



# *North Eastern Economic Association*

*[Founded in 1997]*

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*Esteemed Member,*

Greetings!!!

I wish the very best for you and your family in this festive season.....

Earnest apologies for the delay in posting the updates on the activities of our NEEA....

## **A) The 19th Annual Conference of NEEA and AGM**

The 19th Annual Conference of NEEA was held on 23-24 March, 2018 at NEHU, Shillong with the Department of Economics as host. The event was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Prof. SK Srivastava, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of NEHU. Dr. Shamika Ravi, Director of Research and Senior Fellow, Brookings India and Member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India delivered the keynote lecture. The inaugural session was chaired by the Hon'ble President of NEEA, Prof. E. BijoyKumar Singh. The first day was witness to a brilliant discussion on Infrastructure and Economic Development in North East India with Mr. Ram Muivah IAS, Secretary, NEC, Prof. MP Bezbaruah, Gauhati University and Ms. Patricia Mukhim, Padmasree and Editor Shillong Times as Panelist and Prof. B Panda as the moderator. Day 2 had slots for two special lectures from a] Mr. Debasish Mohanty, President and Country Head of Retail network of UTI speaking on 'Capital Market and Economic Development in India' and b] Mr Aniruddha Barooah, Regional Head and Chief Manager, NER, EXIM BANK deliberating on 'Promoting and Facilitating India, Bangladesh and Myanmar Sub-regional Cooperation'

The valedictory session was chaired by Prof B Mishra and the valedictory address was delivered by Prof. Atul Sarma, former President of NEEA in the presence of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of NEHU. The academic aspect was corroborated by the presentation of 90 technical papers spread across 19 sessions over the two days. The two themes of the seminar, a] Entrepreneurship and Campaigns of Skill India, Make in India, Stand up India and Start-up India in NER and Structural Transformation and b] Economic Development in North East India created a lot of interest among the participants as was evident by the fruitful deliberations and interactions. The students from the Department of Economics and their friends from the other departments of the university created a magical evening on 23rd March, 2018 for all of us through cultural performances showcasing the rich tradition and heritage of Meghalaya and the Northeastern region as a whole.

The Annual General Meeting was held in the evening of 24th March, 2018 with Prof E Bijoykumar Singh in Chair. The Annual general report for the year 2015-16 was presented by

the Hon. Secretary and the statement of Accounts for 2015-16 was presented by the Treasurer. Both the reports were discussed and formally accepted. Members of the NEEA from Dibrugarh University proposed to host the 20th Annual Conference which was heartily cheered and accepted. On a solemn note, a minute's silence was observed in the memory of Prof. Gopal Bordoloi and it was decided to initiate the Dr. Gopal Bordoloi Memorial lecture during the annual conferences starting from the 20th edition itself. All expenses regarding the same will be borne by NEEA and the host agency will facilitate the event.

## **B) The Next Conference:**

The 20th Annual Conference of NEEA will be organised under the auspices of the Department of Economics, Dibrugarh University, Assam during 8-9 March, 2019 with the following 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 subthemes:

- 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

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.

#### **Dates & Guidelines:**

Participants are requested to follow the guidelines mentioned below-

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'.

Acceptance of papers will be confirmed by 10th February, 2018

Full paper not exceeding 4000 words is to be submitted in soft copies (e-mail attachment/CD) on or before 27th February, 2018

Paper writers are suggested to follow the EPW style-sheet for references.

#### **Registration**

All contributors, delegates and participants will be required to get themselves registered provisionally through online mode via [link under construction]. Accommodation will be arranged for outstation participants. The registration fee will be collected on the first day of the conference.

#### Fees

##### With Accommodation

Rs 2000 for NEEA Members

Rs 2500 for non members

Rs 1000 for Students/Research Scholars

Without Accommodation

Rs 1500 for NEEA members

Rs 2000 for non members

Rs 700 for students /Research scholars

C] Extension Activities:

NEEA as always is ready to cooperate and collaborate for any academic endeavor in the region and has been associated with Government Degree College, Kamalpur, Dhalai, Tripura in organizing a National Seminar on 'Policy Issues for Economic Development with Special Reference to North Eastern India' in March, 2018. We look forward to many more such events.

D] A Request:


As usual, I sum up with the request to kindly update your postal or electronic addresses, if altered. Some of you have informed accordingly in recent times, thanks... also... I remind you of the request from our President for sharing photos of/ shot during the NEEA Conferences...it will facilitate building up the Gallery of our website [www.neea.org.in](http://www.neea.org.in).

Last but not the least; I formally request your presence at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 at Dibrugarh University with the following agenda:-

- Presentation of Secretary's Report
- Presentation of the Audited Accounts
- Selection of New Executive Committee &
- Miscellaneous.

With hopes to meet you at Dibrugarh in Spring 2019.

Sincere regards,



[Indraneel Bhowmik]

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