

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS
WEST GARO HILLS, TURA

Press Release No. 41

Dated: 14/02/2011

31st NEIHA Annual conference underway

TURA, February 14: The 31st Annual Conference of the North East India History Association (NEIHA) was for the first time ever held in Tura at the premises of Don Bosco College. The Don Bosco College, Tura in collaboration with the North East Council, the Chief Minister Youth Development Scheme, Voluntary Action Fund and the Indian Council for Social Science Research, North East is hosting the 3 day conference of NEIHA which started from today.

Ms. Agatha K. Sangma, Minister for Home, Rural Development arrived at the inaugural session as the Chief Guest accompanied by Mr. P. A. Sangma, former Lok Sabha Speaker and MLA.

The NEIHA was formed on 27 February 1979 and is a voluntary organization. It aims at qualitative and quantitative research of history through the induction of multiple disciplines in the study of history. From a humble beginning the NEIHA has emerged as one of the foremost authorities in the research of the history of the country. The association started with very few memberships but now is a 1000 plus strong with members from various eminent scholastic institutions from all over the country out of which ninety percent are life long members. The conferences of NEIHA are one of the largest gatherings of scholars and academicians in the country.

Addressing the gathering Ms. Agatha K. Sangma stated that the history of the North East was not included in the annals of Indian history and therefore as such it was imperative that it be included in academic manuscripts of the NCERT etc. She also attributed the violence against women especially from the North East in cities like Delhi to the fact that with little knowledge about people from the North East others are bound to react to them with unfair criticism and disdain. Saying that documentation of a region is necessary to understand its people Ms. Agatha K. Sangma voiced the need to incorporate the traditions of the North East with mainstream India stating that it was necessary to bring to an end the feeling of alienation among the people of the North East with the rest of the Country. Ms. Agatha K. Sangma later expressed her willingness to facilitate NEIHA in its various endeavors and give ample coverage of their proceedings.

Mr. P. A. Sangma in his address at the inaugural session thanked NEIHA for holding their annual conference at Tura and suggested that it also organised their Conferences outside the North East so as to garner adequate publicity and coverage. He also informed that he would gladly render assistance to NEIHA if any needed to facilitate their works.

Mr. Sanjay Goyal, Deputy Commissioner, West Garo Hills addressing the gathering also expressed his concern on the absence of the history of the North East from academic or relevant books. He said that history was important to understand the past so that one could stand a better chance in the shaping of a positive future. Therefore, he stated that it was imperative that the history of the North East be included in academic literature seeing as the histories of other regions as far as the South to the North of the country were very well evident in educational archives. Mr. Goyal later mentioned the recently established Deputy Commissioner's Library and Archives at the Deputy Commissioner's residence and invited anyone who wanted to take a look at it for academic reference.

Later the previous proceedings of NEIHA were released along with several books authored by professors and academicians of NEIHA. Among others present at the inaugural session were Fr. V. A. Cyriac, Principal, Don Bosco College, Tura and Chairman, Committee on Local Arrangement (COLA), Dr. A. K. Thakur, General Secretary, NEIHA, Mr. Sangra A. Sangma, Secretary, COLA, and Prof. David R. Syiemlieh, Professor, NEIHA

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