

In Conversation with People of Meghalaya

Good Governance -Taking Meghalaya Forward









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Chief Minister's Message

There is no alternative to good governance. My thought found resonance when the World Bank hailed India's Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act during the launch of The World Development Report 2014. This global recognition of the scheme underlines the correlation between good governance and social mobilisation which go hand-in-hand in making the scheme successful and sustainable. A robust and effective model of good governance is not only a sturdy pedestal for the launch of such schemes, but also ensures that the scheme meets the objectives which it is set out to achieve.

In Meghalaya, we are making concerted efforts to develop unique and sustainable development models to alleviate poverty. The flagship intervention, Integrated Basin Development and Livelihoods Programme (IBDLP), launched by the Government of Meghalaya in April 2012, has demonstrably been led by attributes of good governance and brings together viable economics and administrative bodies. In my view, good governance requires a participatory and transparent approach to be intricately woven into everyday execution of the Programme.

Since the second issue of In Conversation with the People of Meghalaya is dedicated to Good Governance, it becomes imperative to mention the Meghalaya Institute of Governance (MIG). One of the three nodal implementation agencies of Meghalaya Basin Development Programme (MBDA), MIG is a repertoire of best practices in good governance. It shoulders the responsibility to bring about tangible reforms by implementing development programmes while working with government and other stakeholders.

IBDLP is bound to help the state become progressive and enlightened in its functioning. People, as partners and entrepreneurs under the Programme, build their own capacities to make rational and more environmentally responsible choices. Good governance is bound to make these projects effective and efficient. The net effect of the Programme would be difficult to quantify at this stage, especially because it has both tangible and the intangible components but undoubtedly, both are highly valuable and self-sustaining.

This issue is your window to Good Governance practices employed by Meghalaya government. I would like to emphasise that we are committed to each individual of the state and they are our partners while traversing this journey to empower the citizens. On behalf of Government of Meghalaya, as a key stakeholder, it will be my earnest endeavour to make IBDLP an exemplary model promoting sustainable development in the state.

I would thereby request the people of Meghalaya to pursue the realisation of the vision of IBDLP with gusto. With every small step that we take towards materialising the objectives of our unique intervention model, we move closer to our vision of a poverty free Meghalaya.

Dr. Mukul Sangma

Honourable Chief Minister Government of Meghalaya



Chief Secretary's Message.

Empowerment leads to alleviation. Every intervention which is introduced and implemented by Government of Meghalaya resonates this thought. Meghalaya is making focused and determined efforts to empower our rural citizenry. Successful implementation of our modules of development demands for an infallible governance administered by all the stakeholders at respective levels.

Good governance is a pivotal instrument which makes the process of implementation effective and efficient. Inclusion and transparency are two other major attributes which play key role in implementation of development projects and modules in the state.

Last issue of In Conversation discussed the flagship programme Integrated Basin Development and Livelihoods Promotions Programme (IBDLP) and Entrepreneurship Facilitation Centres (EFCs) which were introduced by Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA) which is responsible for the strategy ad steering the overall implementation of programmes. By means of these programmes, we aim to achieve Meghalaya's targets of holistic development with the perspective of promoting inclusive growth with a focus on poverty alleviation, employment generation and livelihood promotion.

On the other hand, this issue is dedicated to the strongest pillar of MBDA which is good governance which is put to action by Meghalaya Institute of Governance (MIG), one of the three nodal agencies of MBDA. MIG has made successful inroads while implementing governance reforms, administrative initiatives, and institutional reforms and induces multi-stakeholder partnership to foster growth-oriented and people-centred inclusive governance in Meghalaya.

The success of our programme depends upon the involvement, onus displayed and the responsibilities shared by the partners, traditional institutions in the state. A cohesive approach is imperative to bring about the desired change in the state.

I will close this address with a vision to transform the existing state of affairs and witnessing a paradigm shift in the development strategy and implementation of newer development models in Meghalaya.

Like I stated above, empowerment is a crucial ingredient among various other attributes of good governance. We seek your support to see a well governed and affluent Meghalaya.

WMS Pariat

Chief Secretary Government of Meghalaya

Good Governance : Taking Meghalaya Forward

Introduction

Governance is the overarching term which encompasses decision-making and fosters interaction between stakeholders like corporate, international, national and local governance. Furthermore, the term, good governance describes how public affairs can be used to manage public resources and bring about the desired change. Good governance helps create an environment in which sustained economic growth becomes achievable. Conditions of good governance allow citizens to maximize their returns on investment.

No theory of governance could be intelligible unless it is seen in the context of its time. Good governance means securing justice, empowerment, employment and efficient delivery of services.

In context of Meghalaya, good governance is the strong pillar which holds the future of the state and its people. It is the foundation that constructs the stakeholders approach adopted by the government which views the people of Meghalaya as partners spearheading the development initiatives with equal accountability and responsibility as the authorities supervising the programmes. On one side we have the Basin Development Council which is headed by the Chief Minister, and then we have the BDA which is a non profit organisation which is supported by institute of Entrepreneurship, institute of NRM and institute of Governance.

It is through consistent efforts of MIG that we have got on the right path and involve stakeholders including government and traditional institutions which score over contemporary vehicles of change and remain popular and trusted by rural citizens of the state. Governance is not the sole responsibility of the government alone but also the responsibility of the traditional institutions, district council, and civil societies as well.

The concept of convergence synergy of departments, participation of communities, and involvement of stakeholders needs to be strengthened. It is also important for the communities to be instilled with a sense of business and motivated to be efficient in the level of delivering at all levels of governance.

Good governance is accordingly associated with accountable political leadership, enlightened policy-making and a civil service imbued with a professional ethos. The presence of a strong civil society including a free press and independent judiciary are pre-conditions for good governance.

The innovative models of development and growth focus on inclusivity and encourage individuals to rise as independent entrepreneurs. Good governance plays a vital role in helping stakeholders work in close proximity with each other and enable them to see satisfactory results and achieve desired success.

Having witnessed successful implementation of Integrated Basin Development and Livelihoods Promotion Programme (IBDLP), Entrepreneurship Facilitation Centre (EFC) and other PPP interventions, the state has proven to have complied with participation, accountability, reliability and equitability, four very important aspects of good governance.

Meghalaya thereby aims to strengthen the hands of majority of rural population and seeks to expose the stakeholders to practical knowledge. Good governance will help mobilise required energy support at various stages of the value chain and would result in a more equitable and inclusive growth.



Attributes and Objectives

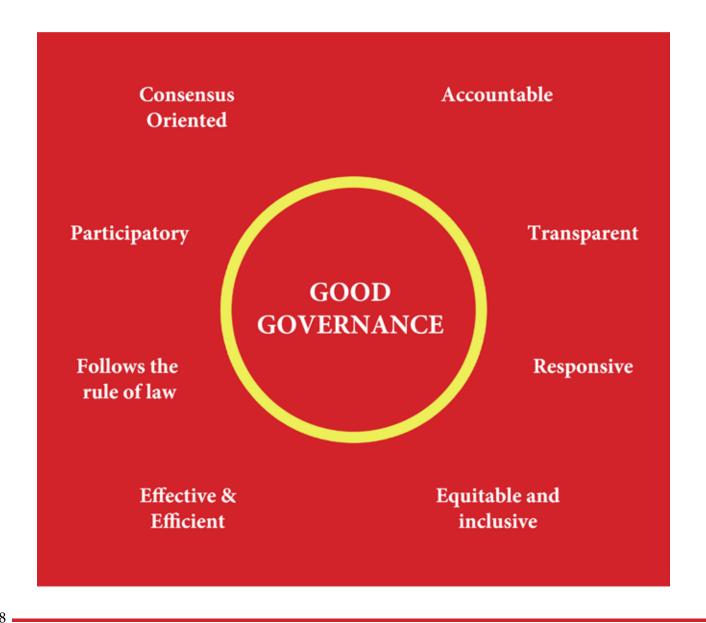
Promoted on the basis of real public mandate, good governance is set out to bring about social change by eliminating policy aberrations and promoting public participation in democratic processes.

Good governance has eight major characteristics. It is participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive and follows the rule of law. It assures that corruption is minimized, the views of minorities are taken into account and that the voices of the most vulnerable in society are heard in decision-making. It is also responsive to the present and future needs of society.

This is a tool which empowers citizens to participate in building a society of their choice but also sensitise the democratic society about the power of one's voice among fellow citizens and policy makers.

Good governance is thereby a prerequisite for successful implementation of development modules by building a bridge between governing bodies and participants of the programme.

The eight key pillars as demonstrated by the figure below come together to ensure good governance. The very aim is to create an all inclusive development module which brings together stakeholders.



Implementation

Partner agencies such as 'Meghalaya Institute of Governance', nodal unit of Meghalaya Basin Development Authority act as torchbearers for the development schemes and programmes employed by the state government. They guide governance reforms by blending the power of information, knowledge sharing and technology with people of the state with the objective to ensure good governance.

Agencies like MIG have been formed with well defined roles and responsibilities and are a conduit between government departments and other stakeholders which analyse issues in governance identify solutions, help develop action plans, and support implementation of these plans and reform agenda.

Illustrating the functions in detail, MIG helps translate government goals, objectives and policy priorities and reform agenda in tangible reform actions with focus on principles and practices of good governance. It undertakes action research,

provides professional advice and conduct change management programmes for achieving its objectives of respective programmes.

The agency has also helped setting of 'Governing Council' to whom the management of the Society is entrusted as required under section 5 of the Meghalaya Societies Registration Act 1983 as applicable to the State of Meghalaya. The council brings together stewards from the diverse domains which include forest, public health, water resources, agriculture, fisheries and communications.

Overall, nodal agencies play a pivotal role and stand as strong support for the intervention programmes run by the government and ensure a consistent performance across stakeholders.

There is a need for co-operation of the Meghalaya Institute of Government with traditional local institutions.



Meghalaya Institute of Governance: Backbone of Good Governance in Meghalaya

Role of MIG

The Meghalaya Institute of Governance (MIG) was created as one of the institutional support mechanisms of MBDA with a vision to explore, share and promote good governance in Meghalaya by assisting the Government, the private sector, the voluntary sector and the communities in putting good governance into practice for the well-being of citizens and society with special emphasis on traditional institutions, cultural organizations and village communities.

The goal of this co-operation is to gather information and knowledge aimed at building and promoting good governance to local level institutions, community and primary stakeholders. This in turn will help to provide inputs for strengthening grass root processes of democratic institutions, infusing transparency and accountability in governance.

Objectives of MIG

- 1. Work with Government Departments and other stakeholders to analyse key issues in governance, identify solutions, help develop action plans, and support implementation of these plans and reform agenda.
- 2. Act as a think tank and help translate government goals, objectives and policy priorities and reform agenda in tangible reform actions with focus on principles and practices of good governance.
- 3. Identify those areas for change that will make the most impact in improving performance and policy making in government and enable it to respond better to the needs of the people.
- 4. Create a repository of best practices, methodologies and tools in governance reforms including successful e–governance applications.
- 5. Support change management and management development programmes in government to effectively carry forward governance reforms and to develop a reform communication strategy for wider implementation.
- 6. Undertake capacity building of stakeholders (Govt. & Non Govt.) including local governance institutions and community based organizations.
- 7. Provide technical support and advisory services to the State and local Governments, national and international organizations in the areas of action research, change management, design and implementation of governance reforms, including administrative reforms.

objects listed are : -
1. Simplifying Governance Systems and Procedures
2. Governance with accountability
3. Responsive, citizen – focussed services
4. Financial management – transparency
5. Performance management
6. Change management
7. E – Governance
8. Grievance Redressal
9. Monitoring/ Supervision
10. Research and studies
11. Convergence mechanism

The objects incidental or ancillary (enabling objects) to the attainment of the main

Governing Body at MIG

The Governing Council at MIG, to whom the management of the Society is entrusted, as required under section 5 of the Meghalaya Societies Registration Act 1983 as applicable to the State of Meghalaya. Enlisted below are the members of the council.

- Chairman
- Vice Chairman
- Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya- Member Planning Department
- Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya- Member Forest Department
- Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya Member, Public Health Engineering Department
- Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya- Member- Water Resources Department, Soil & Water Conservation, Forest and Environment Department, Planning Department
- Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya- Member- Agriculture Department, Fisheries
- Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya- Member- Personnel Department, Fisheries
- Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya- Member- Information and Public Relations Department
- Interventions by Meghalaya Institute of Governance



Participatory outreach programmes with rural citizens

Capacity Building Workshop with Traditional Institutions

Co-operation of the Meghalaya Institute of Governance with Traditional Institutions-Syiemships/ Dolloiships/ Nokmas/ Village Councils Meghalaya is a state where traditional institutions play an important role in the day to day governance of local people. The Khasis, Jaintias and Garos all have different systems of local self-governance which have been recognised under the sixth schedule of the constitution of India.

In the last few decades, these traditional institutions have undergone many changes resulting in erosion of their powers. However, since they still control sizable areas of land, forest, rivers and minerals, they are important in the governance and development process of the state.

It is with this thought that efforts are underway to engage them in various capacity building measures that will bring about uniformity and help to benchmark their governance activities.

Objectives of Workshop

- Identify the key factors leading to ineffective and inefficient human resource management across the public service and to develop solutions to solve these problems;
- Train them on issues of ethics and morality in public management and governance in accordance with the traditional good governance and probity in public life frameworks;
- Expose them to the other good governance practices in the country.
- Create partnerships for supporting Government Departments in developing and implementing human resource management plans and embedding new structures and approaches
- Enable them to address the issues of Local Village Governance besides others.

Issues discussed

- Need of Geo Spatial Territorial Base Map for Preparation of village infrastructure plan.
- Natural resource treasures and their governance
- Village amenities-utilities and responsibilities
- Bottlenecks in Traditional Governance system
- Traditional Governance and Community policing

Workshop with heads of Traditional Institutions held at the Durbar of the Syiem of Hima Mylliem, Mawkhar (14th September 2012)

A workshop with the Syiem of Hima Mylliem and heads of traditional institutions was held at the Dorbar of Hima Mylliem, Mawkhar with an aim to improve the traditional system of Governance prevailing in the state throughout the years. Members of the Dorbar, Myntris, Sordars from various villages were present on this workshop.

The focal point of the workshop was understanding how effective traditional governance would be if all the Raids and Himas had a proper mapping of their respective territorial boundaries.

MIG believes that maps can be generated using satellite technology. Social and resource mapping has been made compulsory for all Raids and Himas. The Syiem were then given a glimpse of how such maps would look using Google Maps.



Outcome of the Workshop:

- Letter from the Syiem of Mylliem seeking assistance in the preparation of Geo-Spatial Base Map of Mylliem Syiemship boundary and natural resources.
- The State Government sent a group of professionals under Colonel. A.K Suri (retd) to learn and collect the Geo Spatial raw data of Meghalaya having 0.5 metres resolution from the National Geo-Spatial Mission.
- The Chief Minister has been apprised of the concept plan and has verbally given the go-ahead to collaborate with the Department of Land Records and Survey.
- It was also decided that the citizens from villages will be trained in using GPS technology, which can in turn create employment opportunities for them.

Integrated Training Course on Ethical Governance and Public Service for Gram Sevaks and Sevikas

SIRD under the direction of the Principal Secretary Community and Rural Development, organized a 5 day training programme for Gram Sevaks and Sevikas with the aim of acquainting them with the current status and initiatives in Rural Development and to infuse work ethics and value among them. About 675 Gram Sevaks and Gram Sevikas in the State benefitted from this training which was jointly organized by the State Institute of Rural Development, MIG and the Initiatives of Change, Panchgani.

The training programme had a positive influence and sought to shape the attitudes of the Gram Sevaks and Sevikas in their service for the rural people particularly the poor.

The Gram Sevaks and Sevikas are perhaps the most important link between the Government administration and the people. The Government, in its efforts to bring about a meaningful change in the rural areas, is working towards enhancing knowledge and skills of these functionaries on a regular basis through training and other capacity building techniques.

Awareness Programme on IBDLP for Traditional Heads and Leaders

The awareness programme on IBDLP for Traditional Heads and Leaders was organized in Shillong. The programme witnessed 138 participants, including traditional heads, leaders and the youth.

The discussions ceneterd around 'Introduction to Integrated Basin Development & Livelihood Promotion Programme' and 'Governance Issues'. 'Entrepreneurship Promotion' was also discussed since it forms a crucial part of IBDLP.

Points of discussion are as follows:

- Trust level for government agencies is low and that rural people still have faith in the traditional heads
- Traditional heads should be included in government bodies to enable exchange of thought between these two
- Modernise the Autonomous District Councils and involve them in the programmes of the Meghalaya Institute of Governance
- Appointment and succession of Chief and Headman Act 1959 (Amended) which needs to be studied



Recommendations

- Government should make laws on the utilization of water sources and rivers
- Government should immediately test the water sources supplied to the localities either by the Department of PHE or Municipal. This would help to certify the quality and purity of drinking water
- Meghalaya Institute of Governance should inform to the Rangbah Shnong and Sirdar on the different types of trainings available and given by the Department to the youth for self- employment. The scheme should be utilized to empower rural youth
- Localities/villages/Ilaka/Hima should investigate and research on the resources available
 on their respective areas. The observations should be discussed with the Government and
 get due support
- Regular meetings with the Department, District Councils and the Traditional Heads are must measures to ensure good governance
- Urgent codification of Khasi Customary Laws is required

Outcomes of the Awareness Programme organized by the KJWA in partnership with MIG on IBDLP held at the Mission Compound Durbar Hall, Shillong (4th December 2012)

This programme was organized with the aim of mobilizing co-operation; gather information and knowledge aimed at building and promoting good governance to local level traditional institutions, community and primary stake holders.



Meghalaya Water Retreat - A Report

A two-day retreat to discuss issues concerning the use and conservation of water was organised by the Meghalaya Water Foundation (MWF) on July 23-24, 2013 at Sohra. The retreat involved various stakeholders from the Government, the civil society and the Meghalaya Water Development Agency, MIG amongst others. The retreat reflected on how MWF could add value and make a difference to the way the water protocol is organised in Meghalaya.

The discussion included the following:

- The need to focus on things beyond our individual needs
- People need to get emotionally involved in the process of conservation and use of water. Traditional knowledge should be documented and made actionable
- People need to take charge of how they manage water and the eco-system because this task cannot be outsourced
- Important of focus on multi-stake-holdership and quality and quantity of water available called for greater flexibility in the way institutions worked
- New institutions need to be created and new capacities built for better water governance



Inter- Government Meetings

A meeting with NESAC officials was conducted at Nongsder, Umiam on July 03, 2013, to understand the possibilities of collaboration on IBDLP programme to generate GIS model for Meghalaya.

The meeting focused on IBDLP and utilisation of GIS and how MBDA's perspective regarding villages is geared more towards 'sustainable livelihoods'. It was seen that GIS can be used to help planners and decision makers and as a tool of empowerment.

The second perspective is more important for the MBDA. A new model is currently being worked out where management and decision-making will be done by the villagers (at the village level) and the government will facilitate such activities and provide needed support accordingly.

The analysis is to be translated in a fashion where people can easily comprehend the implications and conduct their own management. It was suggested that micro watershed boundaries could be used as a basis for doing the work. However, it was made clear that boundary issues are sensitive and should be dealt with accordingly.

It was decided that during village level ground trothing, approximate boundaries could be identified but not presented officially. The method to be adopted would use the 'centroid' based maps and then the sub watershed based boundaries would be used for water/resources related analysis.

It was seen that participatory GIS is ideal to help meet the objectives of MBDA. It was decided at participatory GIS approach will be integrated with the ongoing exercise of preparation of the Integrated Village Plans.

There was also a discussion on the importance of GIS in water management and how work was already in progress is helping identify locations for check dams.

Sectors identified for collaboration:

- 1. Micro-Watershed Delineations
- 2. Delineation of Barren Land
- 3. Micro-Watershed Village Boundaries
- 4. Advisories based on land resource maps
- 5. Water Development Planning
- 6. List of Springs and Ground Water Potential Maps
- 7. Location of Check Dams
- 8. Traditional Sources of Water

There has been an organic exchange of information between NESAC and MBDA.

Symposium on Governance

A symposium on Good Governance was organised by MBDA as part of Basin Development week on 5 April, 2012. The idea behind the symposium was to generate a holistic understanding of the issues relating to good governance in reference to Meghalaya.

Chief Secretary, Meghalaya, Mr. WMS Pariat was

the chief guest for the Symposium which was attended by government secretaries, the resource persons from outside State, members of civil societies, media and officers from various departments. Officials from both within the state and outside presented technical papers and held discussions on how to improve the mechanism of governance leading to the betterment of society as a whole.

Issues covered during the discussion sessions :-

- Inclusive governance
- NRM governance
- Entrepreneurship governance
- Transparency governance
- Participatory governance
- Solutions of services providers in rural development
- Financing of projects
- Leveraging of existing schemes can be done through state's own resources,
- Community and entrepreneurial contribution,
- EAP and Gap funding.

Key Recommendations of the Symposium

- Have to develop a leadership and developmental climate in order to bring economic de velopment and relieving all the arising tensions.
- People or entrepreneurs who do more must be rewarded and the ones who do less must be persuaded to do more.
- Political leadership and administrative leadership have been excellent but the local lead ership also has to attain the spirit of marching forward. The local leadership needs to be more self sustaining.
- Good governance can help in political development
- Cherrapunjee Eco project is a good example of Integration.
- Convergence and integration is the finest solution of governance in Meghalaya. Many states in the country would gain a lot by adopting this.
- All the interaction between the government and the citizens is very important.
- Urban and rural disparity will be reduced by education.
- IIM-Shillong should organize certain Meghalaya specific programmes for entrepreneur ship development
- There should be an institute of Music with branches all over the district.
- Institute of entrepreneurship is a good initiative but it should have its branches all over the state and not confined to only few places.
- There is a shortage of teachers
- There should be a mission document for vision 2025 and 2035.
- Traditional institutions must incorporate greater transparency and accountability in their political systems.
- Women must become more active participants in decision making bodies of traditional institutions.
- In case there are no village level bodies in certain areas, they should be created as per the sixth schedule.
- Regular monitoring of developmental tasks is required.

Interacting with National Geo Spatial Mission

A team of officers visited Mission on Geo Spatial Applications, located in IIT Delhi campus on July 06 2012. The National Geo Spatial Mission team was handed over two external hard disks containing geo-spatial data for all districts, by the Resident Commissioner, Meghalaya.

Shri. Rajendra Jena, Scientist 'B' of Mission for Geo-Spatial Applications, gave a detailed presentation and demonstration on the applications developed and capabilities of the

mission. Maj Gen G.S. Chandela, Head of the mission also briefed about the various vistas to which the Geo-Spatial applications can be put to use. It was informed that most of their applications are being developed using skyline Terra explorer Ver-4 for visualization. Six sets of these softwares have already been procured by Meghalaya State police for their use. The officials of the Geo-Spatial mission were also apprised of the facilities (HW/SW) and data available in Meghalaya State GIS Lab.

- Some of the probable areas of usage are listed below:
- Operational planning by security forces.
- Planning for locating future education and health facilities in uncovered areas.
- Preparation of cadastral maps.
- Survey of land under Jhum, ban cultivation and areas covered by forests of different categories.
- Location of additional areas that can be terraced and converted for irrigation from existing dams by use of 0.5m resolution satellite imagery.
- The point of flow concentration of water and flood prediction.
- Monitoring of effectiveness of Watershed Management Programmes.
- Locating the best sites for construction of different Check Dams, Water harvesting structures and Canals etc.
- Preparation of DPRs for projects like the Integrated watershed Management Programme, Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation areas, Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and River Valley Project under NBARD.
- Deciding sites of water holding dams and pipe lying plans of PHE dept.

Recommendations:

In order to make best use of the existing infrastructure, following were recommended:

- Upgrade the existing set up of GIS lab at IT dept. so as to use the data collected.
- The two resources employed by Soil and Conservation dept. may be asked to work in IT dept as dedicated resources for these applications.
- Initially one set of Skyline Terra Explorer Ver-4 could be borrowed from state police dept to establish its utility and requirement.
- All user depts. to use these central facilities for their requirements.



Wahumkhrah - Changing Scenario ... Now and Then...

Initiated by ICARE and the Meghalaya Institute of Governance a confluence of the stake holders was held in the State Central Library Seminar Hall on the 10th Feb 2012. The confluence was to discuss the status of the rivers. It evoked a huge response in which NGO's such as the KSU,FKJGP, Meghalaya Women's Alliance, Lympung Ki

seng Kynthei, Synjuk Ki Rangbah Shnong, MTDF, NEEDS, Ex-servicemen organisation, NSS, Ka Pla Iew, Bethany Society, Youth For Change. From the Government side was represented by Principal Secretary, C&RD, DC EKH, SMB, MSPCB, Deptt. Of soil & water Conservation, KHADC, academicians and distinguished members of society.

The meeting passed a resolution to form a task force to take the action forward

- Make an action plan for restoration and rejuvenation
- Short term and long term goals
- Sustainable campaign name

The MIG prepared a paper entitled Eco-restoration of Wah Umkhrah and Wah Umshyrpi – Revisited. It emphasized on the factsheet crisis of pollution of the two water bodies in and around the city, sewage and garbage disposal in the vicinity of the river system. A proposal was made for restoration i.e. mobilization of the stake holders for cleaning the Wah Umkhrah lead by the Civil Societies. This includes workshop and awareness drives in all

the localities, in educational institutions, campaign both in the electronic and print media, film clips to be prepared and shown to the people through CD's., signature campaign, FM radio will be used as a medium to spread the message. The approach stressed more on water resources assessment, environment impact assessment, water legislation, integration of water with other natural resources.



NOTES



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