A BRIEF REPORT

ON

ESTABLISHMENT OF YOUTH FORUM INDIAN HIMALAYAN REGION (HKN MANIPUR CHAPTER)

& EXPERT TALKS

Thursday, March – 31st, 2022 Conference Hall, MIMS, Manipur University



ORGANISED BY: HIMALAYAN KNOWLEDGE NETWORK (HKN) MANIPUR CHAPTER MANIPUR UNIVERSITY, CANCHIPUR The establishment of the Youth Forum for the Indian Himalayan region, Himalayan Knowledge Network (HKN) Manipur Chapter cum expert talk was held on 31st March 2022, in the Conference Hall of Manipur Institute of Management Studies, Manipur University, Canchipur. The programme was organised by the HKN Manipur Chapter, with financial assistance from the G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (GBPNIHE), Almora, Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change, Government of India. A total of forty-nine youths representing various districts of Manipur attended the programme. The ceremony for the establishment of the Youth Forum was also witnessed by professors, research scholars, and students of Manipur University. The one-day programme involved capacity building, knowledge exchange sessions, leadership exercises, and a networking session.

INAUGURAL SESSION

After a brief welcome address by Dr. Wazir Alam, Assistant Professor in Environmental Science, Manipur University, the programme was graced with a candle lighting ceremony by Prof. N. Rajmuhon Singh, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Dhanamanjuri University and the Chief Guest of the session along with Prof. (Retd.) N. Deva Singh, Former Dean, School of Human and Environmental Science, Manipur University and the Guest of honour of the session and Dr. R.S. Khoiyangbam, President & Nodal Officer of HKN Manipur Chapter.

Prof. N. Rajmuhon Singh, in his speech, expressed that young people are the nation's backbone and are potential assets. They play a vital role in nation-building and are unstoppable currents for social reform in any country. They are the country's building blocks that make up the nation's future. In India, youth make up approximately a quarter of the population. With enormous power, youths can transform and change society's future. However, many global problems strongly impact and affect the youths. Today the most significant challenge faced by the youth in India is managing the resources and pressure to succeed and excel in life. Thus, society must initiate steps to teach responsibility and goal setting to the youths. They must be encouraged with constructive motivation, trained and well equipped to become the proud ambassadors of new India. Youths have incredible potential to bring new ideas and innovations to improve society. Prof. Rajmuhon presented a short glimpse of the life history of some young scientists in India and worldwide who have changed the world with their innovations. Youths should take an active role in saving the earth from environmental and climate changes. Forming the youth forum for the Indian Himalayan Region is very encouraging, and through

this network and platform, youths in the state can also contribute to the betterment of the state and the region.

Prof. N. Deva Singh: The Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) is the portion of the Himalayas mountain chain within India's geographical area. The IHR is spread across many Indian states and Union Territories, including northeast India and thus the state of Manipur. In northeast India, three major plates interact along two convergent boundaries, and the region is seismically unstable. Northeastern India is gifted with rich biological resources and comes under the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot. However, mountainous terrains are fragile ecosystems and susceptible to environmental change. The impacts of climate change may jeopardise the delicate natural balance in this region. In Manipur, widespread deforestation and shifting cultivation have brought irreparable environmental damage, leading to a recurrent cycle of floods and droughts, thereby incurring substantial economic losses. Excessive anthropogenic pressure and overexploitation beyond the carrying capacity of nature have often failed the regeneration capabilities of forests. Many lakes, rivers and water bodies have been badly contaminated and heavily polluted. Hence, timely mitigation measures and abatement interventions are the urgent needs to save the remaining resources in the wild. Framing climate change adaptation strategies for every sector is essential for conserving the resources, which will ultimately help human sustenance. Failing to strike the right chord at the right time may prove extremely disastrous. To resolve the emerging environmental issues in the region, efforts from all the stakeholders are essential. Youths can take the lead role in moving forward in addressing environmental problems.

Dr. R.S. Khoiyangbam, the Nodal Officer of the HKN Manipur Chapter, gave an overview of establishing the youth forum. Young people are the agents of change in local communities. There is a need to motivate enthusiastic youths in the Himalayas to unlock their potential in finding ways for sustainable living. The forum has brought together participants from various parts of Manipur. The forum aims to reach out to the young change leaders in the state and develop a functional network of change leaders. The main objectives of this youth forum include awakening and sensitising the youth on the various environmental challenges faced in the IHR. The forum endeavours to empower youth to build resilience, inspire others, and take action in their communities. It thrives on networking among youth for better collaboration, integration, and innovation in addressing mountain-specific issues.

The inaugural session ended with the announcement of the opeining of the Youth Forum for the Indian Himalayan Region, HKN Manipur Chapter by **Prof. N. Rajmuhon Singh** followed by a vote of thanks by **Dr. Vivek Vaishnav**, Assistant Professor in Forestry, Manipur University.

EXPERT TALKS

Prof. (Retd.) N. Deva Singh delivered a talk on 'Preparation for Adaptation to Climate Change in Manipur'. The deliberations discussed: (i) A brief overview of IPCC's latest Climate Change Report regarding Adaptation Guidelines (WG-II, AR 6 published In 2022), (ii) India's preparation for climate change adaptation, (iii) Manipur State's efforts in preparing a state action plan on climate change (SAPCC) and (iv) Rethinking about the climate change adaptation in the context of Manipur citing examples. The SAPCC focuses on eight important state missions on the ecosystem, biodiversity and livelihood sustainability, Water resources, Sustainable agriculture practices, Health, Forest resources conservation, Enhanced energy efficiency and conservation, Urban planning and Climate change strategic knowledge and information. The SAPCC –Manipur targets to achieve coherence between the strategies and actions on climate change policy and address the adaptation challenges by improving the adaptability of the public through developing suitable infrastructures and preserving its ecosystems. He opined that other climate-related extreme events are rare in Manipur except for landslides and floods amidst the global warming trend. However, non-climate related events like deforestation, land use etc., exist in the state. Sector-wise adaption on water, wetlands, agriculture and urbanisation were discussed, citing appropriate examples.

Prof. (**Retd.**) **Asha Gupta**, Deptt. of Life Sciences, Manipur University, delivered a talk on 'Climate Change and Adaptation Actions'. The talk discusses the various anthropogenic activities causing the present global warming and climate change and its effects on the living organisms on earth. Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are trace gases in the atmosphere which are radiatively active. The sectoral emissions of GHGs and the mismatch of the sources and sinks are highlighted. Emission mitigation involves finding ways to slow the emission rates or absorb them in sinks. Adaptation refers to adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities. The least developed countries are the most vulnerable to the risks associated with climate change. In highly vulnerable communities, it may directly threaten people's survival. The lecture explains how India's National Action Plan on climate change

could help fight the negative impacts of the changing climate. The various national missions to counter climate change, including the national mission on enhanced energy efficiency, Water mission, Sustainable habitat, Green India, Sustainable agriculture, Sustaining the Himalayan ecosystem, and Knowledge of Climate Change, were also discussed. The whole talk revolves around the youth and the role of youths in resolving the emerging challenges posed by climate change.

Dr. A. Pinokiyo, Assistant Professor, Department of Botany, DM University, Imphal, delivered a talk on the 'Role of Youth in biodiversity and conservation'. The talk started by defining biodiversity and stressed how it is vital to man's survival. The northeastern Indian, of which Manipur is a part, has unique geographical features, varied topography, altitudinal variation, ecological gradient, and different climatic conditions. Thus, the region possesses the richest floristic diversity and harbours numerous endemic and rare species. This region is pronounced as a distinct Botanical region (Jain, 1983), a Cradle of flowering plants (Takhtajan, 1981,1986), a Centre of speciation and the Richest reservoir of floristic diversity (Singh & Mao, 1998). Northeast India harbours 870 species under 159 genera against 1195 species (72.8%) under 177 genera in India. Of 128 bamboos reported from India, 49 species occur in Northeast India (Banerjee, 2001). Out of 41 spp. of Hedychium reported in India, 37 species occur in northeast India (Srivastava, 2001). Major threats to biodiversity in the region are extraction of wild plants for trade, habitat alteration, and shifting cultivation (Jhuming). The estimated area affected by shifting cultivation in the northeast region is 7.4 million hectares (FAO, 1975). Plantation of commercial crops, for instance, large-scale tea plantation in Assam, Cardamom plantation in Sikkim, Teak plantation replacing the original flora in certain areas, construction of roads, dams, hydroelectric power plants, cement industries also causes biodiversity losses. The role of youths in conservation measures may include: Acknowledging the value of biodiversity, understanding the plants and animals in their surrounding, the Rare Endangered Threatened spp. of their locality, state or country, maintaining home gardens planting local species, trying to understand the local names and cultural applications of plants around them plus they should actively participate in biodiversity programmes like World environment day (5th June), World Biodiversity day (22nd May), and others.

POST LUNCH SESSION

Moirangthem Loiya Ngamba, in many instances, referred to as the 'Tree man of Manipur' and the founder of the Wildlife and Habitat Protection Society (WHAPS), conveyed to the

participants how he got inspired and developed the 300 acres denuded hill in the Langol range near Imphal in Manipur into a lush green forest. Mr. Loiya, a graduate in Philosophy from Madras Christain College, Chennai, started his journey of nature conservation by planting some trees in the Punshilok in 2002. He stayed alone in a hut on the hill for one year, guarding, nurturing and conserving the forest he planted in Punshilok. In 2003 the Wildlife and Habitat Protection Society was formed with a few like-minded fellows. Since then, the society's volunteers have actively participated in the conservation drives in Punshilok. The volunteers endeavour to protect the trees from lopping and cutting, appeal to nearby villagers to avoid igniting wildfires, create forest fire lines in the dry season to ensure fire safety and nurture plant saplings for the plantation drive. Since Langol hill is a designated reserve forest, the activities are jointly pursued with the government under the Joint forest management programme. Before the plantation drive, the place was occupied by grasses and shrubs, devoid of trees, reportedly due to vegetation clearing for farming pineapple. At present, about 25 species of bamboos, more than one hundred tree species, and seventy orchids are growing in Punshilok, and the patch of vegetation with herbs and shrubs embodies gene repositories for local plants. Besides, it provides refuge to lower wild animals and furnishes nestling ground for local birds and a habitat for migratory birds arriving from the eastern Himalayas. The literal meaning of Punshilok is the spring of life in the Manipuri language. His inspiring story attracts the young participants' attention in the youth forum.

INTERACTION SESSION

In the evening session, all the participants were given time to express their views one after another on the aspects of: (i) the youth forum HKN Manipur Chapter, (ii) the major environmental issues of the state, and (iii) the role youths can play in resolving the pressing environmental issues in the state. The main problems in the state, as highlighted by the various participants, are summarised below:

- 1. Wide-scale deforestation and denudation of hills in the state.
- 2. Poor solid waste management in towns, especially the disposal of wastes on the hill slopes without treatment.
- 3. Pollution of rivers, lakes and water bodies in the state
- 4. Illegal sand mining in the river beds, etc.

CLOSING REMARKS

The function and the interaction session ended at 4:30 pm with closing remarks by the Nodal Officer HKN, Manipur Chapter and thanking all the participants for their participation.

LIST OF ATTENDEES

Sl.	Name
No.	
1.	Kh. Sashikanta Meitei
2.	Wahengbam kiran Devi
3.	Lahenseema Phamdom
4.	Irom Yaikhomba Meitei
5.	Kamei Kambui Khonlu
6.	Tamari Neihoikim
7.	Bidyarani Laishram
8.	Yanglem Buchina Devi
9.	Irom Thougambi Chanu
10.	Chuiyapem Shaiza
11.	Wungramchon Horam
12.	Ayonmegon A.C
13.	Sanathoibi Sh.
14.	Priyakan Oinam
15.	Vikash
16.	Victoria Ngangom
17.	Nimshim Vashum
18.	Soibam Priyanka Devi
19.	Khanghemlu Thaimei
20.	Amo Ngashungmi Athary
21.	Tontonba Thokchom
22.	Apanba Tongjam
23.	Sarita Sorokhaibam
24.	Pallujam Rabina
25.	M. Gaimeilu Kabuini
26.	Ch. Kiran Mala Devi
27.	H. Yuishang
28.	Anjali Waikhom
29.	Reshma Khuleibau
30.	Chingakham Chanchan Chanu
31.	Ksh. Derina Devi
32.	Kangabam Geetabali Devi
33.	Renubala Ningthoujam
34.	Bindya Yendrembam
35.	Huten Unshanahrin
36.	Laishram Aneshori Devi
37.	Atish Yangoijam
38.	Veniza Meinam
39.	Sangubam Suchitra

40.	Tulshirani Elangbam
41.	Saikhom Linthoi
42.	Lukram Johny Devi
43.	L. Devendra Pratap Singh
44.	Amom Dingku Singh
45.	Lairenjam Chinglemba Singh
46.	Ningombam Sharda Devi
47.	Sagobem Kalpana
48.	Leihaothabam Sunanda Devi
49.	Pukhrambam Arora Devi

ANNEXURE-II

PHOTOGRAPHS



Welcome address by Dr. Wazir Alam

Honouring the dignitaries



Candle Lighting by Dignitaries



Speech by Prof. N. Rajmuhon Singh, Hon'ble Vice- Chancellor, DMU



Speech by Prof. N. Deva Singh, Former Dean School of Human & Env. Sc., MU

Speech by Dr. RS. Khoiyangbam Nodal officer, HKN Manipur Chapter



Deliberation of talk by Prof. N. Deva Singh

Deliberation of talk by Prof. Asha Gupta



Deliberation of talk by Dr. A. Pinokiyo

Deliberation of talk by M. Loya



ANNEXURE-III

MEETING BROCHURE



- To improve their understanding of climate science, natural resources management, and climate change solutions, especially resilience.
- To foster networking among youth for better collaboration, integration, and innovation in addressing mountain-specific issues.
- To empower youth to build resilience, inspire others, and take action in their communities.

Deptt. of Forestry & Env. Sc., MU

Manipur University was established on 5th June 1980 as a teaching-cum-affiliating University at Imphal with territorial jurisdiction over the whole of the state of Manipur, and it was converted into a central university w.ef. 13-10-2005.

The University has 108 affiliated colleges inclusive of 2 medical colleges. Manipur Institute of Technology (MIT) is a constituent college of the University. The Department of Forestry and Environmental Science (FES) was established in 2013. The Department envisioned establishing a prime centre for education and research in the thrust area of regional, national and global interests related to forestry and environmental science. Initially, the Department offers M.Sc. Course on Forestry and Environmental Science. Later, the course was bifurcated into M.Sc. Forestry and M.Sc. Environmental Science from the year 2017.

G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment

G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment was established in 1988-89 as an autonomous Institute of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MOEF & CC), Govt. of India, which has been identified as a focal agency to advance

Himalayan Knowledge Network (HKN)

The Himalayan region is well recognised for its richness in natural resources, forest, flora, fauna and socio-cultural diversity. Being one of the youngest mountain chains, the region is highly vulnerable to environmental problems. There is a need for a database for decision making in the vulnerable Himalayan region. The information generated through various R&D activities by different organisations in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) remains scattered and fragmented.

To address these critical issues, there is a need to foster collaboration and networking among scientists, policymakers and practitioners, leading to improved convergence and synergistic actions in a holistic and integrated manner. This Himalayan Knowledge Network (HKN) is conceptualised to enhance collaboration and networking among all relevant institutions engaged with Himalayan specific R&D leading to environmental conservation and sustainable development. HKN would synergise research and academia for addressing pressing environmental challenges for fostering conservation and development outcomes in tune with regional, national and international priorities.

Salient Features of HKN

- ✓ HKN- a regional forum for fostering knowledge documentation
- Promotion of sharing and use of knowledge across stakeholders
- Linking academia and research organisations, best practices, mountain communities, policymakers and practitioners
- ✓ Synergising actions of government and nongovernment actors
- Achieving sustainable development outcomes across IHR

scientific knowledge to evolve integrated management strategies, demonstrate their efficacy for conservation of natural resources, and ensure environmentally sound development in the entire Indian Himalayan Region (IHR). The Institute attempts to maintain a balance of intricate linkages between socio-cultural, ecological, economic and physical systems that could lead to sustainability in the IHR. To achieve this, the Institute follows a multidisciplinary and holistic approach in all its R&D programmes, emphasising the interlinking of natural and social sciences. In this effort, particular attention is given to preserving fragile mountain ecosystems, indigenous knowledge systems and sustainable use of natural resources. A conscious effort is made to ensure the participation of local inhabitants for long-term acceptance and success of various programmes. Training, environmental education and awareness to different stakeholders are essential components of all the R&D programmes of the Institute

Advisory Committee:

- 1. Prof. S. Ibotombi Singh, Dean School of Human & Environmental Sc., MU
- 2. Prof. S. Jibonkumar Singh, HoD, Deptt. of Anthropology, MU
- Prof. M. C. Arunkumar, HoD, Deptt. of Psychology, MU
- Prof. Kh. Pradip Kumar Singh, HoD, Deptt. of Geography, MU

CONVENOR:

Dr. R.S. Khoiyangbam Principal Investigator (Nodal Person) HKN Manipur Chapter & HoD i/c, Deptt. of Forestry & Env. Sc., MU

HKN Structure and Functioning

The HKN strives to establish a 'Network of Network'. Efforts will be made to bring Universities and Institutions working within and outside the HR for the cause of the Himalayan environment and development into the HKN forum as a network member. The State Chapters will be intended to facilitate the sharing of data relating to Himalayan Environmental & Development. The HKN structure and functioning could be briefly highlighted as follows:

- ✓ Promote and strengthen evidence-based Policies and Practices
- Undertake R&D on Mutual Interest for Achieving Regional collaboration
- Establish state-specific HKN Chapters
 Establish Youth Forum in Indian Himalayan
- Establish Youth Forum in Indian Hima
 Region
- ✓ Strengthening Himalayan Data Centre
 ✓ Data Knowledge sharing
- -

Youth Forum in IHR

Young people are the agents of change in local communities. There is a need for motivating enthusiastic youths in the Himalayas to unlock their potential in finding ways for sustainable living. The forum will bring together participants from various parts of Manipur. The forum will help reach out to the change leaders in the state and develop a functional network of change leaders. The one-day programme will include capacity building, knowledge exchange sessions, leadership exercises, and a networking session. The main objectives of this youth forum are:

 To awaken and sensitise the youth on the various environmental challenges faced in the IHR.

31st March 2022 TIME: 09.00 am to 4.00 pm

"The mountains are calling & I must go & I will work on while I can, studying incessantly."

John Muir

Interested Youth may join the forum through the link: https://forms.gle/L2sGniC1tu29HD9M9

ANNEXURE-IV

INVITATION CARD

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Ô	Ĭ			PROGRAMME	
INVITATION				Inaugural Session	
Department of Forestry and Environmental Science	09.0	D AM	-	Arrival of Dignitaries	
Manipur University	09.1	D AM	-	Welcome address	
Cordially request your kind presence at the function of	09.2	DAM.	-	Candle Lighting by Dignitaries	
	09.3	D AM	-	Address by the Chief Guest	
Establishment of Youth Forum for			-	Forum Innuagration by the Chief Guest	
Indian Himalayan Region (HKN Manipur Chapter)	09.4	D AM	-	Address by the Guest of Honour	
	09.5	D AM	-	Address by the President	
	10.0	D AM	-	Vote of Thanks	
	10.1	D AM	-	Tea and Snacks	
Prof. N. <u>Bajmuhon</u> Singh Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, DM University	0			Expert Talks	
Prof. (Retd.) N. Deva Singh Former Dean, School of Human & Env. Sc., MU	10.3	D AM	-	Prof. (Retd.) N. Deva Singh, <u>Deptt</u> . of Geography, MU	
ቢጊ, R.S. Khoiyangbam ዚ <u>ወ</u> ይ, Department of Forestry & Env. Sc., MU	11.1	5 AM	-	Prof. (Retd.) Asha Gupta, Deptt. of Life Sciences, MU	
Have kindly consented to grace the function as the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour and President respectively at the inauguration programme	12.0	D PM	-	Dr. A. <u>Pinokivo - Assitant</u> Professor, Deptt. of <u>Botany DM</u> University	
Date: 31 st March 2022 (Thursday)	01.0	D PM	-	Working Lunch	
Time: 9.00 AM	02.0	D PM	-	Speech by M. Loiva Ngamba	
Venue: Conference Hall, Maninur Institute of	02.3	D PM	-	Interaction Session	
Management Studies (MIMS) Manipur University	04.0	D PM	-	Closing Remarks by Nodal Officer HKN	
Programme Overleaf					

PROGRAMME CHART



Establishment of Youth forum for Indian Himalayan Region (HKN Manipur Chapter) & Expert Talks 31[#] March 2022 (Thursday)



INAUGURATION	9.00 AM	Arrival of the Dignitaries
SESSION	9.10 AM	Welcome address by
	8	Dr. Wazir Alam Assistant Professor, Deptt. of Forestry & Env. Sc., MU
	9.20 AM	Candle lighting by the Dignitaries on Dias
	9.30 AM	Address by Chief Guest
		Prof. N. Rajmuhon Singh Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, DMU
		Opening of the Youth Forum by the Chief Guest
	9.40 AM	Address by Guest of Honour
		Prof. (Retd.) N. Deva Singh Former Dean School of Human & Env. Sc., MU
	9.50 AM	Address by President
		Dr. R. S. Khoiyangbam HoDi/c, Deptt. of Forestry & Env. Sc., MU
	10.00 AM	Vote of Thanks
		Dr. Vivek Vaishnav Assistant Professor, Deptt. of Forestry & Env. Sc., MU
	10.10 AM	Tea and Snacks

EXDERT TALKS		
LAFERT TAEKS		
TALK SESSION-1	10.30 AM - 11.10 AM	Preparation for adaptation to Climate Change in Manipur
		P
		Prof. (Retd) N. Deva Singh Department of Geography, MU
TALK SESSION-2	11.00 AM - 11.55 AM	Climate Change and Adaptation Action
		Prof. (Retd.) Asha Gupta Department of Life Sciences, MU
TALK SESSION-3	12.00 PM - 12.55 PM	Role of Youth in Biodiversity and Conservation
		Dr. A. Pinokiyo Assistant Professor, Department of Botany, DM University
	01.00 PM - 1.55 PM	WORKING LUNCH
TALK SESSION-4	02.00 PM - 2.30 PM	Knowledge sharing of Afforestation in Punshilok
		Mr. M. Loiya Ngamba Founder, Wildlife and Habitat Protection Society, Imphal
	2.30 PM- 4.00 PM	INTERACTION SESSION
	4.00 PM	Closing Remarks by Nodal Officer HKN