

**Minutes of the Interactive Meeting on Innovation
held on 30th August, 2013 at Assam Secretariat, Dispur**

An interactive meeting on Innovation was held on 30th August, 2013 at Assam Secretariat, Dispur under the Chairmanship of the Shri P.P.Varma, IAS, Chief Secretary Assam. Ms. Veena Upadhyaya, IAS(Retd.), Expert National Innovation Council, New Delhi attended the meeting.

The list of officers of the Government of Assam and other dignitaries from various agencies /organisations is placed at **Annexure-I**.

Welcoming Ms. Veena Upadhyaya, IAS (Retd.)Expert, Shri K.L.Kala, Consultant, National Innovation Council (NInC), officers and other dignitaries present in the meeting, the Secretary, Planning and Development Department gave a brief outline on the emphasis placed by Government of India on innovation in various field and the declaration of 2010-20 as the decade of Innovation. He stated that a number of innovations have been taking place in Assam under various department/agencies that will be discussed in the meeting.

After the introductory session is over, the Chairman requested Ms. Veena Upadhyaya to address the house. She deliberated upon the importance of the decade as decade of Innovation by stating that the NInC under the chairmanship of Mr. Sam Pitroda has taken a number of initiatives that can be adapted by Assam. She specifically mentioned about the inclusive innovation in the areas of health and family welfare where there is tremendous scope in the state

Dr. Devi Prasad Shetty, Member, National Innovation Council joined the discussion through teleconferencing. The Commissioner & Secretary, Health & Family Welfare department, GoA and Managing Director, NRHM Assam enquired about the innovative way to reduce the high maternal mortality rate in the state. Dr. Shetty advised to identify the hardcore areas for execution of low cost health care in rural areas. A mobile van with a paramedics and mammography machine can certainly reduce the spread of breast cancer in rural areas as it can identify the probability of cancer and detect stage of the cancer and its curability. He emphasized placement of ultrasound machine, X-Ray machine, Eco- Cardiogram etc. in the block level hospital (PHC) and placement of at least two gynecologists, a radiologist, an anesthetist there for reduction of maternal mortality rate in the State. Further, institutes should have to be established in the state to produce paramedics in large number so that they can be placed in the block PHCs he added. He cited the example of a paramedical institute in Maharashtra that has produced large paramedic's works fore for the state that has worked wonders for the state's health care status.

The Commissioner & Secretary, Health & Family welfare and MD, NRHM informed Dr. Shetty that an institute has already been established in the state where 3 years Diploma on various paramedical course is offered. A total of around 400 paramedics passed out from this Institute are offering their services in rural areas of the State. He further elaborated the initiative taken by Government of Assam in the front of telemedicine through 104 services. At the end of teleconference, Dr. Shetty informed that he is planning to visit Assam in the early part of ^{October} ~~September~~ 2013 when a detailed discussion may be held on health care initiative in Assam.

While the department/agency wise innovative activities are discussed, the Commissioner & Secretary, Elementary Education informed about the initiative taken under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan on establishment of seasonal hostel for students of Class-I to VI for parents who migrated seasonally for their livelihood in the district of Dhubri and Kokrajhar . He also spoke about the social audit conducted through village people on the school development activities taken by the school management committees. The representative of Chamber of Indian Industries (CII) informed about the role of the Chamber in patronizing medium, small and micro enterprises (MSME) that has been identified. She spoke about the presently undergoing effort to document the best practices in the sector in the state. The Chairman of the meeting advised that instead of confining the document in book form, it should be published in public domain through internet.

The Director, Assam Science , Technology and Environment Council (ASTECC) detailed the effort of the council in nurturing Shri Uddhav Bharali, an engineer and innovator of producing machine for utilization of waste product ,Shri Dambarudhar Hazariaka of Lakhimpur in the field of degumming of Ramie fiber ,Shri M.N. Dutta in generation of electricity out of river flow etc. The ASTECC has also roped in all the Universities in the state including Engineering Colleges and IIT (G) in innovation work and build confidence among researchers for higher level projects. He also spoke about the establishment of Aryabhata Science Centre in all the development blocks of the state that has created an environment for innovative activities amongst school students .The Science and mathematics facilitator working in High/higher secondary schools are doing commendable work in developing teaching kits , tools and models.Ms. Veena Upadhyaya commended over the works of the ASTECC and request for a scholarship programme for school students for innovation at their level as done in West Bengal. She emphasized that ASTECC should be the nodal agency for Innovation in the state. The Chairman of the meeting ruled that more funds should be allocated to ASTECC to pursue innovative activities.

The Commissioner & Secretary, Agriculture department spoke about the mobile facility to the farmers to take advantage of advises from Agriculture department during harvesting season. Professor A. Das of IIT (G) states that the IIT (G) is ready to assist the Government of Assam in innovating new design of machines and called for more collaborative effort with the Government. Shri B. R. Bhattacharyya of the Rural Technology Action Group of IIT (G) also spoke about the innovations made by the Action Group for rural industries in Assam. Dr. S.K. Choudhury, Ex. Vice Chancellor, University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya stated that as Director of ASTECC a few years back he had the opportunity to work with number of people for innovation in the state and now the Government can take his services as he is retired from active service.

At the end of the discussion, Ms. Veena Upadhyaya emphasized that the state needs to take the following activities for innovation in the coming years:

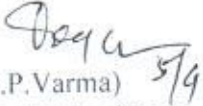
1. The state needs to prepare a multi sectoral plan for innovation;
2. Sectoral sub- committee of the State Innovation Council needs to be constituted
3. A secretariat of the State Innovation Council (SInC) has to be established under a Department. Considering the scope, the Science & Technology Department may be

declared as Nodal Department for Innovation and Assam Science, Technology & Environment Council (ASTECC) can act as Secretariat of the SInC.

4. Two state viz. Karnataka and Maharashtra are doing tremendous work on innovation. An exposure trip to Karnataka and Maharashtra by officials dealing with Innovation in Assam will be beneficial.
5. A fund for innovation in the state may be created in the name as " Assam inclusive innovation fund" may be created in the line of "India Inclusive Innovation Fund" from which the expenditure on innovation may be made;
6. A MOU may be signed by Industries Department with NInC on development of MSME sectors. The framework for the MOU will be supplied by NInC.

The Chairman in his concluding remarks stated that there is huge scope for innovation in the State if awareness can be created amongst all and their attention can be drawn to new thinking. He assured the NInC functionaries that the state will do its best for innovation and progress in all sectors in the coming years.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks offered by Secretary, Planning and Development Department and the Chairman.


(P.P. Varma) 5/9
Chief Secretary, Assam

Memo No. PDP.76/2010/

Dated the 4th August, 2013

Copy to:

- ✓ 1. All the officials and dignitaries present in the meeting for information and necessary action.
2. The P.S to the Chief Secretary, Assam for information.


Additional Director (E&M)
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