

## Two Years After the Coup: Media in Myanmar

Thursday, March 16 | 4:30-6pm Hawai'i / 9:30-11pm Washington DC  
Friday, March 17 | 9-10:30am Yangon

### Speaker Biographies



**Kyaw Hsan Hlaing**  
Independent journalist from Rakhine State

Kyaw Hsan Hlaing is an independent journalist from Rakhine State. He is currently an EWC-affiliated student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa majoring in Asian Studies and Political Science. He has authored dozens of articles on human rights, political transitions, and issues related to the civil war and 2021 military coup in Myanmar. His works have appeared in leading publications

including *Time*, *Foreign Policy*, *The Diplomat*, *Los Angeles Times*, and many others.



**Shoon Naing**  
Myanmar Senior Correspondent, Reuters

Shoon Naing is a 28-year-old Pulitzer winning senior correspondent of Reuters, currently leading the Myanmar reporting team which has covered a variety of topics including the Rohingya crisis, the 2021 general election, the coup, the civil war, and the pandemic. In 2018, she contributed to “Myanmar Burning,” a series of 10 stories on the expulsion of the Rohingya from Myanmar, which won several awards including the Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting and the Farfel Prize for investigative reporting.

Before joining Reuters, Shoon worked at *The Myanmar Times*, a local English-language daily newspaper. She started her journalism career in 2015 during Myanmar's historic general election when Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi won a landslide victory. Shoon worked as a freelance project assistant and interpreter for international media outlets such as Channel News Asia, *The Guardian*, ZDF German Television, and *National Geographic*. She was born and raised in Yangon, where she grew up under the military regime and experienced the country's democratic transition from the front row while working as a journalist. Shoon studied engineering at the University of Malaysia Sabah.



**Soe Myint**  
**Editor-in-Chief, Mizzima Media Group**

Soe Myint is an award-winning Burmese journalist who has worked in the media field since 1992 in different capacities including reporting, managing, and training. He founded Mizzima (derived from the Pali word for “middle” or “moderate”) in New Delhi, India, in 1998 together with Daw Thin Thin Aung.

Soe Myint is a regular speaker and invited guest at forums on media in Myanmar and currently serves as Chairperson for the Media Development Committee of Burma News International. He was the 2022 Greeley Peace Scholar at the University of Massachusetts

Lowell and recipient of the 2022 East-West Center Journalist of Courage and Impact Award. Soe Myint’s publications include the 2003 release “Burma File: A Question of Democracy”, as well as numerous articles in various periodicals.



**Sai Kham Phu**  
**CEO, Shan Herald Agency for News (SHAN)**

Sai Kham Phu is currently CEO at Shan Herald Agency for News (SHAN). He is a graduate of Chiang Mai University (RCSD, CMU) in the program of International Development Studies. He completed his undergraduate from Rangsit University, in the program of International Relations and Development.

In 2019, he joined SHAN as a research manager and conducted fieldwork for the research project *Drugs and (dis)order: Building sustainable peacetime economies in the aftermath of war*, led by SOAS University of London. He has co-authored several papers including *Response to Rising Drug Use Among Shan Youth: Youth Migration and Engagement with Non-state Actors in Shan State, Myanmar*. His previous research explores Shan migrant entrepreneurship in suburban Chiang Mai, Thailand.



**Dr. Kevin Woods**  
**Research Fellow, East-West Center**

Dr. Kevin Woods is a research fellow at the East-West Center specializing in political ecology and human geography, with a focus on land and natural resources, ethnic-based armed conflict, and rebel governance. His geographic focus is in mainland Southeast Asia, especially Myanmar, where he has worked in varying capacities for nearly two decades. Dr. Woods has also worked as a policy analyst

for several international non-profits on land and environmental governance reforms in war and postwar settings.