

PRESS RELEASE

The Ambassador of India, Mr. Vikram Misri, this morning inaugurated two projects supported by the Government of India – for developing Long-Lead Flood Early Warning System and Earthquake Monitoring System in Myanmar. Both the systems, housed in the Department of Meteorology and Hydrography (**DMH**) of the Ministry of Transport and Communications in Nay Pyi Taw, were inaugurated in the presence of Deputy Minister for Transport and Communication H.E. U Kyaw Myo. The systems, developed under financial and technical assistance from the Government of India channelled via Regional Integrated Multi Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (**RIMES**), have been tested and verified and are now fully integrated with existing Myanmar systems. Under the Flood Warning System, 12 automatic water level stations and 3 automatic weather stations have been established and under the Earthquake Monitoring System, 10 telemetered seismic stations have been added to the 8 station network of the DMH.

2. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Misri said that this was an opportune time to inaugurate these projects as the nation had only recently observed the 10th anniversary of Cyclone Nargis, the worst natural disaster in the recorded history of Myanmar. Enhancing Myanmar's capacity for better forecasting and monitoring extreme weather events such as Nargis, said Ambassador Misri, would go a long way towards better preparation and mitigation of damage from such natural disasters. Ambassador Misri also highlighted the participatory nature of the projects whereby Myanmar experts were involved from start to end. He also underlined the usage of relevant scientific and

technological tools that avoided unnecessary financial burdens on the host country and the back-up that was always available to the systems through linkages with key organisations in India, Europe and elsewhere. The projects, he said, were a splendid example of sustainable cooperation that leveraged institutional resources from within the country and provided an alternative model for the development partner – beneficiary country relationship.

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