Report on International Day for Biological Diversity 2016

Meghalaya Biodiversity Board

REPORT ON THE CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, 2016

IN MEGHALAYA

The celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) 2016 was organised in the whole state by the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board in collaboration with Forests & Environment Department, Meghalaya. Since May 22 happened to be a Sunday in 2016, the events and programmes were organised on other suitable days in all the 11 districts to commemorate the IBD 2016.

The main function to commemorate the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) was organised on 16-06-2016 at U SoSo Tham Auditorium, State Central Library, Shillong. As part of the celebrations, the District Nodal Officer, East Khasi Hills districtorganised Drawing competition under the themes "Feathered Friends" or "Keeping our World colourful by Preserving Biodiversity" and a poster competition under the theme "Biodiversity for sustainable Livelihood" for the school and college students to create awareness on the importance of Biodiversity. The students and teachers also took part in a Planting & Cleanliness Drive.

In the main functionat Shillong, Shri Prestone Tynsong, Hon'ble Minister for Forests & Environment, Meghalaya, was the Chief Guest and Dr. Shreeranjan, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Forests & Environment, Govt. of Meghalaya was the Guest of Honour.A huge audience including school children, representatives of BMCs, NGOs, Government officials, researchers and general public attended the function. On the occasion, the Seng Trei Lang Association, the self Help Group from Mawkyrnot village which won the prestigious 'UNDP-India Biodiversity Award 2016' under the category 'Sustainable use of biological resources', was falicitated. The 'Annual Report of 'Meghalaya Biodiversity Board' for the period 2012-2015' and a book titled - 'Checklist of Flora of Meghalaya', published by the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board, were released. Apart from this, another book titled 'Tissue Culture Studies on some Threatened Taxa, Rare Orchids and Medicinal Plants of Meghalaya' published by the Forest & Environment Department was also released.A short trailer documentary on the biodiversity of Mawlyngbna Village titled'Giant steps to conservation by a small village', sponsored by the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board, was also released on this occasion. Books and CDs relating to biodiversity and environment, sponsored by the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board, were distributed to select schools in the East Khasi Hills District for the benefit of the students. Posters on Biodiversity were released and Prizes to the winners in various competitions organised by Meghalaya Biodiversity Board, were distributed. The Hon'ble Minister for Forests & Environment, Shri. Prestone Tynsong also gave a lucid lecture on the importance of conserving biodiversity and called for ensuring the protection of the environment. "The lives of our future generations will be at stake if we don't wake up today to preserve the environment" he said while calling upon all stakeholders to join hands with the Government in order to preserve the rich biodiversity of the State.

Celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity was also observed in all the other districts of Meghalaya.

In West Khasi Hills district, the function was organised at Nongstoin by Shri. T. Wanniang, DFO, Social Forestry and the Nodal Officer. He stressed on the need to protect and preserve the flora and fauna in the State. Winners of various competitions were honoured on the occasion.

In West Garo Hills District, the function was held at Tura. Shri R.K. Marak, MFS, DFO Social Forestry Division, South West Garo Hills, spoke onthe rare and endangered animal and plant species available in the region need to conserve them.

In Ri-Bhoi District the IBD was celebrated at St. Joseph's Sec School on the 26th of May, 2016. Shri. S.Budnah, DFO, Social Forestry Division, Ri-Bhoi District, schoolteachers and students from various schools, staff of the Forest & Environment Department and BMC Members were present in the function. On this day events like essay competition, Drawing& painting competition was also organized for the students on the theme "Main Streaming Biodiversity, Sustaining People and their Livelihood". Fr. Joakim Eka stressed on Conserving nature and its present form and to do our best to bring out a better future and better environment. The Divisional Forest Officer explained the reasons for celebrating IBD and gave a call to all that we must wake up and do what required to preserve the biodiversity heritage of ours.

In the West Khasi Hills District, the Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Nongstoin conducted a function to mark the IBD on the 19th May, 2016 at Rev. JJM Nicols' Roy Memorial Secondary School, Nongstoin. Officers from Government departments, teachers and students from various schools and some BMC members participated in the function. A Cleaning Drive was also conducted. Shri. T. Wanniang MFS, in his speech addressed the need to protect and preserve the flora and fauna in the state. A Quiz Competition was also organised on this day for the school students. The Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, West Khasi Hills presented books and CDs relating. to biodiversity and environment, sponsored by the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board, to the school. There was planting of trees too in the school premises.

The IBD 2016 was observed in the districts of West Garo Hills and North Garo Hills on the 26th May 2016 and 31st May respectively by organizing awareness programs and various competitions for school children. A variety of competitions were organized for school children at Chandigre Community Hall, West Garo Hills in collaboration with Chandigre BMC with a view to inculcate in the impressionable young minds of the school children the rich biodiversity of the region and to make them aware of the importance of preserving and conserving the rich bio resources of the land. A quiz competition relating to the rich biodiversity resources of the region was also held. Ms. Terakchi Marak IFS delivered a short speech on the occasion urging the students to be aware of the rich

biodiversity of the region and the need to use them in a sustainable manner bereft the mindless consumerism that is plaguing the society today. The Secretary, Chandigre BMC also spoke on the occasion. A cleaning drive involving officials of the department, schoolchildren and their teachers was organised.

On the 30thMay2016 various competitions for the school children were held at Resubelpara, North Garo Hills. The IBD functionwas held at Govt.Boy's Secondary School Resubelpara, on the 31stmay 2016. The Chief Guest on the occasion was Shri L.Ch Marak MCS, Additional Deputy Commissioner, North Garo Hills. The program also drew active participation from Aruakgre BMC members and the Secretary, Aruakgre BMC spoke on the occasion. The Chief Guest also presented Books on biodiversity, on behalf of the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board to the host school. Thereafter a cleaning drive involving officials of the department, schoolchildren and their teachers wasorganised.

International day for Biological Diversity was observed by Social Forestry Division, West Garo Hills, Tura at Bainapara M.E.School on 24th May, 2016 with the theme "Mainstreaming Biodiversity, Sustaining People and their Livelihood". Shri R.K.Marak,MFS,DFO,Social Forestry Division, Tura spoke on the need to conserve the depleting biodiversity of the region. The District Programme Manager-IBDLPAmpati, Nokmas of Bainapara and Adugre, Chairman of Wagepara BMC, teachers, students and villagers were present. A quiz contest and a cleaning drive were organized. Environment and biodiversity related books were distributed to the library of St' Claret School, Ampati by the Divisional Forest Officer, on behalf of the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board.

In East Jaintia Hills district, the IBD celebration was held at Byndihati village. Byndihati and Deinshynrum villages are in possessions of a vast community Forests rich in biodiversity. The occasion was used to create awareness among the local on the importance and benefits of conserving biodiversity.

In West Jaintia District, the celebration of IBD, 2016 was held on the 23rd May 2016 at Shangpung Village under Laskein Block. On this occasion, various competitions were organized for the school students. The concluding function was held at the Multi-facility centre, Moolibang, Shangpung in which Shri. C.Ymdon, MLA graced the occasion as the Chief Guest while Shri. D.M. Wahlang, MCS, Addl District Magistrate, West Jaintia Hills District presided over the function. Smt. H.Lato, MFS, Divisional Forests Officer, Jaintia Hills Wildlife Division, Jowai, Shri. J.M. Pohsngap, IFS, DFO (T) Smt. E. Shullai, MFS ACF spoke on the occasion. Prizes were also given to winners in various competitions of different categories.

In the other districts too, different activities have been conducted to mark IBD 2016. Competition on the theme "Main Streaming Biodiversity, Sustaining People and their Livelihood", Cleaning Drive, Planting of Trees were the main items. Prizes were distributed to the winners. Books and CDs relating to Biodiversity were also distributed to selected schools

of all the districts. Speakers stressed on the importance of Biodiversity, and the need for caring and protecting our environment.

Relevant photographs with titles can be found in a folder titled'Meghalaya Biodiversity Board', in the enclosed CD.