PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation and SmileAsia Team Up for Cleft Lip Operation

From February 3 to 10, the two philanthropic organizations will team up in Taunggyi, Shan State to improve the children’s smiles by giving operations to those born with cleft lip.

TAUNGGYI, MYANMAR, 3 February 2017 – Today the Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation (BFM), the philanthropic arm of Kanbawza Group of Companies (KBZ Group) has announced a partnership with SmileAsia to operate on children afflicted with cleft lip in Shan State, Mandalay Region, Sagaing Region and Kayah State in Myanmar. The operation will be based in Taunggyi.

This will be the third time the organizations have partnered for such a campaign and will last from February 3 to 10. Last year they treated over 170 children and 113 children took the successful operation with cleft lip at Yangon General Hospital.

"Smiling is the universal way to show love and compassion to each other, and we think giving children their smile back is a way to promote self-confidence among the many communities of Myanmar and enrich the lives of the future generation of our country," said Daw Nang Lang Kham, co-founder and chairman of Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation.

"Furthermore, these are low cost, simple procedures that make a huge impact on the individual’s ability to do things we take for granted, such as speaking and consuming food."

A cleft lip (or cleft palate) is when the roof of the mouth contains an opening into the nose. These disorders can result in feeding problems, speech problems, hearing problems, and frequent ear infections. It is estimated that a child is born with cleft lip every three minutes around the world.

About 110 children are already registered to undergo this life-changing procedure this month.

Last year, BFM donated MMK 1.4 billion to all 14 State and Regional government for the restoration processes in the wake of a natural disaster. Furthermore, KBZ employees volunteered actively in fire-prone regions northern Shan, Namhsan and Irrawaddy regions; supported clean water projects to provide pure water all around Myanmar; and donated 205,000 hoodies in colder months to keep those displaced by civil conflicts.

BFM works to provide employment opportunities for disabled people and has a micro-finance project to empower women. BFM is also well-known for helping Myanmar migrant workers return to their homeland.

BFM was founded in 2008 and has donated nearly kyat114 billion since then for the benefit of Myanmar society.

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About KBZ Group of Companies Ltd.

The KBZ Group of Companies was founded by Aung Ko Win in 1994 and now has more than 80,000 employees working in its subsidiaries of banking, aviation, insurance, agriculture, hotels and tourism, manufacturing and others. It is the largest private organization in Myanmar and its core aim is to strengthen Myanmar and its people through responsible business. It is recognized to be the leading philanthropic organization in Myanmar through its foundation “Brighter Future Myanmar” and has received numerous awards for its CSR initiatives. For more information, please visit: [http://kbzgroup.com.mm/](http://kbzgroup.com.mm/).

About Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation

KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation (BFM) is an award winning philanthropic foundation founded by KBZ Group in 2008. The mission of the foundation is to uplift the lives of the underdeveloped community members at the grass roots level and to eradicate poverty in the long run through its social initiative projects in five important sectors; Disaster Relief and Recovery, Women’s Empowerment and Health, Green Movement, Youth Development and Education Enhancement and Community Development and Engagement. To date, BFM has invested over Ks. 114 billion in donations and social initiative projects.

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