



**Debbie STOTHARD**

**Secretary General**

**Coordinator of the Alternative ASEAN Network on Burma**

**Profession:** Coordinator

**Nationality:** Malaysian

**Date and place of birth :** 7 August 1964, Malaysia

**Languages:** English

**Area of specialisation:** Advocacy, writing, training

Debbie Stothard is an active promoter of human rights in Burma and the Asean region. In 1996, she founded the Alternative Asean Network on Burma (Altsean-Burma). During her 32 year career, she has worked as a journalist, community education consultant, governmental advisor and trainer in Malaysia, Australia and Thailand.

Debbie Stothard has participated in every step of democracy building in Burma, organising advocacy meetings and campaigns on human rights, in Burma and other Asean countries since 1987. These activities led her to work in collaboration with UN and Asean institutions as well as several governments in Asia, North America and Europe. She was also invited by many prestigious universities and conferences around the world to speak on the Burmese situation.

In recent years, she helped conceive and implement the first public hearing on Corporate Social Responsibility in Asean countries which took place in May 2011 in Jakarta. She also helped organise a Business and Human Rights workshop for grassroots activists in Rangoon, Burma which was convened by FIDH, Altsean-Burma and Burma Partnership in February 2013.

Debbie Stothard developed the first ongoing women-specific training program for Burma in 1997, an initiative which is ongoing, as has produced many local and national young women leaders from Burma. She has delivered training workshops in Australia, Burma, China, India, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Debbie Stothard became Deputy Secretary-General of the FIDH in November 2010. Between 2010 and 2013, she represented FIDH on missions or at conferences in Belgium, Brazil, Burma, France, India, Malaysia, Maldives, Peru, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, and the United States. She was elected secretary general of FIDH in May 2013.