



THE SALWEEN INSTITUTE

... informing peoples, empowering communities, and impacting policies in Burma/Myanmar through partnership.

CITIZEN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN A DEMOCRACY

A sense of citizenship – or a sense of belonging to a country - is the most fundamental thread that connects all fellow citizens in a country. In other words, citizens of a country are not bound by race or religion, but by a set of shared values. And, with this sense of citizenship, we also need to develop a set of rights and responsibilities that each and every citizen needs to understand and share. This includes citizens' right to have a voice in how we, as a country, should be governed and our responsibility to commit to the collective progress all our fellow citizens.

Who Should Attend?

If you want to be a responsible and engaged citizen, this program is designed for you. We will focus on both rights and responsibilities of citizens in Burma/Myanmar context.

Key Benefits

Be informed about your rights and responsibilities as citizens;
Analyze the role of citizens in an open society and compare it with those in a closed society; and,
Learn the tools required to become a more engaged citizens in the political process

Program Content

Rights:

Freedom to express yourself.
Freedom to worship as you wish.
Right to vote in elections for public officials.
Right to run for elected office.
Freedom to pursue personal progress and prosperity.

Responsibilities:

Stay informed of the issues affecting your community.
Participate in the democratic process.
Respect and obey existing laws.
Respect the rights, beliefs, and opinions of others.
Participate in your local community.

About the Presenter

Saw Kapi is the founding Director of Salween Institute. He is a long-time Burma political analyst, currently serving also as Director of Admissions and Records at California State University, Bakersfield. Born in Kyaukkyi, Burma, he relocated to the Karen-controlled areas upon the military coup in 1988. There, he spent five years volunteering with the democratic resistance movement and serving as a teacher for young Karen students. He served as a Karen National Union representative in the U.S. from 2000 to 2004. Saw Kapi holds an M.A. in Development Economics from Williams College and a B.A. in International Relations from San Francisco State University. He is fluent in Karen, English and Burmese.