



20th Annual Conference

North Eastern Economic Association (NEEA)



Date: 8th and 9th March, 2019

Venue: Dibrugarh University

Organised by

Department of Economics

Dibrugarh University

Dibrugarh, Assam, 786004

ABOUT NEEA

The North Eastern Economic Association (NEEA), formed in 1997, is a non-political, non-partisan, voluntary regional economic association, registered under the SR Act XXI of 1860. With a national perspective; NEEA draws members not only from the Eight North Eastern States but also from other States of India. The objectives of NEEA are to undertake, promote, co-ordinate and collaborate in the study of socio-economic problems and issues with emphasis on North East India; provide a common platform for interaction of ideas and exchange of experiences among the scholars and contribute in promoting technical competence for teaching and research in economics and allied subjects. In addition to conducting talks, workshops and seminars on various current issues relevant to the North East, NEEA has been holding annual conferences from its very inception on various economic issues concerning the North Eastern region of India.

ABOUT THE HOST INSTITUTION

Dibrugarh University, the easternmost University in India, was established in 1965 consequent upon the provisions of the Dibrugarh University Act, 1965, enacted by the Assam Legislative Assembly. The Mission of the university is to impart value oriented education and skill based training that foster leadership traits of the learners, thus generating sustainable development, social harmony and peace. Established in 1967, the department of Economics is one of the oldest departments of Dibrugarh University. The department has a productive industrial academia interface. With its strong global links in teaching and research programmes, the department has been currently running UGC's Special Assistance Programme (SAP) stage –III successfully. The present thrust areas of research of the department are Tribal Development, Human Development, Social Sector, Agricultural Economics, and Demography.

CONFERENCE THEME

Industry and Trade in North East India

The Path Traversed and the Way Ahead

The North Eastern region of India has a history of being one of the leading economic zones in the colonial era. However, the post-independence experiences for the region in the economic front have been far from satisfactory. In this day and age, the region slacks in most of the pertinent growth parameters when compared to the national averages. Short sighted strategies and uneven growth of sectors of importance may be cited among other causes. Two such important sectors with the potential to shape the region's economy in the desired direction are Industry and Trade. Currently, the share of industries in the Net Domestic Product of each state of the region is lower than the national level. The picture is not encouraging even for the state of Assam, which has been home to a good number of modern manufacturing units for a significant period of time. The limited industrialization is so far concentrated around tea, petroleum, paper, cement, plywood, coal, sugar and a few others in the organized sector, whereas in the unorganized sector, handlooms and handicrafts and a few small scale food processing units dominate the vicinity. Despite having enormous potential, the situation is even more discouraging when it comes to trade. Currently, trade among the states within the region as well as with the neighboring countries is dominated by primary products, mostly agricultural in nature. But the region also has potential to grow from trade in services (specially, tourism shows great promises owing to the ecstatic natural beauty and rich cultural diversity of the region). A major share of the NSDP of the NE states comes from the service sector. With more than 96 percent of its total geographical border being international, the NER of India has every reason to become the hub of all trade activities of the country with its East Asian neighbors. With this realization, the NER has become the talk of most of the economic and political discussions centered around India's goal of regional cooperation. A tailor made approach towards this goal can prove to be a boon not only for NER but also for the country as a whole. The role of better connectivity and other supportive infrastructure in this context is indisputably important. Apart from the popular rail-road-water connectivity options, aviation can also prove to be of vital importance given the difficult geographic terrains of the region and hence needs special attention. It is against this backdrop, the conference aims at addressing some of these vital issues through deliberations and discussions from across the world in the form of research papers and lectures and looks forward to receiving the same under the following sub themes:

- Problems and potentials of the industrial sector
- Trade as an engine of growth
- Tourism as a source of income and employment generation
- Connectivity as a facilitator of Industry and Trade
- Financial development for Industry and Trade
- Governance for facilitating Industry and Trade
- India's Act East policy as a means of regional cooperation for the development in NER
- Informal Trade along the borders of North East India.

The sub-themes are only indicative of probable areas in which researchers can contribute papers and are not necessarily exhaustive.

RESEARCHERS' FORUM

This category welcomes papers based on on-going or completed M Phil, PhD work, Post Doctoral work or research projects. The scholars submitting papers for this segment should specify the basis of the paper and in case of being part of funded projects should acknowledge the sponsoring agency.

PLENARY

Plenary Sessions and Special Lectures on issues specific to the Industry Sector of North East India will be held with participation of eminent academicians and personnel from the key industries of the region.

GOPAL BORDOLOI MEMORIAL LECTURE

The inaugural edition of the 'Gopal Bordoloi Memorial Lecture' sponsored by NEEA shall be held in the Conference. Dr Gopal Bordoloi, the founder secretary of NEEA, contributed immensely to the growth of NEEA since its inception. Dr. Bordoloi was instrumental in organizing the economics fraternity of the region under a single umbrella during the infancy of NEEA. As a mark of his contribution, NEEA has decided to organize 'Gopal Bordoloi Memorial Lecture' in each annual Conference of NEEA.

IMPORTANT DATES AND GUIDELINES

1. Dates of the Conference: 8th & 9th March 2019
2. Abstracts of papers (300 words) should be sent to secretaryneea@gmail.com with a copy to the organizers e-mail: neea2019@gmail.com as a document file on or before 5th February, 2019, with the subject: 'Abstract for 20th Annual Conference'.
3. Acceptance of papers will be confirmed by 10th February, 2019
4. Full paper not exceeding 4000 words is to be submitted in soft copies (e-mail attachment) on or before 27th February, 2019

REGISTRATION

All contributors, delegates and participants will be required to get themselves registered provisionally through online mode via a link to be provided at the time of acceptance of the paper. Accommodation will be arranged for outstation participants. The registration fee will be collected on the first day of the conference.

FEEES

With Accommodation

- a) Rs 1800 for NEEA Members
- b) Rs 2000 for non members
- c) Rs 1000 for Students/Research Scholars

Without Accommodation

- a) Rs 1500 for NEEA members
- b) Rs 1700 for non members
- c) Rs 700 for students /Research scholars

REACHING DIBRUGARH

Dibrugarh, the industrial capital of upper Assam is well known for its vast treasure of minerals (including oil, natural gas and coal), flora and fauna and largest concentrations of tea plantations in the entire Assam. The Dibrugarh University campus is well linked by roads, rail, air and waterways. The National Highway No. 37 passes through the University campus. It is situated at 19 km away from the Dibrugarh Airport and 7 km away from Dibrugarh town railway station. The weather in Dibrugarh is pleasant in March and temperature hovers around 23⁰ Celsius during night and in day it ranges from 20-30⁰ Celsius.

CONTACTS

1. Prof. Deb Kumar Chakraborty, Chairperson, Organizing Committee, Cell-919435847397, Email- dkc@dibru.ac.in
2. Dr. Amarjyoti Mahanta, Head of the Dept. of Economics, Dibrugarh University and Secretary, Organizing Committee, Cell-919435052483, Email: amarjyoti@dibru.ac.in
3. Dr. Indraneel Bhowmik, Secretary, NEEA; Cell-9436122657; Email- eyebees@gmail.com