

## Meeting with Synjuk Ki Seng Samla Shnong (SSSS)

As an attempt to improvise the current scenario of the villages and to encourage the youth for taking up responsibility towards being a good leader, the Meghalaya Institute of Governance along with the Synjuk Ki Seng Samla Shnong initiated a discussion on 'Leadership Training'. This meeting was held at the office premises of Meghalaya Institute of Governance (MIG) on the 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2014 at 5.00pm.

The following members of MIG present were ShriAibanSwer, SmtiBanrihunKharsyntiew, SmtiLarihunNongrum, SmtiJwiscyRanee, and the SSSS representatives were Shri Van Shan Buhphang, Shri T. Lakiang, Shri T. Marwien, ShriKyrshanRynjah and Shri R.M Lyngdoh.

ShriAibanSwer, Officer on Special Duty–Meghalaya Institute of Governance, acknowledged all the members representing SynjukKi SengSamlaShnong (SSSS). The meeting started with a round of introduction between the MIG staff and the members of SSSS. The Chairman gave a brief introduction on the working objectives of the Meghalaya Institute of Governance (MIG).

The issues discussed are as follows:

**Governance-** Good Governance depends on the leader. A good leader brings progress and development to a village. If they have a good leader they also have a good village, and this will prove beneficial for all the members. Therefore, it is very important to work together in the village, especially with the village committees recognised by the Village Dorbar like the DorbarShnong, Women Committee and Youth Committee.

**Education-** The number of dropouts has been on the rise and this has been one of the major setbacks. Due to the lack of interest in education the youth are indulged in immoral habits. Lack of knowledge brings conflicts and misunderstanding between the Village Dorbar and the youth.

**Youth and Unemployment-** Unemployment is the major issue that acts as a hurdle in the lives of the youth. Even after the completion of their higher studies they remain unemployed and this leads to discouragement. Hence, ways and mediums are to be sorted out to guide the youth in the right direction so that they can contribute for the well-being of the society as a whole. In order to work for the betterment and for the proper documentation of the village, the youth needs to know the history about the village and this can be done only if they interact with the elders of the village as they act as a source of knowledge and information. For this, the Chairman suggested organising a writing competition on the History of the village and the winner would be rewarded. Therefore, this responsibility has been handed over to the SSSS to look upon the matter and do the needful.

**Leadership Training-** The Chairman stressed on the importance of having 'Leadership Training' as this will bring clarity in their objectives. They need time to discuss and interact so that they can bring forward good sustainable objectives for the proper functioning of the village.

Therefore, the meeting ended on the note that, they need to work together to achieve their goals. And as decided, the responsibility was handed over to the SynjukKi SengSamlaShnong for further execution of their discussion.

## Meeting with the Synjukki Arliang Wah— Umiam Mawphlang Welfare Society

Meghalaya Institute of Governance (MIG) in collaboration with the Synjuk Ki Hima Arliang Wah (SKHAW) — Umiam Mawphlang Welfare Society met on 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2014 at the office of Meghalaya Institute of Governance. The meeting was attended by Shri Aiban Swer, Officer on Special Duty, Meghalaya Institute of Governance, and its members Shri Arneth Kharlukhi, Smti Jwiscy Rane and Smti Barihun Kharsyntiew. Members of the Synjuk included Shri Tanbor Lyngdoh, Shri Elystar Synrem, Shri Pailastar Kharkongor, Shri Lewis Nongbri, Shri E. Wel Marbaniang, Shri Blodin Kharkongor and Shri N.K. Lyngdoh.

Its main objective was to organise a campaign on 'Green Mission' by the selected villages and supervised by the Synjuk. Shri A.B.S Swer welcomed all members representing Ka Synjuk. The following points were discussed:

**Agriculture-** The agricultural practice in Laitkroh area has decreased wherein potato is the main crop and few other vegetables like carrot, beans, radish and mustard leaf are cultivated. Therefore, people were encouraged to cultivate maize, peas, passion fruit, squash, millet and trees like Alder, Cherry, Blackberry, etc in unoccupied areas. The Farmers mentioned that as the soil gets depleted with the usage of chemicals so they have now used urea to enhance the growth of maize as it can be used in feeding the reared livestock.

➤ **Tree Plantation-** Suggestion was made to increase tree plantation in deforested areas. The slope areas would be kept for agricultural purpose and plain areas would be used for tree plantation. Therefore one needs to identify the place for both tree and agricultural plantation. Forest protection is needed by creating fire line or fireguard with the help of a machine to cut down grasses so that the fire does not spread.

**Clean and Healthy Villages-** To achieve a clean and healthy village, suggestion was given to take villagers for an exposure visit to Mawlynnong to witness the cleanliness programme and promote tourism in their respective villages. The Government through 'Total Sanitation Campaign' confers awards to clean villages, similarly, this can be done to encourage people to work together and achieve the same.

**Training Need Assessment (TNA) -** It is important to identify and assess the people who require training and the types of training needed. However, such training would be organised only if there is demand from the grassroots level and the needs should be according to the activities taken up by the individuals, families or by the village.

**Work Plan -** The Synjuk needs to create a work plan by organising awareness programme on 'Green Mission Campaign'. To implement the objectives the Synjuk has to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI). The Synjuk has selected the villages under their Himas which they are planning to work with and needs to identify the volunteers from each Cluster to follow up the programmes, organise and be the bridge between MIG and the Project areas.

**Nursery** - The Synjuk identified many areas to put up nursery and have chosen Laitkroh as the main area of origin due to availability of unused land. 20 places have been identified under HimaMawphlang. The other villages selected were:

- HimaLaitkroh
  1. Mawmyrsiang Cluster
  2. Laitkynsew Cluster
  3. Nongthymmai Cluster
  
- HimaMawbeh
  1. Mawbeh Cluster
  2. Wah stew Cluster
  
- HimaSohra
  1. Dympep
  2. Ladmawphlang
  3. Laiylyndop
  4. Jathang-Mawstep
  
- HimaMawphlang:
  1. Nongrum Cluster
  2. Ramklang Cluster
  
- HimaLyniong:
  1. Mawpyngiang Cluster
  2. LyngdohPhanblang Cluster
  3. Phanriewlah Cluster

1. MawlumKhongsit Cluster

- HimaNongspung:
  1. Umlyngmar Cluster
  
- HimaNonglwai:
  1. Nonglwai Cluster
  
- HimaPomsanngut
  1. Pomsanngut Cluster

4 Special Packages selected:

1. TyrsatNongkseh  
Pomsanngut (Pomsanngut)
2. ThainThinroh (Lyniong)
3. Mission (Mawphlang)  
Mawpohmon (Mawphlang)  
Lad Umdesai (Mawphlang)
4. Mawjrong (Mawjrong)

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks from the Chairman and he encouraged all to achieve the objectives successfully.

- HimaMylliem:

## Awareness Programme with Village Dorbars on issues of sand quarrying, waste management, water and sanitation

A one day awareness programme on the issues of sand quarrying, waste management and water sanitation was held at the office of the BDO Myllem block on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2014. The programme started with a welcome address from Shri Simon, Senior Programme Associate, BDU, MBDA. The representatives from the following villages attended the programme - MadanIngSyiem, MyllemLynkien, MyllemMawsawa, Pomdot, MyllemDemthring, MyllemMarbaniang, MyllemNongbet, RngiMyllem and MyllemKyndong.

Shri A.B.S. Swer, Officer on Special Duty, Meghalaya Institute of Governance, stressed on the importance of awareness programmes among the people

for the proper use of natural resources. He stated that, it is due to the lack of knowledge for proper use of natural resources that leads to crisis in the State. The practice of sand and stone quarrying had a great impact on the water resources by making the water bodies dry and unsafe to drink. Our state is rich in natural resources but the people need to know the right method to use it in order to get the benefits. The objective of this programme was to create awareness among the people to manage and preserve natural resources in a proper way to make it more sustainable.

### Discussion and Interaction:

- Water scarcity issue as a major problem.
- Sand mining and stone quarrying pose a great threat to the dam at Mawphlang.
- Preservation of the environment.
- Sand Mining is the secondary livelihood of the people in these areas.



- The Dorbar's rules and regulations differ from one village to another.
- The labourer practice multiple livelihood activities for more income.
- Drilling of underground water has become a common practice as the surface water is no longer favorable for consumption.
- Inquiry if there is any law from the Government to prevent and ban sand mining and stone quarrying.

Shri B. Sohliya, Officer on Special Duty, Meghalaya Institute of Entrepreneurship, said that the people opt to work in the extraction of mines and stones as it provide them more money. Most of the mine owners do not care about the damage that is done to nature through these extractions because they only think of their profit. Hence the villagers need to know and understand about the availability of natural resources in their own village in order to prepare a village plan.



### **Suggestions:**

- Laws and acts should be enforced for the protection of the environment but co-operation and support of the people is needed for the enforcement of these laws.
- The village Dorbar should set a certain law to enforce protection of catchment areas, they need to govern the land for the purpose of preserving it.
- Water related issues need immediate attention to avoid hindrance in the lives of the people.

Smti A Dohling gave a brief idea on Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) on how it should be conducted in every selected village for the purpose of getting the required information which will help the village to come up with the village plan. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks from the BDO and the approval from the RangbahShnong to conduct the PRA exercise at their respected villages.

## Awareness Programme on Natural Resource Management (NRM) for Promotion of Sustainable Livelihood

To make the people understand on the importance of preserving natural resources, an awareness programme on Natural Resource Management was held at the office of the BDO, Mawphlang Block on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2014, then at Laitkroh Block on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2014 and Mawryngkneng Block on the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

The village representatives that attended were from Lad-Mawreng, Laitpynter, Mawngap-Mawsmal, KyndongWahlang, KhliehshnongLyngkholi, Lyngiong, MawngapLumparing, MawtapPyllun, KreitMawshaton, Kyiem, MawphlangDongiew, WahlyngkienSunei, Nongthymmai, WahLyngngiaKhliehshnong, Laitmawroh, IewShyllong, Nongthymmai-Lumthangding, LaitmawlongWapein, Khatarmer (12 mile), MadanLyngkhi, Lumkyntong, Umtangngar, Diengpasoh, IewPomtia, NongkremNongkyndong, Maw-U-Sam, RngiKseh, Jyntah, Laitkseh, Mawkhanu and Mawsharoh.

A major concern on the indiscriminate use of natural resources was expressed by Shri A. B. S. Swer, Officer on Special Duty, Meghalaya Institute of Governance. He stated that, it is the people who are bringing hindrance to themselves by destroying the environment through their activities like sand quarrying, coal mining, deforestation and all these things happen simply because the people have no

knowledge on the proper use of natural resources. He stressed on the importance of conducting programmes that create awareness on the management of natural resources. The main agenda of these programmes was to focus on the capabilities of the people to work for the sustainable livelihood for future generations and for the people to get a clear understanding of managing and preserving the natural resources in a proper way.

### **Interaction:**

- The Lyngdoh of HimaMawphlang mentioned about the rules and regulations governing the sacred grove
- In reference to the sand mining the P.H.E Department has suggested the construction of a pond so that the sand is not washed downstream
- To opt for other forms of livelihood as sand quarrying possess a great threat to the water resources
- Destruction caused to the river Marshiliang in Laitkroh
- The practice of quarrying against the rules and regulations of the villages
- Government should provide more opportunities for preserving the environment
- Construction of Bypass has greatly affected the agricultural field
- No co-ordination between the members of a community leads to the destruction of the environment
- Quarrying as the main source of income for livelihood
- Difficulty in preserving the forest because they are privately owned and hence the practice of sand quarrying cannot be prohibited by the Dorbar

- Government should give more power to the Headman to enforce laws for the protection of the forest and river bodies
- Increase in the number of poverty in Lad-Kynther village because of poor agricultural practice
- Purchasing of fertilizers is difficult as they are too expensive
- Agricultural product is decreasing
- No cold storage is available for products like potatoes, tomatoes etc
- Reduction in the amount of rain
- Rules and regulation have not been implemented in the village as the people are dependent on wood, quarrying and mining for their livelihood
- Government should provide them with other sources of livelihood
- Deforestation as a great impact on the water bodies and catchment areas
- Facility for proper waste management should be provided
- Immediate attention to be given to forest fire

Sanjay Goyal, IAS, DC East Khasi Hills has put forwarded the following questions to show his concern towards the deteriorating environment

- To whom do the natural resources belong to?
- Are we happy with the current management of our natural resources?
- Are we not concerned about the future generation?

- Co-ordination in work is needed for avoiding any problem in future
- If people depends on sand mining for the livelihood then after 50 years there will not be any sand to mine

- Rivers are subsiding because catchment areas are not conserved
- Participation of the people is a must for natural resource management
- The Government and the public should work together for good results

#### **Forest Department:**

- Law to protect and preserve the forest should be implemented in every village.
- The department can provide tree seedlings or saplings.
- Plants can be planted in bottle to protect it from the animals.
- It is very important to know the plants that serve best.

#### **Veterinary Department:**

- The ban on coal mining had a great impact on the livelihood of the people in Jowai making them opt for other alternatives like rearing of livestock.
- Kong ByllaimonSwer has been rearing 11 piglets for her livelihood.
- In Mawryngkneng, people feed their pigs with pear only.

#### **Soil and Water Conservation Department:**

- To preserve soil and water.
- Construction of check dams.
- Integrated Management Watershed Programme.
- Supporting micro enterprises.
- Support and finance the Self Help Groups.
- Organising and arranging training.

### **PHE Department:**

- Burning of forest should be stopped immediately.
- The activities that are being practiced by the people are affecting the environment. For e.g. the Umtyngngar river.
- Alternate activities that are nature friendly should be adopted.

Shri B. Sohliya, Officer on Special Duty, Meghalaya Institute of Entrepreneurship, spoke on the programme, stating that the villagers of a particular village need to know about the availability of natural resources in their village and then prepare a village plan to execute and protect the natural resources and the environment.

Smti A. Dohling from State Institute of Rural Development also gave a brief idea on Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) to help a particular village come up with the village plan. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks from the BDO and the RangbahShnong approved to conduct the PRA exercise at their respective villages.



## Meeting with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and MBDA met on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2014. The meeting was attended by the following members— Shri Tomohide Ichiguchi, Deputy Chief Representative, JICA India Office, Shri Naoto Furukawa, Representative, JICA India Office, Shri Subroto Talukdar, Lead Development Specialist, JICA India Office, Shri K Kharkongor, Water Resource Department, Shri L Shabong, Officer on Special Duty, MBDA and Shri ABS Swer, Officer on Special Duty, MIG.

Shri R M Mishra, IAS, Principal Secretary, Planning Department and Shri Tomohide Ichiguchi discussed about the partnership on the meeting where Shri Ichiguchi stated that India is the most important partner of Japan and have been assisting India in terms of Transport Sector, Power Supply, Agricultural Sector, Water Resource etc., and at present their main focus is on the North Eastern regions.

In Meghalaya, Water Resources & Forestry are their primary concern and two proposals have been proposed to JICA. The Tribal Affairs ministry have cleared the Proposals in which it is on the process of acquiring No Objection Certificate from DONOR. The water resource proposal focused mainly on the Multipurpose Reservoirs. The proposed project is for 1000 crores each where 1600 structures of catchment areas are being proposed. Water Resource Department has initiated eight structures and two are under process. Water Resource department is one of the

partner agency of Meghalaya Water Resources Development Agency (MeWDA) and Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA) which is under Planning Department headed by Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya. MBDA has to monitor the programme which is initiated through MeWDA and as such the funds from the centre will be received by MBDA.

Shri Mishra suggested JICA to have an overall view on Integrated Basin Development and Livelihood Promotion Programme (IBDLP) so that they can have a long term strategic partner with JICA.

Shri K S Kropcha, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department, Meghalaya met with the JICA's team and discussed on the importance of security clearance before any activity is carried in the state of Meghalaya. They also stressed on the banning of coal mines in Meghalaya which has minimised the strength of the insurgency in Garo hills since extortion was the main source of income for them.

JICA's meeting with Shri B K DevVerma, IAS, Principal Secretary, Power/ Energy and Shri Pankaj Jain, IAS, Commissioner, Planning Department discussed about the setting up of Power Projects in Meghalaya. Umiam Hydro Power Project is the main source of energy supply. JICA has given technical assistance in Umiam Stage II Hydro Power Station renovation and modernisation Project. Shri B K DevVerma stated that the Detail Project Report (DPR) for Umiam Phase III project which amounts to Rs. 344 crores was sent to JICA. There are also other projects such as Umngot Stage I and Leshka Stage II Projects that needs much importance.

DPR was made for Umngot Power Project and Umngi Power Project and handed to JICA. Umngi Power Project is proposed for 170 Mw but it has a potential of producing 300 Mw which is located in Mawkyrwat, South West Khasi Hills district in Meghalaya. This is the biggest Power Project with no rehabilitation except vegetation. Moreover, this district has least population density. Umngot is the Run-of-River (RoR) project. In Meghalaya, one cannot set up thermal project because coal is mined in an unscientific way. The State has the capacity to produce 3000 Mw. It stated that if NEEPCO invest on Power Project in the state, then 12% of the power goes to that particular state and the remaining they would supply it to the others.

North Eastern Council advisors also met with the JICA's team and discussed about the loans sanctioned from various organisations. The loans granted by JICA for the development of North Eastern Regions will be reimbursed by the Government of India in a time period of thirty years. Donor is the controlling body of NEC. IFAD and the Government of India sanctioned the budget to NEC and in return the NEC the budget will be based according to the State proposals and implement the budget.

JICA stated that the availability of data is very low in North Eastern regions. JICA organised two types of Training Programmes, Group Training and Country Focused Training in which both are dependent on DEA Japan division.

## Meeting of World Bank and Shri R.M. Mishra

Shri R.M. Mishra, IAS, Principal Secretary, Planning Department and the representatives of World Bank met on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2014. Shri Mishra stressed on the importance of investment as generally there is no investment on Governance in Meghalaya and India as a whole. Though Meghalaya is a small state but lots of challenges were faced. Shri R.M. Mishra highlighted the following points:

- People do not perceive a unified goal or dream.
- Creating a governance setup and coordinating with that setup is difficult.
- People do not contribute and coordinate. They should aspire for good governance.
- Demands and needs of the Tribal society are very different from the other communities.
- As an institution it should be systematised and navigation is required for clear road map.
- We are stuck with Delivery of Services and there is no system to convey the message to the Government Departments that whatever they are doing is not worthy.
- One should focus not only on fundamental rights but fundamental duties as well.
- Though Meghalaya being a matrilineal state, there is less participation of women in decision-making process and there is no such assessment which has been carried out in order to check. Men and women

should be given equal platform where they can play their role efficiently.

- World Bank was asked to frame Service Delivery Mechanism and prepare the project in such a way that it would be beneficial for the people of Meghalaya.
- Leadership capacity is very important and more participatory measures should be taken up in the process.

Shri.Durga Prasad from World Bank stated that MIG is a complex structure because it is trying to do things which none is doing in the state. There are two challenges

- (i) Managerial and
- (ii) Governance

The challenge here is how we are going to frame it into organisational structure. He talked about Centre for Good Governance, Hyderabad who has done an excellent study on good governance issues.

Shri Mishra stressed on creating a process where one would be able to solve people's problem with creative and innovative ideas in the state.

On meeting with Sanjay Goyal, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, East Khasi Hills, the following points were discussed:

- There is a need to identify areas where Meghalaya Institute of Governance can work. Capacity of MIG has to be enhanced.
- Health and Education needs improvement. Quality of Education is not up to the mark. There is a lot of scope for improvement. Quality of skilled manpower is a big problem as it is lacking behind.

- Local authorities can play a very important role.
- Natural resources do not belong to the Government in Meghalaya. Government land is very limited in quantity where majority of the land belongs to the community or private individuals.
- IBDLP is trying to promote Natural Resource Management with sustainable livelihood in the state. Legal authorities are mostly vested on private individuals.
- State has limited role in terms of Land Dispute measures where majority of the power are in the hands of District Councils.
- Mapping and survey is missing in the State.
- Problems and issues of Meghalaya are quite different from the other States. One of its failures is that there is no follow-up by the Government Departments.
- Concept of Federations and Clusters do not work in Meghalaya.
- Before putting a ban on mining, people should be provided with alternate sources of livelihood.

## Meeting with World Bank

A meeting was held at Asian Confluence with the World Bank where the members present in the meeting were - Dr. B.D.R. Tiwari, IAS, and Director General, MIG, ShriAibanSwer OSD, MIG, Shri Toki Blah IAS, President, ICARE, Dr. Sandra Albert, IIPH, ShriKyntiewbor War, Shri P.D. Nongrum, Shri Mark Stone

governance structures in the state such as in the bottom Village Council headed by the District Council at the top. There is no accountability and convergence in the state.

Dr. B.D.R Tiwari, stated that there is a need to restructure our traditional institution as everything is changing and everybody is becoming individualistic. He



Laitflang, AVENUES, ShriDurga Prasad, World Bank, Miss Annie Vincent, World Bank and ShriSumarbinUmdor.

ShriDurga Prasad, WB had initiated the meeting with the introduction for the purpose of their visit in Meghalaya. He further illustrated that it is a scoping mechanism for them to learn, understand the scenario and identify the areas that need to be given much attention. Some of the key points of discussion are highlighted below:

Shri Toki Blah stated that the focus has to be on the aspect of governance. We have traditional institutions, Autonomous District Councils but convergence of governance is missing. There is a layer of

further said that social regulation, social bonding and social support are lacking in the state. Government should tackle issues emerging due to development process. Migration of people from Rural to Urban is increasing day by day as there are limited job opportunities in the rural areas. The prime objective should be to empower the people.

ShriSumarbinUmdor further stated that local governance which is the most important component of governance is missing in the state. Changes in the governance have to come through the District Councils through the DorbarShnongs. There is no transparency

in the financial management of District Councils.

According to ShriKyntiewbor War, there is a need to sit together with the local or grass root level people in order to learn things so that there is a better solution at a common platform. Governance is basically a management of resources. Moreover he added that Local Dorbars works in isolation and there is no uniformity.

Shri Mark Stone Laitphlang, spoke about the three points i.e., (i) Partnership (ii) Perspective and (iii) Protocol.

ShriAibanSwer concluded the meeting stressing on four important points i.e.

1. We need to have proper assessment.
2. We need to have a network and benchmark.
3. We need to identify the tools.
4. As an institution we should have a clear roadmap.