The School for International Studies invites you to a panel discussion

**Burma Day 2011**

**Unpacking Burma’s 2010 National Election: A Nation in Transition**

Almost one year has passed since the November, 2010 National Election when the people of Burma went to the polls in almost 20 years. The elections were a crucial part to the “road map to genuine multiparty democracy” set out in the May 2008 Constitution. Though the elections have been recognized by some as a shame, the panelists explore the question “what are the possibilities for change, and could these elections possibly see the emergence of a new political dynamic?” (This is a key question explored by author Bruce Matthews, in the latest Canada-Asia Agenda published by the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada.) With the international focus on Burma, join us as the school for International Studies convenes a panel discussion to revisit the two most recent developments in Burma, notably the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, after a 15 year house arrest, and the 2010 National Election.

A panel of Burmese democracy activists, exiles, former refugees and senior government officials will discuss the political and human rights situation in Burma/Myanmar post-2010 National Election, and what role Canada should play together with ASEAN and Burma’s influential neighbors?

What are the positive political signals and gains that have been achieved since the 2010 National Election towards a move to democratic reform?

What has been the impact of the Burmese diasporas, in particular in the development process, and what role will they play in more recent events to advance our shared interest for political reform in Burma/Myanmar?
Schedule
Friday, November 25, from 2-6 pm
2:30- 5:30 Panel Discussion / Q & A
2:30- 3:00 (Media Presentation of Aung San Suu Kyi on democracy after her 15 year release: The Economist)
3:00- 4:00 Ethnic Karen Dancers

Location
Simon Fraser University, SFU Harbour Centre Campus, Labatt Room 1700, 515 W. Hastings St. Vancouver.

Event Speakers
Panel One: Prospects for the Future: Current Political Situation in Burma
Dr. Michael Howard, School for International Studies, SFU
Dr. Alice Khin, Director, Burma Watch International, former physician to Aung San Suu Kyi
Dr. Kanbawza Win, former Secretary of Foreign Affairs
Tin Maung Htoo, Executive Director, Canadian Friends of Burma (TBD)

Panel Two: Burmese Diasporas and Development
Dr. Tin Yee, Founder, Empowering Women of Burma (NGO)
Dr. Thiha Maung Maung, Project Implementer, Giving a Hand to Displaced Living with HIV/AIDS (Southeast Asia)
Reverend Soe, Gateway Myanmar Baptist Church
Tha Dar Hser, (former Refugee/Ethnic Karen)
Saw Joe, (former Refugee/Ethnic Karen)

Please note: This panel is being organized in conjunction with the following exhibition and NGO Empowering Women of Burma. For more information, visit their website at http://empoweringwomenofburma.wordpress.com
Please contact intst@sfu.ca, or danamccartney@hotmail.com if you have any questions.