

1. **Title:** Myanmar's Continuing Struggles: Coups, Crises, and Cycles of Violence
2. **Convener:** Dr. Makiko Takeda (Associate Professor, Aichi Gakuin University, Japan)

3. **Description of the chosen format:**

This panel is organised to bring attention to the causes, escalating factors, impacts, and diverse responses to Myanmar's coups, crises, and cycles of violence. A double session is organised instead of a single session, as this format would better cover Myanmar's decades of ongoing struggles—old and new—that contribute to continued violence in more breadth and depth. Topics covered include, but are not limited to, armed conflicts, humanitarian crisis, military's lawlessness and terrorization, and environmental degradation. It invites presentations from local experts with first-hand experience to the viewpoints from international scholars.

4. **Description of the panel:**

Myanmar has been a country of struggle fueled by coups, crises, and cycles of violence perpetuated by the military institution. Although Myanmar's first struggle for independence from colonizers was successfully obtained through the unity among its ethnic stakeholders and the majority, the people's hope outlined in the Panglong Agreement to build an independent nation with equality guaranteed for its ethnic partners, had been destroyed by the assassination of its founding father. Moreover, the military-led coups and institutionalization of military influence in political, economic, and social spheres of Myanmar have resulted in negative impacts on the safety, peace, and prosperity of citizens and their communities at the centre and the periphery alike. The myriad of crises and the cycles of violence exacerbated by the 2021 coup have triggered a second struggle for independence in Myanmar: this time, to achieve independence from the military. This panel is designed as a platform to exchange ideas and assessment among the presenters, focusing firstly on the strengths and shortcomings of Myanmar's political transition prior to the 2021 coup. Secondly, the discussion will focus on post-coup political currents including the collective defense by people against the coup and subsequent crises as well as the stakeholders' efforts in building Myanmar's new setting.

5. **Double session (2x 90 min)**

First session

Presenter 1: Dr. Donald M. Seekins (Meio University, Japan)

Presenter 2: Ne Lynn Aung (Myanmar Institute for Peace and Security, Myanmar)

Presenter 3: Yatana Yamahata (Nagoya University, Japan)

Presenter 4: OPEN (to be chosen upon panel acceptance)

Second session

Presenter 5: Dr. Michal Lubina (Jagiellonian University, Poland)

Presenter 6: Kyi Sin (National University of Singapore, Singapore)

Presenter 7: Dr. Khen Suan Khai (Mae Fah Laung University, Thailand)

Presenter 8: OPEN (to be chosen upon panel acceptance)

6. **Discussants**

Discussant for the first session: Dr. Michal Lubina (Associate Professor, Jagiellonian University, Poland)

Discussant for the second session: Dr. Donald M. Seekins (Emeritus Professor, Meio University, Japan)