

**SAITO Ayako (TUFS)**

The Concept of Citizens and Non-indigenous Residents under the Ne Win Regime:  
From the 1982 Burma Citizenship Law and Related Materials

In 1982, a new Citizenship Law was enacted in Burma. This was meant to replace the Union Citizenship (Election) Act and the Union Citizenship Act that were passed immediately after independence in 1948. In Burma, the presence of foreigners or non-indigenous residents was treated as a ‘problem’, and even 30 years after independence their problems still needed to be solved. Moreover, under the new Citizenship Law, people living in Burma were classified into four categories, namely ‘citizens’, ‘associate citizens’, ‘naturalized citizens’ and ‘foreigners’. However, all of these except foreigners (i.e. ‘associate citizens’ and ‘naturalized citizens’) could acquire the status of ‘citizens’ in the second or third generation.

This paper will study how the government perceived its ‘citizens’ at the stage of drafting the Citizenship Bill, and how, when the new Citizenship Law was eventually enacted, the government attempted to integrate (classify) its citizens. In this paper the author shows the characteristics of the Ne Win regime’s concept of citizens and its attitudes towards non-indigenous residents, through reference to materials at the stage of drafting the Citizenship Bill, the enacted Citizenship Law itself, and newspaper articles.