

**NORTH EAST INDIA WOMEN INITIATIVE FOR PEACE
DECEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER**

Dear Friends,

Warm greetings from Northeast India Women Initiative for Peace (NEIWIP). The journey of a humble initiative of women from India's Northeast that started in 2010 has now entered its third year. A network of over 120 women has been formed from across eight states of the region and efforts are on to further strengthen work for peace, democracy and rights of the people of region through this initiative.

On 7 Dec 2013, Control Arms Foundation of India, Northeast India Women Initiative for Peace, Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network with support from Heinrich Böll Stiftung, New Delhi organised an interactive event on the theme "Northeast India Diaspora Meeting" at Conference Room, Control Arms Foundation of India, New Delhi-29. As a part of the event, we also screened a film titled "The Only Real Game", Winner of Best Documentary Film 2013 at the New York Indian Film Festival. The film is on Manipur made with helped and support from Northeast India Diaspora. It's a film based on conflict and showed ways how to combat conflict for peace and development.

Please find here December 2013 issue newsletter, positive news of December regarding Diaspora, history, peace and news on women empowerment from Northeast India and rest of the world to renew our hopes and strengthen our efforts to work towards peace making.

Mizoram set to enter India's archaeological map

Source: Indian Express, 7 Dec 2013

Mizoram is set to enter India's archaeological map for the first time as the Ministry of Culture issues a preliminary notification that seeks to declare a 9000 sq.m site that hosts 200 stone menhirs embossed with images of humans, animals and hunting scenes and several caves as a site of national importance. [Read more:](#)

North-East's first Mind Rocks summit in Meghalaya

Source: Mail Online India, 23 Dec 2013

Bollywood, sports, politics and music - the India Today Mind Rocks Youth Summit 2013 in Shillong, Meghalaya, brought together a blend of interests to entertain and provoke thought among the country's young people. The event's first edition in the North-East saw Meghalaya chief minister Dr Mukul Sangma, actors Abhay Deol and Vivek Oberoi, Commonwealth boxing gold medalist Akhil Kumar, former cricketer Ajay Jadeja, and musicians Papon and Rabbi Shergill address and entertain the audience. [Read more:](#)

Three literary persons from Northeast India to get Sahitya Akademi awards

Source: The Times of India, 19 Dec 2013

Three literary persons from the northeast have been selected for this year's Sahitya Akademi awards which were declared on Wednesday in New Delhi. Anil Kumar Boro of Assam, Makhonmani Mongsaba of Manipur and Tensula Ao of Nagaland will receive the awards for Bodo, Manipuri and English respectively. [Read more:](#)

Indigenous Women Forum of North East India (IWFNEI) workshop on data processing held in Shillong

Source: Nagaland Post, 10 Dec 2013

Indigenous Women Forum of North East India (IWFNEI) in collaboration with Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) and UN Women organized a training workshop on Data Processing from November 30 to December 4 at Hotel Yalana, Shillong Meghalaya. Indigenous Women Forum of North East India (IWFNEI) convener Ksheshli Chishi was of the view that many things were happening amongst the indigenous areas in the North East India. [Read more:](#)

Manipuri writer proudly steps in national domain

Source: Hueiyen News Service, 11, Dec 2013

Budding Manipuri writer Okram Leishemba Mangangcha aka Ibudhou People has been able to earn a prominent place in the domain of national literature by bagging several literary awards including the prestigious Gourao Puruskar Sohala Award. [Read more:](#)

First ever Naga comic book released

Source: Hueiyen News Service, 12 Dec 2013

To quench the literary thirst of the tribal community young minds are fiddling their fingers using modern gadgets these days driven by the trail of explosions of the accumulated frustration due to literary barren of the yester-years. One such young mind is Alyson Abonmai who has just published a comic book based on a Naga folk tale. [Read more:](#)

Assam University gets international award

Source: The Hindu, 16 Dec 2013

Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University (KKHSOU), the only State Open University in the Northeast, has been conferred the international 'Excellence in Institutional Achievement' award for 2011-2013 by Canada-based Commonwealth of Learning (COL). [Read more:](#)

Need to Make North East India "weapons free"

Source: Morung Express, 16 Dec 2013

Nagaland Governor, Dr Ashwani Kumar today stressed on the need to make the North East weapons free, so as to minimize the threat to peace in the region. Speaking at the first session of the North East India International Model United Nations in Kohima on Monday, he encouraged young delegates at the conference to recommend the banning of weapons, whether held by individuals, security forces or police in the North East. [Read more:](#)

Sky is not the Limit: First Commercial Pilot from Sikkim is a 'Woman'

Source: Voiceofsikkim.com, 17 Dec 2013

Women of the state of Sikkim are outshining their caliber in respective fields of interests, women are progressing with galore in all sectors of today's world full of challenges. Aspiring stories based on dedication of such women of the state is evident that more and more children of today are learning from their successes. [Read more:](#)

Books released: 'Cultural History of India'

Source: Hueiyen News Service, 11 Dec 2013

Two books titled 'Cultural History of India' and 'Wari Macha Nifu' authored by Wareppam Jugindra were released in simple function at the hall of Cultural Forum Manipur here today. Organized by the Cultural Forum Manipur, the book release function was attended by Huiem Bihari, convener of Manipuri Advisory Board. [Read more:](#)

Manipur's tradition of ritual singing, drumming and dancing set to be declared world heritage

Source: The Times of India, 2 Dec 2013

Manipur's famous tradition of ritual singing, drumming and dancing and Bangladesh's traditional art of Jamdani weaving that is also famous in India are set to be declared intangible cultural heritage of humanity. According to UNESCO, intangible cultural heritage includes oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals and festivals, knowledge and practices concerning nature. [Read more:](#)

Explore, study, record Naga traditions: Rio

Source: Nagaland Post, 21 Dec 2013

State chief minister Neiphui Rio urged Nagas to explore, study and record state's rich cultural traditions for posterity. On the occasion, he said: "Let us collectively maintain this site for promotion of our (Naga) culture and preservation of our identity. And let those who so ever visit the amphitheatre, go with peace and unity." [Read more:](#)

Three decades after Assam movement: a study on identity

Source: The Hindu, 3 Dec 2013

Unlike the other creatures of this earth, humankind has since time immemorial striven to create bonds on the basis of region, country, language, culture, religion, etc. When such groups feel their identity is getting eroded because of factors like subjugation, migration, etc., they have found ways to assert themselves to preserve their identity. [Read more:](#)

NEIMUN: Inspiring young minds

Source: Morung Express, 17 Dec 2013

"Impressive" is a word one could use to term the first ever session of the NE India International Model United Nations underway at the Capital Convention Centre, Kohima. The session saw nearly 200 delegates from 69 universities and colleges across the NE between the age groups of 19-25 experience a new form of Education, while honing their skills in public speaking and communications. [Read more:](#)

Arunachal Pradesh to be major Religious Tourism destination in India: Chief Minister

Source: Travelbizmonitor.com, 22 Dec 2013

Nabam Tuki, Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, said that the state is poised to be a major Religious Tourism destination of India. "While the world famous Tawang Monastery attracts tourists in the state's western part, Buddhist town Mechuka in the north and the Golden Pagoda including famous pilgrimage Parsuram Kund in the east has been the cynosure of all eyes." [Read more:](#)

PM urged to address 'crucial issues' in Northeast India

Source: Morung Express, 4 Dec 2013

The North East Regional Political Front (NERPF) has written to the Prime Minister of India expressing serious concern on what it said were "issues of crucial importance" to the people of the North East. The NERPF letter, dated November 30, informed the PM of the various resolutions arrived at its meeting on October 20. [Read more:](#)

'We have to co-exist together'

Source: Morung Express, 20 Dec 2013

Nagaland Chief Minister and NERPF Convener, Neiphui Rio today stressed on the need for regional parties to work together and work out issues. He stated this at the first North East Regional Parties Front (NERPF) executive meeting held at Niathu Resort, Dimapur on Friday. [Read more:](#)

Mary Kom is Vodafone's global ambassador

Source: Sevendiary.com, 21 Dec 2013

Just a few days ago, the five-time World Boxing champion Mary Kom was landed with appreciation by American boxing legend Evander Holyfield himself for her efforts and talent in the boxing ring. Gifting her good news in a row, the leading British telecom Vodafone has recently announced that the London Olympic bronze medalist from Manipur. [Read more:](#)

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) envisions food sufficiency for Northeast

Source: The Times of India, 22 Dec 2013

With the bio-rich northeast being largely dependent on other parts of the country to meet its growing demand for food, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for North Eastern Hill Region here has laid emphasis on making the region self-sufficient in food production in the coming years. [Read more:](#)

Myanmar delegation visits Manipur to strengthen cultural ties

Source: Aninews.in, 4 Dec 2013

India's Look East policy has brought cheer to its northeastern states, as trade and cultural ties with neighbouring countries are getting stronger. Recently, a delegation from Myanmar visited here to strengthen bilateral cultural relations. [Read more:](#)

Bid to check trafficking in northeast

Source: The Times of India, 6 Dec 2013

In a bid to plan a 'special operation' to check trafficking among the northeastern states and their neighbouring countries, the American centre in Kolkata, with the help of Impulse NGO, is going to organize the third Anti-trafficking In Persons Conclave in Guwahati from Friday. [Read more:](#)

'Scope of Nagaland film industry is growing'

Source: Morung Express, 21 Dec 2013

In a boost to film industry in Nagaland, a Nagamese film "A love story of John and Merry" hit the stand today with a formal release by Er. Vekho Suro, president North East NGOs Federation in a function held at the Conclave Hall, LCS Building, Kohima. [Read more:](#)

Manipuri Sanskritana enters UNESCO cultural heritage list

Source: The Times of India, 6 Dec 2013

The Manipuri Nat-Sankirtana, an art form conceived by the famous Manipur king Bhagyachandra Singh in the 18th century, has entered UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Sankirtana - the ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur - has been selected for inscription on the Representative List of the Unesco Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. [Read more:](#)

Amnesty International shows support to Sharmila

Source: Kanglaonline.com, 17 Dec 2013

The Amnesty International, India got over 16,000 people to support the campaign seeking the immediate and unconditional release of human rights activist and 'Prisoner of Conscience,' Irom Sharmila Chanu, said G Ananthapadmanabhan, chief executive of Amnesty International, India. [Read more:](#)

Campaign on Violence Against Women

Source: The Sangai Express, 11 Dec 2013

The campaign against crime against women in connection with the observance of the International Fortnight Protesting Violence against Women concluded in Chandel yesterday. The campaign was spearheaded by All Tribal Women Organisation (ATWO) Chandel. [Read more:](#)

State university to come up at Maharaja Bir Bikram College

Source: Zeenews, 3 Dec 2013

A state university would be set up at the Maharaja Bir Bikram (MBB) College here to develop the immediate region, official sources said on Tuesday. State Higher Education Minister Bhanu Lal Saha said the academic session of the university would start from 2015 and state's oldest college, the MBB College, was chosen for the site of the university due to its sprawling campus. [Read more:](#)

Young Assamese Developer launches Computer Operating System

Source: Sevendiary.com, 13 Dec 2013

Assamese teenager Wrihiraj Kaushik has developed and released 'SuperX 2.0', an Ubuntu-based computer operating system to the likes of Microsoft Windows and Apple OS. During an interview with The Assam Tribune, the young developer claimed that his invention does not need any anti-virus software. Unlike other operating systems where the software developer controls the user through licensing agreements. [Read more:](#)

The Sangai Festival of Manipur

Source: Easternpanorama.in

State's Festival to benefit from the upgrade of state Airport to International Status Manipur is one of the seven sister states of the North East Region of India which has been given various names like Switzerland of East India and the Jewel of India. This little corner is a paradise on Earth and its pristine beauty is a boon given by nature. [Read more:](#)

Northeast has vast scope for adventure, tourism: Khurshid

Source: Daijiworld.com, 13 Dec 2013

India's northeastern states have remarkable potential for adventure tourism, and could also set up fine institutions of education, External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid said here Friday. "The northeast has remarkable potential for developing adventure tourism, environment tourism and the setting up of finer educational institutions due to the conducive climate. [Read more:](#)

10 Indian States where women lead the way in education

Source: Siliconindia.com, 12 Dec 2013

India's northeastern state of Mizoram is one of the most educated states in the country. The rate of literacy in this hilly state has witnessed a major leap with overall literacy rate of 91.33 percent based on 2011 census. [Read more:](#)

Mary Kom has her 'golden' moment

Source: India Today, 11 Dec 2013

Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan said he was inspired by the struggle of MC Mary Kom, who unveiled Olympic medal winning boxer's autobiography Unbreakable as an event held in Mumbai on Monday. "Mary Kom is already a legendary figure in the country, loved and admired by all. She has made innumerable contributions in breaking stereotypes about women, more so those from the North-East. [Read more:](#)

'National Integration Camp' underway in Kohima

Source: Nagaland Post, 15 Dec 2013

"National Integration Camp" under ministry of youth affairs and sports, government of India is being hosted by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) Nagaland Yuva Kohima which concluded on December 12 at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama. Speaking as the chief guest in the inaugural function vice-chairperson, board of governors, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, government of India, Kumari Tilotama appreciated the endeavours of the youth in nation service and nation building activities. [Read more:](#)

Weaving gives employment to tribal women in Tripura

Source: Business Standard, 1 Dec 2013

Ramarani Debbarma is among tribal women who have benefited from state-run weaving clusters producing clothing, towels and shawls which are very popular with tribals in Tripura. "I had to discontinue school when I was in class nine because of poverty. Since we were a large family, food was a problem. We remained half fed," a woman beneficiary, Ramarani of Akhalaicherra village in West Tripura district says. [Read more:](#)

Bamboo Fest to Go Global Next Year

Source: Newindianexpress.com, 14 Dec 2013

The annual bamboo fest of the state will be organised as an international fair from next year, Works Minister V K Ebrahim Kunju said here on Friday. Excise Minister K Babu, who presided over the function, said the festival is a huge support for the marketing of bamboo products in the domestic market. Sixty-one representatives from 11 states, including Tripura, Chhattisgarh, Nagaland and Meghalaya, are participating in the bamboo fest. 133 stalls were set up at the venue. [Read more:](#)

ICAR disseminates low cost organic mushroom production technology

Source: Nagaland Post, 15 Dec 2013

ICAR research complex for North Eastern Region, Nagaland centre with an objective of "food for all" and providing nutritional and income security for the farming community as well as rural youths is popularizing its low cost scientific and organic mushroom production technology. [Read more:](#)

Assamese Folklore – Komola Konwori

Source: Enajori.com

Once upon a time, in the kingdom of Kamrup, there lived a King and his Queen. The King and his Queen, Komola Kuwari loved each other very much and they lived in peace. One year, there was a severe drought in Kamrup. There was no rain. All the crops died. After a few months, the rivers and wells also dried up. But, still, there was no rain. Soon, the cattle started dying. All the food grains that the people had saved got over. [Read more:](#)

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