



E-SYMPOSIUM SERIES ON “EMERGENT NORTH-EAST INDIA: STRATEGIC AND DEVELOPMENTAL IMPERATIVES”

Collating the experience of more than a decade of working on the ground, IIM Shillong is in the process of critically reviewing itself. While highlighting achievements, it is also considered imperative to acknowledge failures and shortcomings. While the process of such an evaluation is on, the need for process re-engineering has come to the fore. This would require a certain amount of disruptive thinking and innovative solutions. While action research

would undoubtedly emerge as the prime vehicle, what is also being actively considered is creating and implementing sustainable development models by engaging with the community.

The northeastern states of India do constitute a fascinating region with tremendous potential for inclusive growth and sustainable development. Bestowed by nature with thriving biodiversity that most other parts of the world have already lost. A culture and tradition that is unbelievably rich. A slew of resources, starting from tea to petroleum, fruits and vegetables, grains and flowers to exotic locales and unique products that the artisans of the region produce, the region seems to have been particularly favoured by the creator. It is time for the region to spread its wings and craft the new development story.

Logically everyone should play to their strengths, and the traditional strength of the region lies in a number of sectors such as tourism, handloom, handicraft and horticulture. Besides, the modern education system has also given the region certain advantages, including an impressive literacy rate and good English speaking abilities. This has ensured that India's BPO industry has been heavily dependent on the youth of the region. Probably it is time, the industry itself took roots in the region. However, to ensure success for any development initiative would invariably require the proper support of a robust infrastructure and logistics network.

The e-Symposium Series is conceived as a global platform that brings policymakers, scholars, institutions, corporates, and civil society together on one platform to discuss and deliberate development issues in the region, thereby suggesting solutions. The discussions could provide the perfect starting

point for initiating a dialogue on the larger aspects of ensuring inclusive and sustainable development in the region. The six e-Symposia on the critical sectors in the North East states was organised, viz., tourism, horticulture, logistics, handicraft, handloom and business process outsourcing. The focus of the symposia was to cover all the critical areas of development planning, policy formulation, strategising and analysis.

The e-symposia series was a successful endeavour to generate some of the future course of action in the planning of the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research. Further, based on the learning from the discussion during the e-symposia series, the Centre is planning a series of reports on the Current Status, Challenges, Opportunities and Policy Recommendations for all six sectors. The e-symposia series further suggested focusing on the key areas of development planning, policy formulation, strategising and analysis to assist the states of North East India and the implementing agencies to properly plan and execute projects and promote innovations, especially in the development planning of six sectors. The forthcoming sections briefly describe the sector-wise presentation on the current status, challenges, opportunities and policy recommendations for all the six sectors.

E-SYMPOSIUM ON HORTICULTURE

The Centre organised the e-Symposium on Horticulture entitled “Emergent North-East India: Strategic and Developmental Imperatives in Horticulture” on 03rd

July 2020. The inaugural address of the e-Symposium was delivered by Chief Guest Shri Kailash Choudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Government of India and Shri. Loknath Sharma, Minister of Food Security, Agriculture, Horticulture, Government of Sikkim, delivered the valedictory address.



The welcome speech was delivered by Shri Shishir Kumar Bajoria, Chairman Board of Governors, IIM. Shillong. Shri Rudri Warjri, Ex. Ambassador and member, B.O.G., Amalgamated Plantations, Shillong, Smti Trinity Saioo, Padmashree Awardee, Lakadong Turmeric, Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya, Dr Kelihol Tase, Kohima, Nagaland, Shri. Dina Chhange, CEO, King Industries, Mizoram, Shri Nzanbemo Lotha, Nodal Officer & Team Member, Nagaland Beekeeping & Honey Mission, Shri Navin Tiwari, C.E.O., Capital foods limited, Shri Neeraj Mutha, owner of Mutha Industries, Shri Srinivasan Murthy, Commissioner of Horticulture, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India delivered a talk on different subjects of horticulture. Shri Atul Kulkarni, Management Consultant & Board Member, IIM Shillong, moderated the technical session while Prof DP Goyal, Director, IIM Shillong and Prof Neelam Rani, Associate Professor, IIM Shillong, delivered the vote of thanks in inaugural and technical session respectively.

E-SYMPOSIUM ON LOGISTICS



North-East Region, strategic location situated in proximity to two fast-growing economic regions - East Asia and Southeast Asia. This endowed a significant international trade corridor, which is also one of the main reasons to develop an efficient logistics sector in NER. In the North-East Region, the roads

are the centre of economic development. Road transportation is an important mode of travel in the hilly areas as other modes are either too expensive or difficult to construct. Considering the logistics sector's challenges and possibilities, the Centre organised an e-Symposium entitled "Logistics Management in the Emergent North-East India: Strategic and Developmental Imperatives" on 11th July 2020. Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport and Highways and Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India, Shri Nitin Gadkari, delivered the inaugural speech and Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam, delivered the valedictory address. The e-Symposium was graced by other distinguished speakers such as Shri Shishir Bajoria, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Shillong, Tushar

Jani, Chairman, SCA Group of Companies, Dr Amita Prasad, IAS, Chairperson, Inland Waterways Authority of India (Ministry of Shipping), Prof D.P. Goyal, Director, IIM Shillong. Speakers of the technical session were Ms Sanjukta Dutta, Etash Enterprise, Prof Sanjeeb Kakoty, Associate Professor, IIM



Shillong, Shri Navin Kumar, Adviser (Transport and Communication), North Eastern Council, Shillong, Shri Shantanu Bhadkamkar, President, Association of Multimodal Transport Operators of India, Shri V. Kalyana Rama, Chairman and Managing Director, CONCOR.

The technical session was moderated by Shri Atul Kulkarni, Management Consultant & Board Member, IIM Shillong and Prof Sanjita Jaipuria, Assistant Professor, IIM Shillong, who delivered the vote of thanks.

E-SYMPOSIUM

ON HANDLOOM



The Centre organised the fifth e-Symposium on handloom entitled “Handloom Sector: In the Emergent North-East India: Strategic and Developmental Imperatives” on 20th July 2020. Hon’ble Union Minister of Textiles and Women and Child Development, Government of India Smt Smriti Zubin Irani addressed the plenary and delivered the inaugural speech. The inaugural session was attended by Shri Shishir Bajoria, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Shillong, Shri Dilip Barooah, Founder and MD, Fabric Plus, Smt Jahnabi Phukan, National President, FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) and Director JTI Group and Prof. D.P. Goyal, Director, IIM Shillong. A technical session followed the inaugural session. Speakers of the technical session were Renu Abraham, Founder RHHCSL (Renu handlooms and handicraft co-operative society Ltd), Ms Janessaline Mary Pyngrope, Business Head (Daniel Syiem’s Ethnic Fashion House), Meghalaya, Ms Asoomee Dutta Baruah, Secretary, Sreemanta Sankar Mission of Guwahati & Head (NE Region) of the WEP, NITI Aayog, Ms Anuradha Kuli, Founder Naturally Anuradha, Guwahati and Prof Monika Aggarwal, Director -National Institute of Fashion Technology, Shillong. Shri Atul Kulkarni, Management Consultant & Board Member, IIM Shillong, moderated the technical session, and Prof Ridhi Arora, Assistant Professor, IIM Shillong, delivered the vote of thanks.

E-SYMPOSIUM ON HANDICRAFTS



“Emergent North East India: Strategic and Developmental Imperatives in Handicrafts” is another e-Symposium organised by the Centre on 24th July 2020. The handicrafts e-symposium was addressed by Hon’ble Minister Shri Arjun Munda, Minister of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, as the Chief Guest. The valedictory address was delivered by Shri Imnatiba, MLA & Advisor for Industries and Commerce, Labour, Employment, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of Nagaland. The inaugural session was attended by Shri Shishir Bajoria, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Shillong, Shri Sharda Gautam, Head of Crafts, Tata Trusts, Shri Sohan Kumar

Jha, Senior Director, DC (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles and Prof D P Goyal, Director, IIM Shillong. Shri Atul Kulkarni, Management Consultant & Board Member, IIM Shillong, moderated the technical session.

Speakers of the technical session were Shri Santanu Sutradhar, Founder, Disha Enterprises, Assam, Shri Sonam Tyashi Gyaltsen, Founder & Product Designer, LA, Sikkim, Shri Ashim Kumar Das, Head (CSR), North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd (NEDFi), Shri. Sukumar Haobam, Designer and Coordinator, Bamboo Forum of India, Manipur and Shri A D Mishra, Regional Director, North-East Region, Tribal Co-Operative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED). Prof Chacko Jacob, Assistant Professor, IIM Shillong, delivered the vote of thanks in the technical session.



E

-SYMPOSIUM ON BPO

The Centre organised the last e-Symposium of the e-Symposium series on Business Process Outsourcing entitled “Emergent North-East India: Strategic and Developmental Imperatives in the BPO Sector” on 31st July 2020. Hon’ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Shri Conrad K Sangma, addressed the inaugural session as chief guest and Shri Sanjay Dhotre,



Hon’ble Minister of State for Education, Communication, Electronics & IT, Government of India, delivered the valedictory address. Shri Shishir Bajoria, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Shillong, Shri Sanjay Mehta, Former MD & CEO, Teleperformance India, Shri Salil Agarwal, President, IIMAGES, Dr Omkar Rai, Director General, Software Technology Park of India addressed the inaugural session. The inaugural session was also attended by Prof DP Goyal, Director, IIM Shillong and Prof Keya Sengupta, Centre Coordinator, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research and Analysis.



Shri Nitin Sharma, Board member, IIM Shillong, moderated the technical session, and Prof Basav Roychoudhury, Associate Professor, IIM Shillong, delivered the vote of thanks in the technical session. Speakers of the technical session were Shri Syedain Abbasi, IAS, Addl. Chief Secretary (IT), IT Department, Government of Assam, Shri Srikanth Srinivasan, Senior Director & Head-Membership and Outreach, NASSCOM, Shri Balaji Thiagarajan, CEO, TechDigital Corporation and Shri Nayanjyoti Bhattacharya, MD & CEO, Anjaybee Group.

GOVERNING BODY MEETING



The Centre organised its third Governing Body meeting on 28th August 2020 at North Eastern Council, Shillong, under the chairmanship of Shri K. Moses Chalai, Secretary, NEC Shillong. The meeting was attended by Prof. D.P Goyal, Director, IIM Shillong, Prof Keya Sengupta, Centre Coordinator, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research and Analysis, IIM Shillong. Shri Calvin Harris Kharshiing, IA & AS, Planning Adviser & I/c Adviser(Health), NEC, Shri Gaigongdin Panmei, IRS, Financial Adviser, NEC and Shri Gopal Chetri, Adviser (Irrigation, Flood Control & Water Management) & I/c Director (HRD&E), NEC, the meeting as a special invitee.



ONLINE INTERACTION SESSIONS

The Centre organised five online interactive sessions with artisans, entrepreneurs of Handloom and Handicrafts in November 2020 to understand the status, challenges and possibility of the sectors in North East India. The first interaction was organised for artisans, entrepreneurs of Meghalaya on 6th November 2020, followed by Baska of Assam and Dimapur of Nagaland on 7th November 2020. On 9th November 2020, the Centre organised the online interaction with artisans, entrepreneurs of Tripura, and on 10th November 2020, the Centre organised interaction with artisans, entrepreneurs of Majuli, Assam.



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