

The Metta Cottage Hospital



Sayadaw U Indaka in front of the Metta Cottage Hospital in Thaleba

The annual visit to Thaleba on the 6th of February was dominated by one event: **The Metta Cottage Hospital**. However, as usual we supported other projects such as offering a **new water purifying system** for the school, **solar panels** to run the water pump for the distribution of the water in the village, and **medical support** for the elders. In the village across the River Mu, we offered some funds to buy **medicines** for the local clinic in Kyaugone.

The students of the primary, middle and high school greeted us in their traditional way: standing in two rows, hands in añjali, and chanting metta wishes ‘May you be well, happy and peaceful; may all being be well, happy and peaceful’. We that was a group of eighteen people. Many of



the meditators joined for this day trip to Thaleba which took place between the first and second metta retreat at the Chanmyay Myaing Meditation Centre in Pyin Oo Lwin. After inspecting the **new water purifying system**, a number of people, Burmese and some of us, gave short talks to encourage and inspire the 553

students to make the best out of the opportunity to learn – not taking it for granted! At the end of the ceremony, each student got 2 plums (a real treat for them!), note books, and pens.



The water purifying system



Ayya Virañani testing the water taps



The boys sitting on one side of the school yard ...



... and the girls sitting on the other side



Distribution of plums, pens, and note books



The foreign yogis watch and enjoy the ceremony

In the **Metta Clinic** the elders of the village receive free medical treatment, and additionally a nutritious meal. The clinic was opened seven years ago and it has become an important institution in Thaleba to make sure that the grandmothers and grandfathers – as they are lovingly called – can get the necessary medical treatment as their bodies become weaker and more fragile.



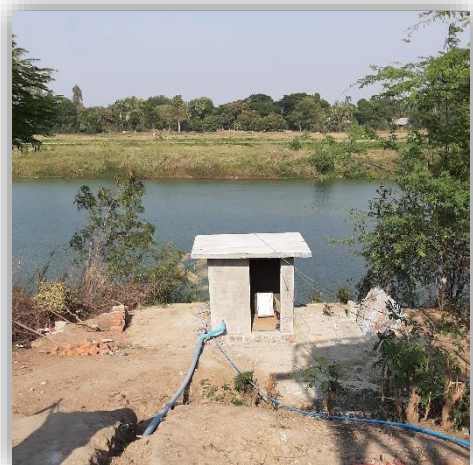
The 7th anniversary celebration of the Metta Clinic. A snack before the ceremony starts (below left)



Grandmothers and grandfathers of Thaleba



The solar panels (left) and the water tower (right)



The River Mu and the pump house

For the distribution of the water in Thaleba the water is pumped from the River Mu to a big water tank from where the water flows through the village. There are seven water stations in the village where the people can fill their canisters. This allows the women and children – who usually carry the water – to walk a much shorter distance with their heavy pots on their heads or over their shoulders.

So far, the water from the river was pumped up to the water tank with a generator, ‘eating’ a lot of fuel and making a lot of noise. This year we donated **solar panels** that produce enough power for the pump to run.



Two of the water stations in Thaleba





The construction of the Thaleba Cottage Hospital took just a bit more than one year

On the 1st of March 2020, the **Thaleba Cottage Hospital** was officially handed over to the government which will provide the necessary equipment and staff (doctors, nurses, assistants) and is now responsible to run the hospital. This was a big day for the people in Thaleba and 11 neighbouring villages: now they have an even better medical facility very close by! For both patients and family members there is no more need to travel far to the next hospital. Last year Metta In Action had donated a large sum of money towards the construction of the hospital, part of that money was used for the water purifying system (see next page).



1st
March
2020





The water tank, part of the water purifying system (left)



The hospital before completion (right)



U Win accepts the MIA donation on Sayadaw's behalf. Present are: Ariya, Mimmi, Greg, Virañani, Carol

Daw Gyi, a nun living at the CMMC in Yangon, had donated the land for the hospital, about 5 acres. The building measures 110 by 141 feet and contains 2 operating rooms, a women's and a men's ward with 16 beds in total, bathrooms, a lab, an X-ray room, a delivery room, an ECG room, a dispensary, and offices.



After a rich lunch served on the premises of the hospital some went down to the river - and some went even swimming!



Metta In Action is not only very famous in Thaleba and the neighbouring villages but also greatly appreciated by young and old. Each year, when we visit on 6 February, the villagers express their admiration, joy, appreciation, and heartfelt THANK YOU for all the support they get through MIA. They are grateful that the world comes to them because they lack the means to travel the world. If YOU would show up in Thaleba, you would surely be treated as a guest of honour!

With a deep bow of gratitude and respect to each of you – your contribution makes all the MIA projects possible!

Ariya Baumann, April 2020