



July 11, 2016  
AEON Environmental Foundation

## **Aiming to restore watershed function in the forest around Hlawga Lake** **Fourth Yangon, Myanmar Tree Planting on Saturday July 16** **Planting a total of 10,000 trees together with 1,600 volunteers**

AEON Environmental Foundation (Takuya Okada, Chairman of the Foundation and Honorary Chairman and Advisor of AEON Co., Ltd.; hereinafter, "The Foundation") will conduct the fourth Yangon, Myanmar Tree Planting in the Hlawga Lake area located in the outskirts of Yangon on Saturday, July 16, in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (hereinafter, "Myanmar").

The Foundation has planted a total of 24,000 trees with a total of 2,700 volunteers in the past three years since 2013 in order to regain watershed conservation function\* at the woods around Pyugyi Reservoir located in the outskirts of Yangon. Now, in the fourth year, the target area for the project is shifted to the Hlawga Lake area for the next three years.

Hlawga Lake is a source of domestic water for residents in Yangon. The Foundation will plant trees in order to restore the forest around the lake, and its watershed conservation function, which provides sustainable water resources for the residents. The activity will involve 1,600 volunteers from both Myanmar and Japan, and 10,000 native trees will be planted.

The Foundation will further endeavor to implement environmental conservation efforts, including tree planting in order to deliver a lush natural environment for the youth of the next generation.

\*Watershed conservation function: The soil in the forest stores rainwater, helping to regulate water flow in the rivers, lakes, and swamps, and prevent floods and drought.

### **Note**

Date and time: July 16 (Sat) 9:00 – 10:30

Location: The Republic of the Union of Myanmar,

Around Hlawga Lake located outside Yangon

Participants: Approx. 1,600 volunteers (approx. 1,100 from Myanmar, approx. 500 from Japan)

Number of trees: 10,000

Species: Six types (Mahogany, Olive, Kaie, Teak, Monkey Pod, Golden Shower)

Hosts: Union of Myanmar Yangon City Development Committee, AEON Environmental Foundation

Cooperation: AEON Co., Ltd., AEON MICROFINANCE (Myanmar) Co., Ltd., AEON MALL CO., LTD.

Prospective Attendees: U Phyo Min Thein, Chief Minister of Yangon Regional Government

U Maung Maung Soe, Minister for Yangon Municipal, Mayor for Yangon City Development Committee

Tateshi Higuchi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Myanmar

Motoya Okada, Trustee of the AEON Environmental Foundation  
(Group CEO, President of AEON CO., LTD.)

## **Reference** AEON's Environmental and Social Contribution Efforts in Myanmar

### **■Donation of emergency relief funds and supplies for major cyclone damage in south-central Myanmar**

In 2008, AEON 1% Club Foundation (hereinafter "AEON 1% Club") provided emergency support to victims of a large cyclone by donating 10-million yen to the Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Japan, and also delivered relief supplies such as mosquito nets to the affected region.

### **■School Construction Support**

The AEON 1% Club has been supporting school construction in Myanmar since 2012. Donations from customers combined with donations from the AEON 1% Club are donated to Japan UNICEF. AEON 1% Club has supported the construction of a total of 35 schools.



In March 2015, the school ceremony was held.

### **■Teenage Ambassador Program**

In 1990, the AEON 1% Club began holding international exchange programs for high school students, in order to support young people who will lead the next generation. This Teenage Ambassador Program enables students to learn about the diversity of values through exchange. In 2013, 20 high school students from Myanmar participated, carrying out international exchange activities with Japanese high school students. In February 2017, the second exchange program is scheduled to be held.

### **■ AEON UNICEF Safe Water Campaign**

Since 2010, the AEON 1% Club has supported the installation of water facilities in towns and villages where children live in Myanmar, Cambodia, and Laos in order to provide them with safe water. Donations gathered at approximately 7,000 Aeon Group stores and offices are combined with AEON 1% Club funds which is the same amount as the donations gathered, and the funds donated through the purchase of Aeon's private brand TOPVALU mineral water (5 yen per bottle), to make a total donation of approximately 303.5 million yen to Japan UNICEF. By 2015, there had been hand-operated water pump wells installed in 23 locations in villages and schools in Myanmar, and approximately 13,000 people were given access to safe water.

### **■AEON Scholarship**

The AEON 1% Club Scholarship Program provides support for Asian students and self-funded exchange students from Asia who are studying in Japan for their dreams to come true. Since 2014, support has been newly started for the Yangon Institute of Economics and the Yangon University of Foreign Languages. Up to now, 129 students from Myanmar have received the support.

### **■Myanmar Yangon Tree Planting 2013 to 2015 – Pyugyi Reservoir**

The AEON Environmental Foundation planted a total of 24,000 trees with 2,700 volunteers from Japan and Myanmar around the Pyugyi Reservoir located in the suburbs of Yangon, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, in order to help restore watershed conservation function to the reservoir.



2013



2014



2015

■**2015 Donation of Emergency Support for North-Central Flooding Damage**

The AEON 1% Club supplied support for flooding damage caused by torrential rains, by donating 20,000 US Dollars to the Myanmar headquarters for disaster control. The donation was used to purchase food, daily necessities, and medicine.