

ABC Radio Australia launches service to Burma

Monday, 9th November 2009

MELBOURNE - Radio Australia today commenced broadcasting Burmese programs to Burma.

The first broadcast of this new service began this morning at 5.30am, followed by a second broadcast at 7.30am local Burmese time. Both broadcasts will be transmitted to Burma seven days a week on shortwave frequencies 12010 and 17665 respectively.

Chief Executive, Hanh Tran, said the launch of the new service was one of the proudest moments in his time as chief executive. "This is the first new language service for Radio Australia in more than 15 years. As 2009 marks 70 years of Radio Australia's broadcasting to the region, I couldn't think of a better way to celebrate our birthday."

He said the decision to start the new service was prompted by the recent increased international focus on Burma and the knowledge that elections have been scheduled for next year.

Radio Australia's Burmese service will begin as a 15-minute news broadcast on shortwave, satellite and online at 5.30am and then repeated three times across peak morning listening times providing the best chance for people in Burma to hear news from Australia.

Radio Australia will add more broadcasts in the evening as the service grows.

The online location of the service can be found at: www.radioaustralia.net.au/burmese

Radio Australia now broadcasts in English and seven other regional languages throughout South East Asia and the Pacific.

For further information please contact:

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