



North Eastern Economic Association

17th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

30th- 31st October, 2015, Itanagar



**Organised by
Department of Economics
Rajiv Gandhi University
Rono Hills, Doimukh
Itanagar
(Arunachal Pradesh)**

www.neea.org.in



Invitation

You are cordially invited to attend the 17th NEEA Conference on 30th and 31st October 2015 to be held in Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills, Itanagar and participate in its deliberations.

With best regards

Dr. Vandana Upadhyay
Organising Secretary
Conference Organising Committee

NORTH EASTERN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION
17th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
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The 17th Annual Conference of NEEA will be organised under the auspices of the Department of Economics, Rajiv Gandhi University, Doimukh, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh during 30-31 October, 2015. Two themes have been finalised for the conference.

These are:-

a) Labour Market Issues with Special Reference to the Northeast India :

Labour market in India is highly fragmented. There is an organized sector-unorganized sector cleavage, apart from usual rural urban, male female fragmentations. In Northeast India there are additional complications arising from inherited institutions and ethnic diversities. In the unorganized sector, comprising agriculture, rural non-farm sector and urban informal sector, the market is competitive. Usually entry is easy, labour mobility is high across space and sub-sectors, and wage rates are usually low under high supply pressure with no institutionally guaranteed effective minimum wage. Continued presence of child labour, despite the legal restrictions and rising school enrolment, keep the wage rate depressed. Even within this sector often skill and experience command premium as one can see that plumbers and carpenters often command higher wages than the mason in the construction sector, while a mason also gets higher wages than a new entrant to the sector. But there is evidence of social divisions impacting the market operations, as gender and caste disparities are often observed. Free market forces and competition has lesser role in determination of wages in the organized sector. Compensation to employees in the government and semi-government sectors are exogenously determined by the periodic pay commission awards. These rates often act as benchmarks for wage determination in the rest of the organized sector. Because of lack of transmission of demand and supply across organized and unorganized sectors, one finds separate wage rates for the same work in the two sectors. For instance salary of a driver or a typist in a government department is well above the earning of a driver or a typist for similar work load in the unorganized sector. This distortion has given rise to the phenomenon of out-sourcing of work in the organized sector. Instead of employing workers for various jobs, jobs are outsourced to agencies who take advantage of the lower prevailing wages in the unorganized sector. Rigid labour laws meant to protect the interest of the workers have not helped matters, as such laws albeit beneficial to workers formally engaged in organized sector, are seen as hindrance for greater absorption of labour in the formal organized employment. Right to Work legislation and its implementation through MGNREGS has added a new dimension into the Indian labour market. Many want to credit the upward trend in rural real wage rate, which is often the benchmark for real wages across the entire unorganized sector, to the implementation of MGNREGS. The fact, that employers like tea-estate managements and even medium and large farmers have complained about labour shortage in the aftermath of MGNREGS, hints at some truth in the assertion.

Indeed decline in the rural real wage rate in the last few months also corresponds to somewhat scaling down of the programme. In Northeast India, existence of colonial institutions like Inner Line Permits act to restrict mobility of workers across space. Ethnic conflicts and localized xenophobia also distort the labour market. In hill areas, labour market distortions often combine with deficiencies of other factor markets like land and credit markets to act as a hindrance to emergence of modern enterprises. Designing of institutional arrangements to address these distortions without compromising with the security of ethnic identity of local communities is the need of the hour.

In view of the above summarized status and trends in the labour market in general and the special condition of the market in the Northeast, papers are invited to through further insights to labour market issues in Northeast India. Instead of attempting comprehensive coverage, a paper writer may focus on a single issue and aim to contribute to a better understanding of the same.

b) Issues in Health Economics in the North-Eastern region of India

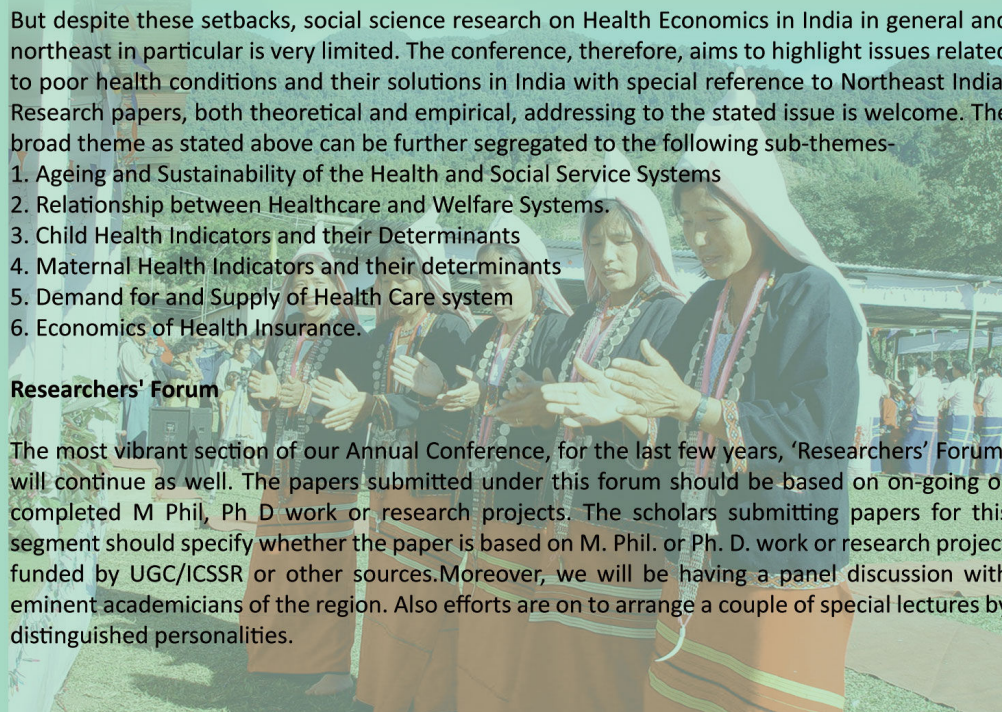
Since 1991, India witnessed some major change in policies that helped the nation to achieve remarkable progress in GDP growth, thereby, breeding a new hope of reduction of poverty and hunger, access to basic amenities and social requirements to everybody. In spite of the fact that the percentage of population below the official poverty line has come down over the years, the proportion of poor is still high and the rate of decrease in poverty is not proportionate with the rising GDP. However, poverty is not the only indicator where the nation is doing poorly; actually other indicators of deprivation also suggest that the proportion of population deprived of a minimum level is much higher. For instance, almost half the children in the age-group 0 to 3 years suffered from malnutrition in 2011–12 which was greater than the statistics of sub-Saharan African region of 25%. Despite health improvements over the last thirty years, lives continue to be lost to early childhood diseases, inadequate newborn care and childbirth-related causes. More than two million children die every year from preventable infections. Similarly, maternal death still scares Indian women, especially during childbirth. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), every year about 78,000 mothers die in childbirth and from complications of pregnancy in India. In this context, the north-eastern state of Assam, with a maternal death rate of about 300 per 100,000 live births, ranks top in the list.

But despite these setbacks, social science research on Health Economics in India in general and northeast in particular is very limited. The conference, therefore, aims to highlight issues related to poor health conditions and their solutions in India with special reference to Northeast India. Research papers, both theoretical and empirical, addressing to the stated issue is welcome. The broad theme as stated above can be further segregated to the following sub-themes-

1. Ageing and Sustainability of the Health and Social Service Systems
2. Relationship between Healthcare and Welfare Systems.
3. Child Health Indicators and their Determinants
4. Maternal Health Indicators and their determinants
5. Demand for and Supply of Health Care system
6. Economics of Health Insurance.

Researchers' Forum

The most vibrant section of our Annual Conference, for the last few years, 'Researchers' Forum' will continue as well. The papers submitted under this forum should be based on on-going or completed M Phil, Ph D work or research projects. The scholars submitting papers for this segment should specify whether the paper is based on M. Phil. or Ph. D. work or research project funded by UGC/ICSSR or other sources. Moreover, we will be having a panel discussion with eminent academicians of the region. Also efforts are on to arrange a couple of special lectures by distinguished personalities.



Dates & Guidelines:

Members are requested to adhere to the following dates for submission of papers on the specified conference theme or for researchers' forum:-

- I. Abstracts of papers in about 300 words should be sent to the Secretary, NEEA in soft copy (by e-mail attachment/CD) on or before 25th September, 2015 with the subject: 'abstract for 17th Annual Conference' to the following e-mail id: secretaryneea@gmail.com with a copy to the organising committee, 17th Annual Conference of NEEA (e-mail: neea.rgu@gmail.com).
- II. Full paper not exceeding 3000 words is to be submitted in soft copies (e-mail attachment/CD) on or before 5th October, 2015
- III. Acceptance of the papers will be confirmed by 10th October, 2015

Please adhere to the datelines, as we will try to have discussants for all the papers.

Conference Registration

The registration fee for the Conference is Rs 1200. Registration will entitle participants to modest boarding and lodging as well as the conference kit. Completed registration form along with a demand draft (DD) drawn in favour of "Local Organising Secretary NEEA" C/O Head Department of Economics, Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills Doimukh Arunachal Pradesh, Pin 791112, payable at Vijaya Bank (Arunachal University Branch), should be sent by 15th October, 2015. The participants will be allowed for on spot registration payment only on confirmation of participation by the participants.

Conference Registration Fee Structure

Category	NEEA Member	Non Member/ Accompanying Person	Research Scholars/ Students
India (Rs)	1200	1400	700

Delegates are requested to send complete information along with registration fee, at the earliest and in any case before 15th October 2015 so that arrangement can be made for their accommodation. The organizer cannot guarantee the accommodation of those who registered after the date. It also be noted that it would be difficult to arrange accommodation for those who register on the spot. Those interested in staying on in Itanagar beyond the conference dates will need to make their own arrangements.

ABOUT RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY

Rajiv Gandhi University (formerly Arunachal University), the premier institution of higher education in Arunachal Pradesh, has completed thirty years of its existence. Smti. Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, laid the foundation stone of the University on February 4, 1984. Subsequently, it started its postgraduate courses from the academic session 1988-89 in the sprawling and picturesque Rono Hills. The University was converted into Central University on April 9, 2007 by a notification of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. In the outskirts of Itanagar, the capital of Arunachal Pradesh, Rono Hills is at a distance of 6.5 km from the National Highway 52-A which leads to Itanagar. There are presently twenty one postgraduate programmes along with PG Diploma, Certificate and Diploma Courses on various subjects.

Department of Economics

The Department of Economics made its beginning in July 1991. The main objective of the Department has been to impart socially relevant education at the Post Graduate level by judicious mix of theory and empiricism. The Department of Economics has the distinction of acting as nodal Department for the preparation of first Human Development Report (HDR) of Arunachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh State Development Report. The NEEA conference is being organised by the department for the second time.

About Itanagar

Itanagar is the capital of the Indian State of Arunachal Pradesh. It is situated at the foothills of the Himalayas. Ita Fort is one of the most important historical sites in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. The name literally means "Fort of bricks" (brick being called "Ita" in the Ahom language). The Ita Fort at Arunachal Pradesh was built as early as the 14th or the 15th century. Jawaharlal Nehru Museum, Itanagar is also known for showcasing tribal culture of the state. Ganga Lake is a beautiful natural lake locally known as Gekar Sinyi surrounded by a landmass of hard rock.

Weather in Itanagar during October

A pleasant climatic condition prevails in Itanagar during the month of October. Post Monsoon, winter and spring (October to April) are marked with cool climates, especially winter months. During this season temperature ranges between 22°C to 15°C. Delegates/ Participants are recommended to carry light warm clothes.

How to Reach Itanagar

Itanagar is well connected by road. There is a helicopter service between Guwahati and Naharlagun (Itanagar). Buses are available from Guwahati ISBT both during day and at night. The nearest railway station is Naharlagun.

By Air: The closest airport to Itanagar is located in Lilabari, North Lakhimpur in Assam. Lilabari is about 67 km from Itanagar, 53 km away from Naharlagun and around 49 km from Doimukh (RGU campus). This airport is connected, four days in a week (Monday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday) to Guwahati. Apart from these, there are domestic helicopters like Pawan Hans that provides helicopter service between Itanagar and Guwahati, six days a week (except Sunday).

By Train: There is regular intercity train service from Guwahati to Naharlagun, which leaves from Guwahati railway station at 9:30 pm and reaches Naharlagun at 5:30 am in the morning. However, the nearest railway station to RGU campus is GUMTO, which is 7 km away. The train reaches GUMTO station at 5 am.

By Bus: Regular Deluxe Bus is also available day and night from Guwahati ISBT to Nirjuli/ Naharlagun/ Itanagar.

How to Reach Rajiv Gandhi University:

Delegates coming by air, train and bus will be met by volunteers in their respective stations. From there they will be escorted to their respective accommodation.

INNER LINE PERMIT

People not belonging to autochthonous communities of Arunachal Pradesh are required to have Inner Line Permit (ILP) in order to enter into the State. In case of participants to the conference the invitation letter can be used as the 'Permit'. So all participants from other States are requested to carry the Invitation Letter and show it at the check gate.

Contact Details

Organising Committee

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Vice Chancellor
Rajiv Gandhi University

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17th NEEA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Itanagar, 30th-31st October, 2015

REGISTRATION FORM

Name_____

Designation_____

University/ organization _____

Address_____

Telephone (Landline)_____ (Mobile)_____

Email _____

Accompanying Persons Details

Name(s)_____

D D no._____ Dated_____

Amount in Details (in Rs)_____

Accommodation Required _____Yes/ No (Please tick whichever applicable)

Send your registration forms duly filled-in to

Head , Department of Economics

Rajiv Gandhi University

Rono Hills, Doimukh

Itanagar, 791112

Arunachal Pradesh