

## **ABSTRACT**

**Thesis Title** : Myanmar's Membership in Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)  
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**Degree Sought** : Master of Arts  
**Major** : Political Science  
**Academic Year** : 1999  
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The attempt of this research are :

1. To study the relations between Myanmar and ASEAN, particularly the process of rapprochement between Myanmar and ASEAN.
2. To study the ASEAN's decision to admit Myanmar.
3. To study Myanmar's reason to join ASEAN.
4. To study results and impacts of Myanmar's admission into ASEAN.

The study reveals that as the result of intensified pressure from the United Nations, Western Countries and opposition groups on issues of political reforms and human rights abuses will not bring about positive changes in Myanmar. Myanmar has become closer in its relations with China and ASEAN. Relations between Myanmar and China in particular, have been strengthened in all political, economic and military aspects. China has increased military assistance and cooperation, providing Myanmar

with information, training and equipment.

The accession of Myanmar to the ASEAN is beneficial to the ASEAN in various aspects. The risk of having conflict with the West by accepting Myanmar as its member can be set off by ASEAN's economic and strategic interests in preventing China from developing closer ties with Myanmar, as the internationally isolated Myanmar hopes to receive economic assistance from ASEAN. In dealing with these countries, we have to apply appropriate different strategies. As Myanmar has problems in bureaucratic capacities, including the lack of trained personnel who are also sufficiently fluent in the working language of ASEAN, namely English, its cooperation with ASEAN may not be very smooth.

The globalization of information will eventually bring Myanmar to realize that, in order to catch up with the world, it has to adapt itself, namely Myanmar's economic and social policies needed further reform and has to focus its human resource development on specific areas of ASEAN. So Myanmar will gradually change, as the old guards are replaced by a new generation of leaders.