

I am delighted that the Yangon Photo Festival is celebrating its eighth year, and sorry that I cannot join you in person for the awards night; it is an evening that I have always enjoyed. It is through the skill, courage and tenacity of the men and women behind the lens that we today have an unparalleled record of our country's recent history- both the good and the bad. This festival has played an important role in inspiring and supporting a large number of our young people to take up photography as a profession, and in encouraging many more to pursue photography as a rewarding and stimulating hobby. I would like to thank the Institut Français and the organisers and sponsors of the festival for making this event possible, and to congratulate all those who have participated this year. I would also like to commend the members of the jury panel for taking on the unenviable task of choosing just one winner from among the many superb entries that this festival consistently receives.

Aung San Suu Kyi

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