

Mr. Mang Hau Thang (Myanmar)
2006-2007 United Nations – The Nippon Foundation of Japan Fellow



Bio Sketch

Mang Hau Thang, Assistant Director, International Law and Treaties Division, Consular and Legal Affairs Department, obtained his B.A (History) from the Yangon University of Distance Education in 1995. He then joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Head of Branch 2(Third Secretary) in January 1997. Mr. Thang worked in the ASEAN Affairs Department at Research Unit and was subsequently promoted to Head of Branch1 (Second Secretary) in December 1999. He then served as Second Secretary at Myanmar Embassy, Moscow, from March 2000 to November 2003. During in mission, he covered administrative and legal matters including Myanmar's support in the international bodies requested by the States concerned. In November 2003, Mr. Thang worked at the Division and handles matters on the law of the sea, particularly on the extension of Myanmar's continental shelf beyond 200 M, maritime boundaries delimitation with neighboring States and performs other duties. During the period, Mr. Thang took a nine-month course and earned Diploma in Business Law (DBL) from Law Department, Yangon University in December 2004. In January 2006, Mr. Thang was promoted to Assistant Director (First Secretary) in the same department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar.

Fellowship Host Institutions and Supervisors

1. Marine Law Centre, National University of Ireland-Galway (Dr. Ronan Long)
2. Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations (DOALOS)

Research Abstract

Issues Related to Delineating the Outer Limits of Myanmar's Continental Shelf in the Context of Article 76 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

In accordance with by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Myanmar shall prepare implementing work on delineating its continental shelf in the Bay of Bengal in order to ensure timely submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS). Given the geological and geographical circumstances, Myanmar's potential area of claim includes an average margin of 390,700 square kilometres. This paper shall explore the practical approaches of Myanmar's application of the sediment thickness formula. To this end, the paper examines Myanmar's universal guiding principle of "natural prolongation" from the legal perspective by examining the existing complex formulas as provided for by UNCLOS. Delineating its continental shelf is essential for Myanmar's economic interests related to oil and gas. The application of the Irish formula may bring Myanmar the maximum benefit to its present and future energy security.

Fellow Contact Information

mhthang@gmail.com

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Japan Fellowship Programme:
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and Law of the Sea.
www.un.org/Depts/los
doalos@un.org