



## CommunicationsDesk

## SMCOrientation

### Prelude to signing of MOU by School Management Committees **Second Round of Awareness and Orientation Programme held for school management committees at Tura – input by Kamki Diengdoh**

The project is on. The second round of meeting the School Management Committees happened in Tura towards the end of the month, on 22 April. In this meeting, school authorities' representatives from across the five districts of the Garo hills were present. The meeting was interactive and opened opportunities for the project representatives to clarify the valid doubts of the school management committee members.

It is almost mid-year and the schools are up and running, a good timing for project workers to get going. Chasing deadlines, more meetings among the implementers were held and more field visits happened. Consultants from Accenture, British Council, LEA Associates and Aite-et-Action continue to dig into understanding ground realities and input into the ongoing planning and implementation of the programme.

The project consultants with key inputs from livelihood experts came out with draft documents on skill providers and ITI information guide. These tools will help the youth and students to know the details of various skill providers and ITIs available in the state. This could be a run up to think of a well thought well design prospectus for the ITI.

PMC has prepared a status report that should help in the development of strategies to face the possible challenges of the project on ground zero. There have been conversations to speed up the formation of District Project Coordination Units (DPCUs) and with that ball rolling, the interest of PAM will be kept. All this, serving as a reminder that the heart of this social development project is the Youth of the state, thereby, resulting in the overall development of Meghalaya.

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Photo by: Kamki Diengdoh, NGO Communication Specialist

#### ATTENDANCE

- \*42 school committee members out of the total 49 schools
- \*Director –DSEL chaired the meeting
- \*Deputy Commissioner of West Garo Hills who helped setting the context
- \*All 5 consulting firms representatives were present

The second round of Orientation Programme for School Management Committees (SMCs) happened in Tura, on 22 April 2015. A similar meeting was held in Shillong for the 31 schools in October 2014. The purpose of the programme was to introduce and appraise SMC members of the features of the project 'Supporting Human Capital Development in Meghalaya'. Altogether 42 SMC members were present of the total 49 schools from East Garo Hills, West Garo Hills, South Garo Hills and North Garo Hills districts.

Mr. Ambrose Marak, the Director of DSEL as Chairman of the programme, gave his opening remarks, after which, Mr. Praveen Bakshi, Deputy Commissioner of West Garo Hills addressed the SMC members. The DC of WGH, firstly expressed his happiness and anticipation at the introduction of such a project in Garo Hills and the involvement and participation of the 5 Consulting firms.

The DC also gave a brief overview of the education scenario prevailing in Garo Hills and stressed on the need of revamping and improving the present situation. He further added that education should be child centric and child friendly. There should be more improvement in the Teaching-Learning method. He then concluded his speech by stating that true learning should result in development of personality.

Introduction and appraisal of the project was presented by Mr. Amit Das, Dy. Team Leader (PMC). He started his presentation by emphasizing the importance of the SMC as the key stakeholder of the project. He further went on to explain the objectives of the project, its various components and aspects and who are the major players.



These deliberations were followed by a series of questions from the SMC members, for which, due response and clarification was presented by Department of Education and the representatives of the respective consulting firms. Other pertinent issues were addressed, much to the satisfaction of the SMC members.

The date of submission of the MOU was fixed on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2015. The SMC members were instructed to sign the MOU and submit the same on a Rs.10 non judicial stamp, along with their resolution and supported by the land documents of the proposed sites respectively.

## AGENDA

- Introduction and appraisal of the project Supporting Human Capital Development in Meghalaya to the SMC members of 49 schools from EHG, WGH, NGH, SGH.
- Introduction to the Consulting firms and statement of the roles and responsibilities of the same.
- Presentation of MOU
- Interaction/ Q & A session with SMC members.
- Finalise date for signing and submission of the MOU by the SMC present.



Mr. Phillip Ong, Team Leader of Design and Supervision Consultants shared the role and responsibility of DSC in the project and explained the sequence of work which will be undertaken by LEA International, while Mr. Pranab Panging, Team Leader NGO, representing Aide-Et-Action, introduced the NGO and presented its roles and responsibility to the. He stated that since participation from the various stakeholders and beneficiaries is of paramount importance, thus, awareness and mobilization is the key for the success of the project. Mr. Pranab Panging then urged all the SMC members for their support and cooperation with the NGO.



National Institute of Labour Economics Research & Development (NILERD) was represented by Mr. Andrew Warjri. He introduced the research organisation and list out its roles and responsibility. In his presentation, Mr. Andrew stated that the prevailing education system in the State is not employment driven, therefore there is a need to redesign and restructure the curriculum to enable students to meet the challenges in the practical world.

Introduction to British Council and its role was presented by its team leader, Mr. Pat McLaughlin. He started his presentation by talking about the composition of British council for this particular project. He pointed out that BC comprises of international, national as well as local consultants who are committed to the project, thereby bringing experience and utilizing local expertise. Mr. McLaughlin explained about the Teachers' Training component of the project and redefined the word 'training' to capacity building and development. He stated that the project will enable teachers to adopt new teaching techniques and also develop a new training approach



He then urged the SMC members to support the organisation with regards to need based analysis and the collection of information and consolidation of database.

## FIELD VISIT: Good construction activity in progress at Mawsynram – input by N.Bhattacharjee

Environment Safeguard Specialist, Mr. N. Bhattacharjee and PMC Deputy Team Leader Amit Das visited Mawsynram Higher Secondary School on 11th April 2015 along with other senior officials of LEA to monitor the construction activity in progress.



The team was pleased to witness the systematic manner in which works are in progress conforming to all aspects of Environmental Safeguards as issued by undersigned in an Advisory earlier.



Stacking of construction materials, safety gear use, proper toilets and sanitation, disposal of sewerage and solid waste, containing air pollution by covering the debris including covering of excavated pits for foundation at night were some of the highlights of the management.

The labour camp was also found to be absolutely clean and hygienic with separate toilets etc for male and female workers.

It is a pilot approach in which the concerned consultants wished that other contractors follow so. Mr. N. Bhattacharjee commented, "This looks like a first step towards institutionalising the approach in every construction activity in the state and not remaining confined to only the SHCDM project".



Kudos to CD Construction for abiding by the guidelines not only environment but even the social and gender safeguards. Earlier in April, Mr. Suchiang, SE PWD had already visited the school and recounted the pleasant experience.

## Community Mobilisation

### AEA comes out with Awareness Building & Mobilisation Campaign for next 6 months

Aide et Action developed the AB&M campaign plan for the next 6 months (March – August 2015) after considering the ground situations, learnings' from the field and the Awareness Building and Mobilisation activities undertaken in the last 6 months. The plan has been circulated with the government and project partners.

### Skill Development & ITI information guide

The livelihood experts came out with draft documents on skill providers' & ITI information guide. These tools will help the youth and students to know the details of various skill providers and ITIs available in the state. Alongside these tools, a FAQ document on skill training was also developed. This document will be useful in addressing queries of youth and students with regards to skill training.

### Tools to understand aspirations of SMCs developed

The tools to understand aspirations of SMCs based on their functionality and capacity have been developed and finalized in March. The tools included indicators to understand the aspirations and constraints of multiple stakeholders-SMCs, teachers, students and parents. Along with it, the methodology (interview/FGD) for the consultation process was also finalized and the community mobilisers were oriented on effective administration of the tools.

### Orientation of DCMs on Gender Action Plan, Social Safeguards and Indigenous peoples' plan

The Anthropologist undertook a half day orientation for the District Community Mobilizers on the Gender Action & Indigenous Peoples' Plans and Social Safeguard policy. The DCMs were oriented on the ways to approach communities based on ADB guidelines.

### Capacity Building of SMCs

Aide et Action provided orientation and Hand Holding support to SMC - Construction Committees in 8 schools selected in the first phase. The team oriented them on filling up Construction Checklist for monitoring progress & quality was undertaken in these schools.



### Consultation with key stakeholders

Consultation meetings were held with DC of West Jaintia Hills District, ADC (Planning) of East Jaintia Hills District, and DC of RiBhoi District on the project and discussions held on issues pertaining to Education & Livelihood in the District & probable strategies that could be undertaken to address them through the project.



### Consultation meetings held with the SDSEO of Khlieriat Block and discussion was held on the project & formation of DPCU.

Further to the communication from Secretary (Finance) to the Government of Meghalaya constituting District Project Coordination Units (DPCUs) to monitor the implementation of both the secondary education and skill development components in the district and block level, Aide et Action organized a consultation meeting with the SDSEO of Khlieriat Block to discuss about the SHCDM Project and formation of DPCU in their block.

## Case Study

### Proud to be a ITian



With three members of her family working in the government sector, Julie Giri could have aspired to get into the same sector. However, since her childhood, she was interested to become a beautician and start her own parlor.

With this intention, she got enrolled in the Beautician course at the Government Girls ITI in Shillong. Once she completed her course, she took a loan of 4 Lakhs under the PMEGY and started Giri Beauty Parlor near the Don Bosco center, Shillong.

Initially she had to struggle, but slowly her expertise and dedication paid off and she expanded her business. She has given employment to three people and makes a business of Rs 50,000 every month.

She is glad that she undertook training from the ITI and feels that if a person is determined to achieve something, it doesn't matter where you study from. "In any educational institute, if you don't study with commitment and determination, success won't come to you" she says with pride.

### Consultation on Livelihood

A total of 13 Livelihood consultations (4 - Garo, 2 - WGH, 3-EGH, 1- EKH, 2-EJH & 1-EGH) were conducted by the experts. During the course of consultations, many youth shared aspired to take up electrical, tailoring, knitting. Some wanted to start their own enterprise like computer hardware shops, mobile repairing centers etc. Youth have also expressed the need for skill awareness.

NEWSTRACK

**Centre will prioritise skill development of NE youths: Amit Shah**

On a four-day tour of north-eastern (NE) states to strengthen party organisation in the region, BJP President Amit Shah reached out to the youth in a rally in the Mizoram capital and assured them that the Centre would accord priority to their skill development.

Addressing the party rally in Aizawl on April 17, the BJP President said developing skill of the youth was paramount for all-round growth of the region.

Advocating enhancement of trade volume with neighbouring Asian countries is the government's priority for the northeast.

He said financial assistance to the north-eastern states have been raised. Amit Shah asserted that the Modi government had been fighting corruption at all levels and corruption will never be tolerated.

**BPL housing project back on track**

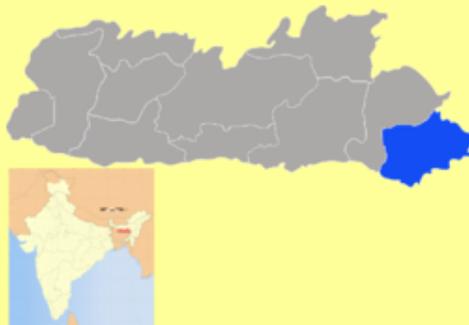
**MUDA decides to execute project on its own**

SHILLONG: Following the termination of the contract with Hindustan Prefab Limited (HPL) Construction, the Meghalaya Urban Development Authority (MUDA) has now decided to put the project back on track by executing it on its own.

The State government had terminated the contract with the HPF after it failed to comply with the terms and conditions by deciding to back out from the project.

“We have resumed the construction of the low cost housing units under the Centrally-sponsored JNNURM Basic Service of Urban Poor (BSUP) Scheme,” Urban Affairs Minister informed. Out of the 600 housing units, which are to be constructed under the Centrally-sponsored JNNURM Basic Service of Urban Poor (BSUP) Scheme initiated in 2007, only 96 have been completed so far.

**District Featured: East Jaintia Hills**



Area: 2,115 sq. kms  
 Population: 1,22,436  
 District Headquarter: Khliehriat  
 Language: Pnar

East Jaintia Hills District was carved out of the erstwhile Jaintia Hills District on 31 July 2012. **Khliehriat**, the district headquarters, was created as an administrative unit on August 14, 1976.

**Administrative Units**

The district comprise of two Community & Rural development Blocks namely,

- Khliehriat C&RD Block
- Saipung C&RD Block

**Geography**

The district comprises 2 community and rural development blocks viz. Khliehriat C&RD Block, and Saipung C&RD Block with the following boundaries:

North - Assam and West Jaintia Hills District  
 South - Bangladesh and Assam  
 East - Assam  
 West - West Jaintia Hills District

**Development work carried out by Integrated Basin Development and Livelihood Promotion programme**

- Block level workshops on IBDLP programme were organized, which received a very positive response.
- PRA exercises for Integrated Village Development Plan (IVDP) were conducted in in consultation with the traditional heads and the communities.
- Identification of convergence projects and finalization of partners for exposure visits is underway
- The District Committee works to provide support in 'Womens Economic Empowerment through Financial Inclusion' program.
- Works on value chain development, market access and setting up of Mobile Multi facility Centers (MMFCs).

**B.Ed results: a matter of pride for Don Bosco, Tura**

SHILLONG: In the recently declared B.Ed results, out of the 102 students of Don Bosco College, Tura who appeared for the final examinations 86 secured first division while 14 got second divisions with a record 61 distinctions. In a statement issued here on Tuesday,

**Youths to be involved to check rising crimes in East Khasi Hills**

SHILLONG: Aiming to arrest the trend of the growing number of crimes in Shillong city in particular and East Khasi Hills District in general, the district administration has decided to involve youths as partners to deal with the menace.

Earlier, East Khasi Hills Superintendent of Police, M. Kharkrang, lamented that cases of drugs abuse are on the rise in Shillong. Kharkrang said there has been substantial increase in intake of drugs that has direct connection to the crimes specially related to property viz. theft, robbery, burglary and dacoity.

He pointed out that the total number of cases reported under NPDS Act during 2009-2014 in East Khasi Hills District was 55. 63 people were arrested under the NPDS Act from 2010-2014.

**Centre announces Rs. 20,000-cr road projects for North-East**

The Centre said it will start Rs. 20,000-crore road projects, besides developing inland waterways, in the North- East by the end of this year to improve infrastructure in the region.

“By the end of December this year, we will award road projects worth Rs 20,000 crore in the North-East. These will be spread across the region for improving the infrastructure, which will help the economy of the North-East,” Union Road Transport, Highways and Shipping Minister Nitin Jairam Gadkari said at a press conference.

The projects will have a long gestation period and will be implemented by public sector undertakings, besides private entities, in the public-private partnership mode, he added.

Earlier, Mr Gadkari had announced Rs. 5,130 crore worth road projects for Meghalaya, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh, to improve their road network.