Sun - The News Light of Myanmar and Myanmar Political*, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, Yangon, Chit Kyi Yae Press, 1970, p. 201(Kyi Nyunt, *Historic The Sun - The News Light of Myanmar*)

<sup>4</sup> Robert H. Taylor, *The State in Burma*, England, C.Hurst and Co. (publisher)Ltd, 1987, p. 173 (Robert H. Taylor, *The State in Burma*)

<sup>5</sup> Dr. Maung Maung, *Naing Ngan Taw Loke Kyan Hmu (Union and U Saw)*, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, Yangon, Kumara Press, 1968, p. 169 (Dr. Maung Maung, *Naing Ngan Taw Loke Kyan Hmu*)

<sup>6</sup> Maung Maung, *Burma's Constitution*, The Hague, Netherland, Martius Nifhoff,1961, p. 25 (Maung Maung, *Burma's Constitution*)

<sup>7</sup> U Kyaw Min, *The Burma We love*, Calcutta, Calcutta University Press, 1945, p. 21 (U Kyaw Min, *The Burma We love*)

<sup>8</sup> Kyi Nyunt, *Historic The Sun - The News Light of Myanmar*, p. 246

<sup>9</sup> Dr. Maung Maung, *Naing Ngan Taw Loke Kyan Hmu*, p. 18

the Thuriya which was an organ of U Ba Pe, one of the proprietors of the newspaper.<sup>10</sup> When a large block of share of the Thuriya press came on market to the value of Rupees (Kyat) 40,000, U Ba Pe who was erupted to have had the money, foolishly did not buy them. U Saw without hesitation bought the share. U Saw, thus, come to grip with U Ba Pe over the running the Thuriya newspaper.<sup>11</sup> He, then, acted as member Board of Director of the paper and earned Rupees 850 per month as his salary. In 1935 Galon U Saw, a prominent politician from Myanmar visited to Japan as the representative of Thuriya newspaper. During his stay in Japan, visiting to the famous places in Japan, studying the administrative system of Japanese government, fundamental education system of Japan and many factories in Japan, and writing the industrious activities of the Japanese as the imitation for Myanmar nationals. Only in 1938 he took the position of Chief Editor. It indicated that U Saw had a very influential power over the Board of Directors of the press.<sup>12</sup>

### Started to leave for Japan

In April 1935, Mr. Furuhata announced in the Thuriya newspaper and other newspapers that someone who has the desire to visit Japan could connect him. Mr. Furuhata was the Japanese merchant who has living in Yangon more than 20 years. Within one or two days after this announcement, a letter from U Ba Galay, the Chief Editor of Thuriya newspaper was received by U Saw. This letter urged U Saw that the merit of the newspaper and benefit of the country will be if U Saw was sent to Japan for writing news and articles for Thuriya newspaper. U Saw was also a member of the administration board of Thuriya newspaper.<sup>13</sup> U Saw tried hard to get the passport because he was always makes opposition to the Government politically. However U Saw signed an admission in order to satisfy the Governor that some political conservation against the India - Myanmar government were not expressed and that connection with other associations which managed for the disadvantages of the British government was not conducted during his stay in Japan.<sup>14</sup> After he got the passport, the board of Thuriya newspaper

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<sup>10</sup> Cady, J. F, *A History of Modern Burma*, Cornell University press New York, 1967, p. 366 (Cady, J. F, *A History of Modern Burma*)

<sup>11</sup> U Kyaw Min, *The Burma We love*, p. 22

<sup>12</sup> Kyi Nyunt, *Historic The Sun - The News Light of Myanmar*, p. 268

<sup>13</sup> U Saw, *Japan Lan Nyunt*, p. 7

<sup>14</sup> *ibid*, p. 9

decided to support the costs for writing news and articles for Thuriya newspaper.<sup>15</sup>

The purposes of U Saw's visit to Japan were to study the social structure, educational policy, and administrative system, behavior of the Japanese, culture and tradition of the Japanese as an advanced nation. Moreover Myanmar nationals who came under the British administration imitated the endeavors of the advanced Japanese in order to implement the welfare of the country by unity.<sup>16</sup> Especially the desires to visit to Japan are arisen Japan developed the acceleration on the world after the World War.<sup>17</sup>

U Saw, the member of legislative council, as the representative of Thuriya newspaper and party including U Maung Maung Khin, representative from New Light of Myanmar, U Nyi Pu, holder of A1 Film Company and together with his younger brother Maung Maung Soe, U Bo Hein from Bawdwin, Mg Khin Mg from Mawlamyaing, Mr. Furuhata from Yangon left for Singapore from Yangon port by the ship, named Carora at 4:30 am on 13 May 1935.<sup>18</sup> On 19 May 1935, they arrived at Singapore, U Saw and party stayed at Japanese luxury restaurant whose name was Central Hotel in Singapore.<sup>19</sup> After staying in Singapore for two days, U Saw and his party left for Japan from Singapore by a ship, Terukuni in the morning on 31 May.<sup>20</sup>

### Arrived at Moji

U Saw and his party arrived at Moji, beginning of the Japanese empire on 10 June. If Japan was assaulted by naval attack, warships entered into Moji. Therefore Japan prepared it as a naval base.<sup>21</sup> When they arrived at the harbor, journalists from the printing presses which were issued in English and Japanese language interviewed with them. Especially, they asked the British administrative system in Myanmar as U Saw was a member of the legislative Council and a politician.<sup>22</sup> However, U Saw gave no reply to journalists although there are many factors to answer regarding the British administration because he signed an admission before the Governor

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<sup>15</sup> U Saw, *Japan Lan Nyunt*, p. 12

<sup>16</sup> *ibid*, p. 1

<sup>17</sup> *ibid*, p. 5

<sup>18</sup> U Saw, *Japan Lan Nyunt*, p. 17

<sup>19</sup> *Thuriya Newspaper*, 7 June 1935

<sup>20</sup> *Thuriya Newspaper*, 15 June 1935

<sup>21</sup> U Saw, *Japan Lan Nyunt*, p. 108

<sup>22</sup> *Thuriya Newspaper*, 29 June 1935

that any political conservation against the India – Myanmar government were not expressed.<sup>23</sup>

### **Beer and alcoholic factory**

Many various factories were established near the river at Moji Township. Among these factories, there was one beer factory at Moji. Beer and liquor, produced from this factory were not only sold in Japan but also exported to the other countries. The Japanese government recognized this liquor factory to produce beer and liquor. Although most of the Japanese are the Buddhists, they engaged in the alcoholic factory. Those who engage in the alcoholic factory are encouraged by the Japanese without putting the blame on it. By doing like this, money from those who drink liquor for the purpose of their health and happiness do not flow to other countries. Moreover foreign currencies can be received by exporting the liquor to other countries. Myanmar nationals should notice this factor for the economic development of Myanmar and national income, although most of Myanmar nationals do not like the liquor drinking themselves.<sup>24</sup>

### **Attending the dinner party of Japanese Chamber of Commerce in Kobe**

On 10 June, U Saw and his party attended a dinner party given by the Japanese Chamber of Commerce in Kobe. Vice Chairman, Mr. Okusuki Akiyama attended the party as the Chairman of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce was absent to present. At that dinner, Vice Chairman delivered an address as follows;

“I am glad to be friendship with the gentlemen who came from Myanmar. Later, I also expected the visitors from Myanmar to visit more Japan. At present, Japan did not import rice from Myanmar because rice is produced not only having sufficient for Japan but also produced to export to the other countries. However, rice from Myanmar will be imported not only for Japan but for Manchukuo as the population of Japan grew nearly eight thousand annually. In purchasing rice from Myanmar, it will be bought directly from Myanmar without brokers. I also expect that the products from Japan will be purchased by Myanmar directly. I also expect that Myanmar will endeavor for the development of commerce as people from the eastern countries have intelligence, industrious, and ability like the westerners.”<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> *Thuriya Newspaper*, 29 June 1935

<sup>24</sup> U Saw, *Japan Lan Nyunt*, p. 109

<sup>25</sup> *ibid*, p. 123

U Saw as the representative of Myanmar expressed his gratitude as follows:

“We thanks specially for giving a dinner for us. I believe that cordial relations between Myanmar and Japan will be existed since the two nations are both the eastern nations and the Buddhist countries. I also expected that all the citizens in Thailand, Phillipine, Japan, Myanmar, Manchukuo, and China in the East needed to settle united. Our country, Myanmar is a country where produced a large number of rice and timber. I am happy that the Vice Chairman said to buy Myanmar products directly. By purchasing through the broker dealers, Myanmar will suffer the disadvantages. We could not buy a lot of Japanese products, if the disadvantages and little profits are received. At present, aliens had bought Myanmar rice and timber with low prices. Myanmar has the desire to conduct further relations with Japan.”<sup>26</sup>

Myanmar is a state which depends on rice principally. If the foreigners did not need Myanmar rice, there is no reason for the development of Myanmar's economy. After the annexation of Myanmar by the British, the government encouraged for the extension of acreages under cultivation. After the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, Myanmar cultivators benefited with the prices of rice rose as the European countries bought Myanmar's rice. With the price of rice, Myanmar cultivators mainly engaged the cultivation more than other business. However the price of rice fell from the year 1923 and Myanmar cultivators therefore faced with the grievances.<sup>27</sup> Therefore industrial enterprises should be started without depending on the cultivation.<sup>28</sup> One feature of the colonial economy was an economy which made their colonies depend only on one product and the economy based only on agriculture was created in Myanmar.<sup>29</sup> The forty five percent of foreign export value from Myanmar was gained from the rice and rice products. Therefore Myanmar economy became disruption by controlling the price of rice by the capitalists.<sup>30</sup> Myanmar is a country where valuable teak and hard wood forests are plentiful and fifty seven percent of the land area is covered with forests.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> U Saw, *Japan Lan Nyunt*, p. 124

<sup>27</sup> *Kyi Pwar Yee Magazine*, Vol - 2, No - 1, October, 1933, p. 25

<sup>28</sup> U Saw, *Japan Lan Nyunt*, p. 149

<sup>29</sup> Botataung Newspaper, 23 September 1981

<sup>30</sup> U Chit Lwin, *Myanmar Thwe Khae*, Yangon, Zabu Maitwe Pitakat Press, 1949, p. 6 (U Chit Lwin, *Myanmar Thwe Khae*)

<sup>31</sup> Botataung Newspaper, *Myanmar Forest Yadanar*, 7 February 1982

### Visited to Iron Factory at Fukui (Fukiai)

On 11 June, U Saw and party together with the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce visited the Iron factory, owned by Kawasaki Company which was started to establish in 1886. This factory was located at Fukui (Fukiai) and was built in July 1918. It is the largest one in the eastern countries.<sup>32</sup> Nearly half of the iron materials, used in Japan were produced from this factory. This Kawasaki Company not only produced cargo ships, rail engines and motorcycles but produced to sell the artillery for the Japanese government.

The Japanese government sent scholars to study industry in foreign countries. Besides necessary assistances were supported in various means in case the industrial enterprises will be established. The scholars, who returned after studying in abroad also, shared their knowledge with Japanese language in their country. Therefore, Japan became advanced and prosperous nation within a short period. By giving reasons that Myanmar government have not budget to send scholars abroad and did not bear the expense for them, they always urged to send only six scholars in a year.<sup>33</sup>

70 percent of the materials used in Fukui (Fukiai) iron factory in Japan were produced in Germany. At first, Japanese bought to use all materials from other countries. Then, they tried to produce this kind of materials in their country. Not only machine parts were imitated but also foreign experts were employed in their factory in order to get technology from the developed western nations. Although foreign experts returned to their home after tenure of contract, the Japanese nationals have already received technology from them. Therefore Japan developed as an advanced nation in the world within fifty years.<sup>34</sup>

### Visiting to the Toyo garment factory in Osaka

On 12 June, U Saw and party travelled from Kobe to Osaka by electric locomotive. This train has more carriages and more wide than the local train in Myanmar.<sup>35</sup> In the morning, U Saw also visited the Toyo garment factory in Osaka. 2400 workers were employed at this factory and produced 82,000 yards of garment per day. Investigating to export Myanmar cotton to Japan,

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<sup>32</sup> U Saw, *Japan Lan Nyunt*, p. 116

<sup>33</sup> *ibid*, p. 117

<sup>34</sup> *Thuriya Newspaper*, 5 July 1935

<sup>35</sup> U Saw, *Japan Lan Nyunt*, p. 149



it is known that American cotton is more excellent in quality than Myanmar cotton. It is also known that not only this factory but also other factories used American cotton.<sup>36</sup> England, America and Japan were the most successful nations in cotton and textile industry in the World. Prior to the First World War, England was the first successful nation in cotton and textile industry and after the War, Japan became the most successful nation in cotton and textile industry as all nations in the World competed to work this industry. In 1912, there were 147 cotton and textile factories in Japan. The number of textile factory increased from 147 to 252 in 1931.<sup>37</sup>

### Attending to meet the Editors of Asahi Press and Mainichi Press

When they arrived at Osaka on 12 June, afternoon, board of editors from the Asahi press which is the most prominent press in Japan hosted a lunch party to U Saw and party. At this meeting, U Saw discussed the commercial relations regarding the Myanmar rice, cotton and timber as he has already said at the Kobe Chamber of Commerce. Chief Editor of the Asahi press addressed greeting to the Myanmar delegation as follows;

“I am very glad to meet with Myanmar nationals. I want all the gentlemen to visit and study in Japan thoroughly. Especially I want the gentlemen to study and understand the Japanese culture, literature, education, home industry and administrative system. Friendly relations between the two countries are important in the future since both Myanmar and Japan are eastern nations and the Buddhist countries.”

U Saw as the representative of Myanmar expressed his gratitude as follows;

“At present, Myanmar suffered the feeling of inferiority under colonialism as the absent of self-ruler. All the Myanmar people and I thank to the Japanese as the Japanese welcomed us warmly at this conditions. I also expected that we can serve in order to emulate by the Myanmar national as the knowledge by studying the changing advances of Japan and the Japanese national. One country did not know each other well as distance from Myanmar to Japan is about 5,000 miles. When we met with the Japanese gentlemen after arriving at Japan, it is enjoyed that we are intimate with the whole of Japanese people.”<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> *Thuriya Newspaper*, 5 July 1935

<sup>37</sup> *Kyi Pwar Yee Magazine*, 11 November 1933, Vol - 2, No - 2, p. 40

<sup>38</sup> *Thuriya Newspaper*, 3 July 1935

In the evening of 12 June, U Saw travelled to the Mainichi press which issued the largest number of publications not only in Japan but also in the eastern parts of Suez Canal as the Mainichi press invited. When he arrived at the press, chief editor and all the servants of Mainichi press accepted cordially. Many people in Japan read newspaper.<sup>39</sup> All the clerks and security guards from the factories, offices and hotels also read newspaper.<sup>40</sup>

### Visiting to the enamel ware factory in Nagoya

The advanced cities in Japanese Empire were Tokyo, Osaka, and Nagoya.<sup>41</sup> U Saw and party visited to study the enamel ware factory in Nagoya. The cheap and beautiful enamel wares produced from these factories were exported to Myanmar, India, Malay and Pashu islands. The Japanese products are goods of the high quality and are sold cheaply for the following reasons:

- Getting the supports of the Government for the establishment of the industrial enterprises by the Japanese entrepreneurs.
- Using the electricity with cheap cost in all the business which is used machines with electrical energy.
- Incurring the low rates of transportation on goods.
- Using the currency only for the investments in order to operate the business without constructing the factories at the beginning of the business.

In Myanmar, the owner of the rice mill prepared firstly his house grandly in various means before the building of the rice mill. Currencies were more used for living a life of luxury than the investments. Therefore many businessmen lost profits lastly without operating the business carefully.<sup>42</sup> It is suggested that Myanmar people noticed the facts and changed it consciously.

### Studying to the the paper making factories in Fuji and Tokyo

U Saw and his party visited to study the paper making industry owned by the Oji Company in Fuji Township from Nagoya. Forty kinds of paper were produced from this paper

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<sup>39</sup> *Thuriya Newspaper*, 3 July 1935

<sup>40</sup> U Saw, *Japan Lan Nyunt*, p. 135

<sup>41</sup> *ibid*, p. 143

<sup>42</sup> U Saw, *Japan Lan Nyunt*, p. 146

mill.<sup>43</sup> The only pine trees which are plentiful in Japan were used in making paper as raw materials. The Oji paper making company was built in 1872 with the investment of 150,000 Japanese Yen. Nowadays, this mill achieved and operated successfully with the investment of 150 million Yen within sixty three years of its existence.

The year 1933 was critical in the history of paper making industries in Japan. In 1933, all the paper mills in the Japan Empire were established a joint venture company by merging all the paper industries. Until present days, the paper making industry in Japan was still achieved successful by merging all the company such as Fuji paper making industry, Karafuto paper making industry.<sup>44</sup>

On 2 July, U Saw also visited to a paper making industry in Tokyo as the owner of this factory invited him. Papers were produced from cotton and linen rags from this paper mill without using timber, bamboo and straw as raw materials.<sup>45</sup> By producing papers from cotton and linen rags, it is cheaper in expenses and paper quality is better. Cotton rags were used and silk rags were not used in paper making. Therefore any material can be obtained and everything is useful in Japan. Also the hairline of the head from the haircutting shop could be produced as the fertilizer.<sup>46</sup>

At present, paper making industry in Japan produced paper from bamboo, straw and cloth rags and it is the very benefit enterprise. By the assistance from the Myanmar Government, if such industry will be built in Myanmar, unemployment problems could be solved by the job opportunity on the one hand and it is convenient for the economy of the country on the other. The various kind of paper were used in Japan and it is used not only in the printing press and but also used in building houses. Moreover, paper is also used for the purpose of sanitation.<sup>47</sup> Japan is also a state which engaged mainly on agriculture like Myanmar fifty- five years ago. The many industrial enterprises have not engaged in Japan yet. In the succeeding years, the industrial enterprises were engaged and the youths were sent abroad to study the technology.<sup>48</sup>

Especially scholars were sent to Germany, France, America and England which are

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<sup>43</sup> *Thuriya Newspaper*, 13 July 1935

<sup>44</sup> *ibid*

<sup>45</sup> U Saw, *Japan Lan Nyunt*, p. 219

<sup>46</sup> *ibid*, p. 221

<sup>47</sup> U Saw, *Japan Lan Nyunt*, p. 150

<sup>48</sup> *ibid*, p. 152

more superior technology than Japan.<sup>49</sup> Besides necessary assistances were given in various means if the industrial enterprises will be established. At present Japan engaged different kind of industry and the industrial products were exported to other countries by comparison with the others. It is to emulate for the Myanmar Government and Myanmar people.<sup>50</sup> For example, iron melt were made with the iron technology from Germany. Production of machines were made in Japan with the similar quality of English products. Then, garments were exported to such country as India and Myanmar with the low cost by weaving with the cotton from America. Japan was successful by purchasing used cars and iron from China and India and built steamship in their country with German technology and travelled around the world.<sup>51</sup>

Japan became such an advanced nation in the World because of the industrial development and because of an industrious and inventive people of Japanese male and female. Moreover the Japanese people helped and supported each other without jealousy. Myanmar did not become an advanced nation as some people competed with each other without united.<sup>52</sup>

### Visiting the Navy and Air Force in Tokyo

U Saw also visited the Japanese air force and naval force in Yokosuka region far fifty miles away from Tokyo. There are twelve battalion of naval and air force in the Japanese empire. U Saw found that they practiced air combat maneuvering, when he studied the air force firstly. All the pilots were the Japanese youths. He want Myanmar youths to take such opportunity.<sup>53</sup> A Japanese colonel showed on the warship. This warship can navigate with the speed of thirty three miles per hour. Twelve cannons with twelve inches wide muzzle loading were placed on each warship and these cannon could fire four or five cannonballs within a minute. These cannon can throw east to west and left to right by turning it. Moreover, twelve Torpedo launchers,<sup>54</sup> anti-aircraft guns which throw 250 cannonballs in a minute, six range finders and wireless telegraph were placed on the warship and 500 sailors were employed. It is the second class

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<sup>49</sup> *Kyi Pwar Yee Magazine*, Vol - 3, No - 1, October, 1934, p. 10

<sup>50</sup> U Saw, *Japan Lan Nyunt*, p. 151

<sup>51</sup> *ibid*, p. 152

<sup>52</sup> *Thuriya Newspaper*, 15 July 1935

<sup>53</sup> *ibid*

<sup>54</sup> *Torpedo-launchers* are specialized weapon designed to blow apart the hulls of enemy vessels. They are quite powerful, though they deal somewhat less damage to beasts and enemy crew (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Torpedo>)

warship and there are 150 number of such kind of warship in Japanese navy. After studying the Japanese navy, the Japanese General asked his point of view to U Saw regarding the Japanese navy. U saw replied as follows;

“Formally, nobody respected to the Japanese as they were the person of small structure in the world. Nowadays, the Japanese achieved in the strength of naval forces, air forces and army and especially they could be called as the Emperor of Ocean in the Pacific. Somebody in the World assumed themselves as the Emperor of Ocean. Nowadays, Japan accepted the title as the Emperor of Ocean. Some people in the World gave respect to the Japanese and we prayed that all nations in the World give respect to the Japanese like Manchukuo by cooperating with Japan and Myanmar.”<sup>55</sup>

Started from the last sixty years ago Japan made transformation in every sector and advanced in such situation at present. Japan did not possess the Warship and a range of sophisticated weaponry when Japan started to export and import by opening of Japan to the World from the last sixty and seventy years ago.<sup>56</sup> Although they did not possess a range of sophisticated weaponry, their self-confidence surpasses than the others. They defended their country with a strong mind industriously whenever the other country attacked on them. Therefore Japan stood as an advanced nation in the World without falling under the control of other country.<sup>57</sup>

U Saw found that about 150 Japanese students studied the air force while U Saw was visiting the air force. The Japanese government trained the youths in order to admire combat maneuvering by studying this from the childhood. After studying the air force, U Saw travelled by boat to study the Cruzer Japanese warship anchored at the Marine central department. When he arrived at the naval force, he saw the warships, Ataro (Atago), Akagi, Nachi, Hosho, Yamashi (Yamato) and Naka.<sup>58</sup> The Japanese warship, Yamashi (Yamato) is one of the two largest warships in the World.<sup>59</sup>

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<sup>55</sup> U Saw, *Japan Lan Nyunt*, p. 161

<sup>56</sup> *ibid*, p. 177

<sup>57</sup> *ibid*, p. 178

<sup>58</sup> *ibid*, p. 161

<sup>59</sup> *ibid*, p. 162

### Attending to meet with Japanese Foreign Secretary of Tokyo

As U Saw is politically minded person, he attempted to meet Japanese foreign secretary who took responsibility for the affairs of the State in relations to the countries such as America, England, Russia, China and Myanmar.<sup>60</sup> During the discussion with Japanese foreign secretary, U Saw addressed the political conditions of Myanmar as follows;

“At present, Myanmar came under the control of foreigners. However Myanmar nationals attempted enthusiastically to regain her independence from colonial rule. I think that the independence of Myanmar could be expected if Myanmar youths attempted vigorously within five and ten years.”

U Saw asked the attitude of Japan toward Myanmar and requested to give suggestions as an intimate nation<sup>61</sup> He wanted to send scholars from Myanmar to Japan. He wanted the scholars to learn not only the literature but technology. U Saw also discussed how does the Japanese help for them.<sup>62</sup>

Regarding the discussions, Japanese foreign secretary replied as follows;

“At present, intimate relations between Japan and England existed. We also regarded affectionately Myanmar as an intimate friend. Myanmar will achieve if attempts were made patiently. Reform movements are the most important for the development of a nation. Japan has also made reforms in every sectors started from the last sixty years and reached at the present conditions.”<sup>63</sup>

He also said that Myanmar will also need to make reforms in various sectors. He also promised that they will give assistances possible with regard to send scholars. He also said that they will help to learn practical works by sending Myanmar scholars to the factories.<sup>64</sup>

### Visiting to the Kao soap company in Tokyo

U Saw also visited the Kao soap company situated at the eastern part of Tokyo. The various kinds of soaps were produced from this company by using coconuts. Besides, not only produced coconut oil, butter and perfumed shampoos but also produced fertilizer from the

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<sup>60</sup> *Thuriya Newspaper*, 18 July 1935

<sup>61</sup> U Saw, *Japan Lan Nyunt*, p. 176

<sup>62</sup> *ibid.*, p. 180

<sup>63</sup> *ibid.*, p. 177

<sup>64</sup> *ibid.*, p. 181

coconut waste in order to use in the agriculture. Moreover, the important common chemicals used to make bomb for the military purpose were produced from chemical yielded in making soap. Although coconuts were used for the purpose of liquid, coconut flakes and present in Myanmar, it can be used from soap to the fertilizer and bomb in Japan. The inventions of Japanese will be much admired. At present, some Myanmar nationals started to make soap industry. The persons who made soap should attempt to get better quality day by day. As all Myanmar people more used the soap later, the soap industry in Myanmar will be advanced in the future.<sup>65</sup>

### Studying the tobacco enterprises in Japan

In Japan, the private entrepreneurs were not given permission to produce cheroot and tobacco industry and it was placed under Government control. There were government owned thirty cigarette factories and one cheroot factory. The Japanese government bought all the tobacco produced in Japan and imported from foreign countries. In Japan, cheroot and tobacco making were prohibited to the Japanese civilians and took action severely if it is found making the cheroot and tobacco. U Saw also visited the Narihira-hojo cigarette factory in Tokyo with the arrangement of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce. This factory operated with 1,400 employees as all the various steps from boiling the tobacco to the production of cigarette were made with machines.<sup>66</sup>

In Japan, the cheroot and tobacco industry were engaged extensively under the supervision of the government. With the purpose of exporting Myanmar tobacco to get working opportunity for the tobacco cultivators and for the economic development of the country, U Saw also visited the government recognized company which imported tobacco from foreign countries. He also discussed with the manager to export Myanmar tobacco to Japan. The manager said that Myanmar tobacco was imported last ten years ago. However, Japanese government prohibited to buy tobacco from Myanmar tobacco which was intoxicated and tobacco produced from Madras in India were imported.<sup>67</sup>

The Japanese government used the tobacco produced from their country for the

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<sup>65</sup> *Thuriya Newspaper*, 20 July 1935

<sup>66</sup> *ibid*

<sup>67</sup> U Saw, *Japan Lan Nyunt*, p. 214

production of cheroot and cigarette without importing from the foreign countries. The tobacco cultivators in Japan systematically cultivated not to mix the tobacco seeds. Therefore, it is more cheap and is easy to produce the furnished goods as the tobacco were pure and products from the purified seeds. As the Myanmar cultivators do not care the purified seeds and cultivated by mixing the seeds, Myanmar tobacco do not penetrate into the foreign markets. Therefore the tobacco cultivators in Hinthada, Shwekyin, Karma and Myin Gyan townships should notice this fact.<sup>68</sup>

### The cars in Japan

Not only the Japanese motorcars but also the Chevrolet and Ford cars produced from America were used for the transportation in Japan. However three wheeled cars were used in transporting the basic commodities without importing the cars produced from the other countries. Therefore the expense of foreign currencies could be reduced by using three wheeled cars for the low cost of transportation charges. U Saw and party also visited the automobile company where the Dutsan cars which were used in Myanmar were produced. This automobile company is established in Yokohama Township. The machines used in producing automobiles were imported from America and machines produced in Japan were also used in this company.<sup>69</sup>

All of the factories were owned by the foreigners in Myanmar. Myanmar nationals did not use machines in their factory because of insufficient investments and they cannot compete with the factories owned by the foreigners. All the machines were also imported from abroad and they faced the difficulties in order to borrow the necessary capitals. The English and Anglo – Indian Banks lent money to the Chettiyars with special chance.<sup>70</sup>

Although the British should adopt the policy for the training of social welfares, they neglected the people of Myanmar who have no experiences in modern technology. As the opportunity were given the Indian labours than Myanmar people by adopting the policy, the advance of modern technology was slow.<sup>71</sup> As a bulk of Indian labours entered into Myanmar

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<sup>68</sup> U Saw, *Japan Lan Nyunt*, p. 216

<sup>69</sup> *ibid*, p. 189

<sup>70</sup> J.S. Furnival, *An introduction to the political economy of Burma*, Rangon,1931, p. 121 (J.S. Furnival, *An introduction to the political economy of Burma*)

<sup>71</sup> *ibid*, p. 161



with the aim of economic activities, Myanmar nationals lost economically and socially.<sup>72</sup>

### Studying the educational policy practiced in Japan

The development of education in Japan since the Meiji Era (1868-1912) will be analyzed here in closer relation to her economic development. The modern school system was inaugurated at the early years of the Meiji Era. Meiji, the most prominent Emperor in its history issued Royal Order on 10 October 1890 which is the twenty third anniversary of his rule in Japan. The brief of this royal order runs as follows;

“Our ancestors of the Japanese Emperor attempted to preserve the Japanese Empire perpetually. Our nationals also behaved in respect to the ancestors of Japanese Emperor united. These situations were organized because of the higher standard of our education. The people in Japan give respect to your ancestors. Be affectionate to your brothers and sisters. Be compassionate among husbands and wives. Be loyal among the friends. Be equal among the people. Be benevolence on the people. Let know and learn technology. Let conduct the benefits of the people. Be obeying the rules of law. Let defense the country at the expense of life if an important affairs occurred. Be brave like your ancestors. I teach you as our ancestors instructed to us. This Royal Order was signed by the Emperor himself.”<sup>73</sup>

Donating lands for many schools in Tokyo, offering the school buildings, supporting money to the schools were made by the Emperor himself. U Saw has studied a school building donated by the Emperor for teaching history at the Waseda University. This university was opened to teach many subjects without taking the supports from the Government.<sup>74</sup>

In 1886, the modern elementary school system started as compulsory education. Until 1947, only elementary schools were compulsory. Immediately before and during World War II, state education was used as a propaganda tool by the Japanese fascist government.<sup>75</sup> In the Japanese education system, primary education was compulsory and it was supported by the Government. The Japanese government ratified the compulsory education system between the

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<sup>72</sup> Thein Pe Myint, *Common Policy and Burma*, Yangon, White Doves Press, 1964, p. 172 (Thein Pe Myint, *Common Policy and Burma*)

<sup>73</sup> U Saw, *Japan Lan Nyunt*, p. 202

<sup>74</sup> *ibid*

<sup>75</sup> Japan's Growth and Education 1963, Ministry of Education July 1963

age of six and fourteen as law. Then, every child above the age of six years was supported by the government in order to continue their education at present as the government gradually amended this law. Therefore the number of educated person rose in Japan. In Japan, there were 25,665 primary schools according to the last statistics. The total number of 10,382,590 students studied the primary education. The universities and colleges did not consist in this statics.<sup>76</sup> The Japanese Government used 650 million budgets for education spending. The Central Government supported fifteen millions and the rest of budgets were given by the Municipality. Therefore, three fifth of national revenues were used for the primary education sector.<sup>77</sup>

In the primary schools in Japan, reading, mathematics, Japanese history, Geography, Chemistry, electric, painting, singing and physical exercises were taught. The sewing and knitting were also taught for girls in the schools. In teaching the Chemistry, not only literature but practical exercises were taught from the childhood. When U Saw visited to study to the primary schools, he found that stones, various kinds of iron, saltpeter, alum, marinate of ammonia, paddy, peas, gourd, pumpkin, radish plant, various flower, birds used as the teaching aids for practical purposes. Moreover, method for measuring the meter and electrical technology were also taught from the primary education.<sup>78</sup>

Moreover, the children were trained to practice reading newspapers from the childhood at the Japanese schools. All teachers let the children to read newspaper by placing suitable newspaper on notice board. Especially, military news, the news to honor the hero, and adventures for the nation were read.<sup>79</sup> In Myanmar, although newspapers were placed at some schools, it is not organized systematically.<sup>80</sup> It is important in Myanmar that the compulsory primary education system such as Japan and the government support for the education were necessary in Myanmar. Although the compulsory primary education were not materializing, it is necessary to cultivate for the virtue of moral behavior and to develop national patriotism.<sup>81</sup>

In Japan, 1,800,000 students finished their primary education and among them, ten percent of male students and six percent of female students continued their middle school

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<sup>76</sup> U Saw, *Japan Lan Nyunt*, p. 195

<sup>77</sup> *Thuriya Newspaper*, 22 July 1935

<sup>78</sup> *ibid*

<sup>79</sup> *ibid*

<sup>80</sup> U Saw, *Japan Lan Nyunt*, p. 198

<sup>81</sup> *ibid*, p. 200

education. The rest students worked for the survival of life. Therefore, a few students continued their high school education. It is not necessary to attend the high school education in Japan for those who works as the normal earners and those who served as a soldier. Therefore, a little number of youths studied the higher education. Especially, many female were not necessary to learn the higher education and they entered to work at the suitable governmental departments after the primary education.

Moreover, U Saw visited the Kyoritsu Women Educational Institutions which was donated by a woman named Maydin Hatoyama. 2,000 female students studies at this school.<sup>82</sup> The Kyoritsu Women Educational Institutions was established in Tokyo. The women were trained for the virtue of moral character and taught the ways for the preservation of household chores and the knowledge to serve as an assistant if it is necessary for the country and the people. Moreover, the women were trained to become a virtuous spouse and were taught to respect their parents.<sup>83</sup> The Japanese girls were trained for the virtue of moral character and for the upsurge of patriotism at the schools in Japan. Moreover, they were also trained for the preservation of household chores and were taught the ways for cultivating their children in accordance with the rules of law for wife.<sup>84</sup>

### U Saw returning from Japan

After returning from Japan, U Saw delivered his experiences and knowledge from Japan for the youths in order to admire his experiences at Yangon University Union Association on 20 August and at the Hall of Government High School Yangon invited by the youth prosperous Association on 24 August.<sup>85</sup> U Saw inspired the Myanmar youths to admire by expressing the honesty of the Japanese, giving life for the country and their nationality, their bravery and becoming an advanced nation because of their reforms in Japan. He also insisted that Myanmar youths should endeavor effectively for the Japanese foreign secretary supported the Myanmar scholars with the necessary assistances. Not only the students but Buddhist monks attended and listened to his experiences and encouragements. And then published *Japan Lan Nyunt* in 1935 and distributed at cheap price is one kyat by the Thuriya Press. Thuriya Newspaper's price is 5

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<sup>82</sup> *Thuriya newspaper*, 23 July 1935

<sup>83</sup> U Saw, *Japan Lan Nyunt*, p. 208

<sup>84</sup> *Thuriya newspaper*, 24 July 1935

<sup>85</sup> U Saw, *Japan Lan Nyunt*, p. 224

pya in this period. In this book describes the industrial and commercial prowess of the Japanese, their concern for cooperation with other Asian, and his belief that the Japanese model of economic development and cultural conservatism was appropriate for Myanmar.

From the time of this visit to Japan, which was paid for by his hosts, until sometime shortly before he became Premier in 1940, he maintained close contacts with Japanese diplomats and agents in Yangon, and, in the words of the governor of Burma, there was good reason to think that he accepted money from them. After cultivating the favour of the Japanese consul in Yangon, he had sufficient funds he bought the Thuriya Press when he return from Japan in February 1938 and the next month began to organize his Myochit Party. From that time the Thuriya newspaper became the paper for Japanese propagation works. In 1938 he took the position of Chief Editor of the Thuriya Press.<sup>86</sup>

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<sup>86</sup> Robert H. Taylor, *The State in Burma*, p. 173

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