

International Colloquium on Value-based Approach to Sustainable Development

Organized by:
The International Centre for North-East Studies
Synod College, Shillong-793002
Meghalaya



Date: November 15th -17th, 2016.

Concept Note:

Article 1 of the Declaration of the Right to Development (1986) conceptualizes the right to development in the following terms: *“The right to development is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized”*. The Vienna Declaration (1993) also provides for the right to development, recognizing it as *“a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights.”*

However, one of the key elements of the right to development is the element of ‘sustainability’. The UN Conference on the Human Environment (**Stockholm Declaration, 1972**) is famously known for bringing into life the idea and concept of “sustainable development,” which it defines as *“development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”* The same conceptualization also echoes in the UN World Charter for Nature (1982), establishing the principle that all ecosystems and resources of the world *“...be managed to achieve and maintain optimum sustainable productivity”*.

The magnitude of interdependence at a global scale and at all levels of formal and informal, institutionalized and non-institutionalized social settings of interaction is what has caused a growing attention to human development as one of the key planetary concerns. The fate of environment seems to be no less fortunate, at least from a perspective of the frequency of its presence in national and international fora. In fact, the quality of human life is nowadays seen—and rightly so—as organically related to the notion of environment. Such a correlation between human development and the environment has given rise to what has come to be known as “sustainable development,” a key concept in the field of international environmental law with growing implications in arenas of international relations, international trade and human rights.

Meghalaya is known for pioneering some of the first strategies for sustainability and plans for effectively managing climate change. These pioneering plans were installed in an attempt to protect Meghalaya's rich supply of bio diversity; natural and mineral resources; and the aspects of the environment that reflect the heritage and values of the local people. However, the increase in the severity of extreme weather patterns in the past couple of decades, erratic rain and patterns, fluctuating and more extreme weather conditions, the threat of drought (which is accompanied by the threat of famine), and the plight of tribal-villagers—who struggle to maintain their culture, heritage, and the conditions of their ancestral lands and its resources—have made Meghalaya especially sensitive to the challenges imposed by environmental and climate change conditions plus have impelled Meghalaya to take planning for sustainability more seriously. In addition Meghalaya the fact that a large portion of the population identify themselves in cultural and ethnic terms means that they also rely on their relationship with environment (e.g. their sense of identity based on an interconnectedness with nature) for maintaining their heritage, cultural traditions, and subsistence.

The colloquium scope will be multi-level and multi-dimensional: the individual, the organizational/institutional, and at the level the social system (the level of an economy). In other words the colloquium is, in fact, an approach to sustainability that also improves organizational capability to manage natural resources, increase stakeholder benefits (by means of the co-creation of value concept), and to generate social capital (based on the premise that the application of the greening of the democratic concepts results in maximizing the common good). The colloquium is a means of testing the effectiveness of a value-based approach to sustainable development in today's knowledge-based economy.

The colloquium aims to produce the most viable strategy for planning a future that can assure Meghalaya sustainable growth in a way that is in line with its rich cultural heritage and values, promotes the prosperity and well-being of its people, protects the interests of all stakeholders, and establishes a model of Eco-leadership in Meghalaya. In addition, given the fact that a new paradigm economic and development paradigm is emerging which calls for an overlap between strategic plans for economic development and the introduction of new era initiatives for a Holistic, participatory, and integrative approach to sustainability. The aim is to generate and disseminate knowledge regarding the best theoretical framework for researching sustainability and the impact of climate change in Meghalaya plus planning the best response to the challenges

The colloquium proposes for an interdisciplinary methodology as the best method for undertaking the research (with a special sensitivity to the impact of climate change and the most effective response for safeguarding the well-being of the Meghalaya population). This means combining the knowledge of various disciplines and perspectives (including indigenous knowledge) which will form the basis of an integrative and Holistic approach to sustainability and for effectively managing climate change (e.g. above all, the perspective on sustainability, development, social relations, social economics, and environmentalism put forth by the cultural worldview of the people of Meghalaya still proves to be relevant to the current challenge thus will be reflected in and they establish the foundation of this approach to sustainability and the management of climate change challenge put forth by this project).

Objectives:

1. Creating a Sustainability Model by means of academic cooperation, research, and knowledge sharing (this includes establishing a model for Eco-leadership).
2. Engage in a critical analysis of The Value-based Approach to Social Economic Develop and to make plans to test the model in various locations and make comparative analysis of the results.
3. To establish a collaborative, networking, and participative strategy for applying the model to particular context, plus plan a theoretical and methodological approach to testing the model.
4. Provide a platform for scholars, researchers, civic leaders, and policy-makers to share their insight on the issue (i.e. create a platform for knowledge generation and dissemination).
5. The colloquium is primarily a research-oriented project which means that the academic partners will cooperate in researching the most viable sustainability and climate change concepts and projects that are being implemented in each region, doing a comprehensive cooperative analysis of projects with our international partners, and preparing a report (including the prospects of publication of the most viable sustainability concepts and projects in the region).
6. The colloquium will test the results of their research in the form of applying their models for increasing efficiency in behalf of regional environmental, sustainability, and climate change organizations, projects, and institutions.

Organizing Committee:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Dr. D. Wanswett | - Patron |
| 2. Dr. C.R. Lyngdoh | - Convener |
| 3. Shri. B. L. Mawlong | - Organizing Secretary |
| 4. Dr. (Mrs.) A. J. Iangrai | - Member |
| 5. Dr.(Ms.) H. Swer | - Member |
| 6. Mrs. M.N. Laloo | - Member |
| 7. Shri. Bennathaniel H. Diengdoh | - Member |

Advisory Committee

1. Prof. Leon Monroe Miller - Tallinn University of Technology
2. Prof. L.S. Gassah - Department of Political Science, NEHU
3. Shri S. Jyrwa - Vice Principal, Synod College
4. Dr. M. Rani - Coordinator, IQAC, Synod College

Proposed List of International Partners/Resource Persons:

1. Prof. Leon Monroe Miller, Tallinn University of Technology.
2. Dr. Matin Ersoy, Eastern Mediterranean University and Vice-coordinator for the European Peace Research Association, metinersoy2006@gmail.com.
3. Dr Simon Mabon, Lecturer in International Relations Director of the Richardson Institute, Lancaster University, s.mabon@lancaster.ac.uk.
4. Dr. Ashok Swain, Professor of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, Sweden, Ashok.Swain@pcr.uu.se / ashok.swain@csduppsala.uu.se .
5. .
6. Dr. Biswajit Das, KSOM (Director of Doctoral Studies), biswajit@ksom.ac.in
7. Dr. Sumita Sindhi, KIIT School of Rural Management, sumita@ksrm.ac.in
8. Dr. Ravi Bhatia, The International Association for Religious Freedom, ravipbhatia@gmail.com.

Contacts:

Banshaikupar Lyngdoh Mawlong
Coordinator
International Centre for North-East
Studies
Meghalaya, India
Mob- +918974206428
Email: bandashisha@hotmail.co.in
/ban1787@hotmail.com

Dr. Charles Reuben Lyngdoh
Secretary
International Centre for North-East
Studies
Meghalaya, India
Mob- +919856334168
Email: reubenlyngdoh@gmail.com