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I occasionally had a chance to attend the Buddhist international conference or to give Buddhist lecture to the group of foreigners throughout my service and until now. This book is the collection of the papers presented to the conferences and seminars. The present volume contains 13 papers in English including one article, a poem of apprehension and two special lectures on Buddhism at the Myanmar Institute of Theology. The titles reveal the themes themselves necessitating no further explanation here, in this preface. However, I would like to point out that, as the past experiences of Myanmar reflect the fact that the State involvement in the Sasanā affair could contribute towards the promotion, propagation and purification of the Buddha Sasanā, "The State's Role in the Purifying and Perpetuating Buddha Sāsana through History: Myanmar's Experience" has been selected as the main paper.

The papers provide the variegated knowledge on Buddhism and relevant subjects. The readers will also have an idea of how much the Buddhism could contribute to the peace and the social aspect that would be of great importance to all those living in the present world. The papers also try to bridge the Buddhism with the modern world in response to the thought-provoking and challenging questions. However, great care has been taken not to deviate from the Theravāda Buddhist Teachings. I hope this book will make a positive contribution to the Buddhists and the readers who are interested in Theravāda Buddhism as well.

In connection with this book, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Dr. Bhaddanta Kumārābhivaraṇsa, the venerable Chairman Sayadaw of the State Saṅgha Mahānāyaka Committee who dispel my doubts and enlighten me whenever bewilderment arises in doctrinal matters. Sayadaw's profound knowledge of Canonical Texts and great insight are like a store of treasure for me. I am greatly honoured by Sayadawgyi's kind gesture of writing a foreword for the book.

My special thanks are also due to Dr. Bhaddanta Nandamālābhivaraṇsa, the venerable Rector Sayadaw of the International Theravāda Buddhist Missionary University, for granting my request for a foreword. Sayadaw is a role model for me in teaching and preaching the Dhamma clearly and

my childhood to the present especially to the most venerable Taung Pulu Sayadawgyi who was my foremost teacher in Meditation (Paṭipatti), and to the most venerable Kaba-Aye Sayadawgyi Bhaddanta Paññādīpa who was my foremost teacher in the studies of Buddhist Texts (Pariyatti) in English language.

I take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to Daw Khin Myint Wai (Khet Wai) who was my classmate at Rangoon (Yangon) Institute of Technology and one of my best friends. Even though I have been dreaming of having my papers collectively published, I could not carry out this task of publishing a book. She has suggested me to publish the collection of conference papers in a book form, and also bears all the expenses for the publication of this book. Now, my dream has materialized due to her generosity.

In conclusion, it is the expectation of the author that this work, currently in your hands, will offer its readers the wider knowledge on Buddhism. On the other hand, it will enable them to attain the analytical knowledge of mind and matter which is essential for the Buddhists for the realization of the Four Noble Truths, hence the attainment of Nibbāna.

May the readers be able to savour the taste of the Dhamma!

Dr. Hla Myint
February, 2013

