



*Topic : Promotion of Trade and Culture between South East Asia
and North East India.*

Organised by:

Golaghat Commerce College, Jyoti Nagar, Golaghat-785621

Assam, India

From 4th to 6th April 2017

Concept Note:

India's North Eastern Region, popularly called the North East, is the gateway to South East Asia in so far as its accessibility to bordering South Asian Countries through land route is concerned. Affinity between North East India and entire South East Asia can be discussed not only in terms of geography, but also in terms of its ethnicity and culture. A study of the comparative histories of South East Asia and North East India establishes the solid legacy of cultural activities borne by people to people contact between these two regions. For instance, it is not difficult to trace the origins of the Ahoms, who ruled Assam for long 600 years, to

Thailand, whose people, again are believed to have migrated from Yunnan Province of China. These relations were vouchsafed by cultural exchanges, transfer of customs and habits, and trade and commerce on both sides. There is no denying the fact that all these were made possible only through people to people contact and civil society interaction. But, unfortunately, as time passed on, this contact was lost primarily on account of India's closed door policy, which in turn delayed her concern for taking recourse to a viable and comprehensive South Asian policy. But the liberal policy adopted by some of our neighbours towards South East Asian Countries in recent times motivated us to take up a new South East Asian policy Called India's Look East policy which is now newly christened as India's Act East policy to make it more pro-active.

Look East or Act East, such a policy is meaningless unless it has impact on her North Eastern Region. There is no doubt that before opening up the borders of the North East to South Asian Countries, the Govt. of India will have to take up immediate steps for infrastructure and security development of the region. At the same time, the policy makers will have to ensure better road connectivity within the states of the region, and beyond that with the bordering South Asian Countries. No one can deny that without these initiatives economic development of the region is not possible. It goes without saying that the future of the North East lies in political integration with India and economic tie up with South Asia.

Though India's trade volume with South East Asia has emerged as the largest trading partner with India, it has had no impact on the country's North East. This is because of the fact that this commerce is through sea routes. In order to facilitate inclusive trade relations with South East Asia, the trades through land routes have to be reinforced and that is possible only through North East. It is, therefore, highly necessary for India to act in war-footing to develop her Northeastern Region in the manner China has already developed its Yunnan Province, and to take diplomatic initiative to re-link the region , both economically and culturally, with its bordering South-East Asian and South Asian Countries. Such initiatives would facilitate cross border trade for the entrepreneurs of both the regions. However, trade barriers are to be removed and borders should be

made substantially porous with necessary security arrangement. It is also to be noted that practices like trade and commerce are not possible without an environment of peace. So, the authorities must continue their peace initiatives with the subversive groups so that the people of the North East would be able to resume trade and commerce with South East Asia because these two regions are culturally linked up.

Hence, with a view to providing a platform for such interaction and earmarking potential areas for promoting cultural relations and trade and commerce between North East India and South East Asia, Golaghat Commerce College, in collaboration with Centre for Promotion of Trade and Commerce between North East India and South East Asia, has taken initiatives to hold an international Conference on the topic *“Promotion of Trade and Culture between South East Asia and North East India.”*

The conference is expected to offer a platform for peers, academicians, and students across the globe to have a threadbare discussion on the topic with the following objectives in view:

- (i) To facilitate people to people contact and community interaction.
- (ii) To earmark potential areas for promoting trade and culture between NER & SEA.
- (iii) To suggest measures for percolating government trade initiatives to the people of both the regions in the context of Indian’s Act East policy.
- (iv) To foreground unexplored areas having research potential for promoting economic and cultural activities between the two regions.
- (v) To suggest measures for breaking the ice of growing suspicions among the people of different states of the NER.
- (vi) To discuss pros and cons of organic cultivation.
- (vii) To earmark entrepreneurial ventures and trade initiatives endemic to NER and viable with SEA.
- (viii) To foreground representations of trade and cultural relations between the two regions in literature, art, film and media.

Sub-Themes:

- (a) Culture as a Commodity, unifying agent and legacy.
- (b) Cross border terrorism and India's Act East Policy.
- (c) Geo- politics affecting trade and cultural relations.
- (d) Bridging the gap among tribals and between tribals and non- tribals.
- (e) Negotiating identity through promotion of trade and culture.
- (f) AH-1—Prospects and problems.
- (g) Negotiating border conflict within North Eastern States & beyond.
- (h) Impact of FDI on promotion of Trade between NER and SEA.
- (i) Foreign Exchange earning through promotion of Trade between NER and SEA.
- (j) Role of Trade in promoting Entrepreneurship development between North East India & South East Asia.
- (k) Promotion of Tourism Industry in the Context of Act East Policy.
- (l) Prospects of Service Sector Industry in relation to Act East Policy.
- (m) Role of Technology in promoting Trade between NER & SEA.
- (n) Paradigmatic shift from chemical to organic cultivation: Prospects & problems in the backdrop of India's Act East Policy.

Abstract of the Conference

India's North Eastern Region, popularly called the North East is the gateway to South East Asia in so far as its accessibility to bordering South Asian Countries through land route is concerned. A study of the comparative histories of South East Asia and North East India establishes the legacy of cultural activities borne by people to people contact between these two regions. Unfortunately, as time passed on, this contact was primarily lost on account of India's closed

door policy. However, now India's "Look East Policy", rechristened as 'India's Act East Policy' has opened up newer avenues. In order to facilitate inclusive trade relations with South East Asia, India's North Eastern region should be given importance. With a view to providing a platform for such interaction and earmarking potential areas for promoting cultural relations and Trade and Commerce between North East India and South East Asia, Golaghat Commerce College, has taken the initiative to hold an international conference on the topic *"Promotion of Trade and Culture between South East Asia and North East India."*

Please contact for more details:

**Dr. Jatindra Nath Saikia. Convener of the Conference
Principal, Golaghat Commerce College,
Golaghat-785 621, Assam, India.**

www.golaghatcommercecollege.edu.in

Email to contact: saikiajatindranath@gmail.com

Mobile: 91 9435151015

Dear Sir/Madam

We are pleased to inform you that we are organizing an international seminar on the topic ***Promotion of Trade and Culture between North East India and South East Asia*** on 4th, 5th and 6th of April, 2017 in our college. India's Act East Policy's renewed focus on North Eastern Region of India as the gateway to South East Asia foregrounds the inevitable interface between the two regions. We, therefore, believe that it is high time we discussed the issues related to the topic from an international perspective. We hope this seminar would provide a platform for peers, academicians, business people, entrepreneurs, and planners across the globe to discuss pros and cons of this emerging trade and cultural relation.

We invite your ***abstract*** for the International Conference at any time of the current year. The abstract should be in a single paragraph, without indentation, that summarizes the key points of the manuscript in 150 to 250 words with maximum six key words and the theme specified at the end of the abstract. However, in order to present in the International Conference, your abstract as well as proposal for paper/poster presentation will have to pass through a double-blind peer-review. The abstract should be sent to ***intgcc2017@gamil.com***

The date for submission of proposals for paper/poster presentations will be communicated later on.

Please refer to the college website (**www.golaghatcommercecollege.edu.in**) for update and further details.

International Conference Organizing Committee

Golaghat Commerce College

Jyoti Nagar, Golaghat, Assam, India

Pin. 785621

Subject of the Conference with list of various technical sessions: Promotion of Trade and Culture between South-East Asia and North-East India.

Technical Session 1: Cultural Reorientation: Melting Pot versus Vertical Mosaic

Technical Session 2: Geo-Politics: Reconfiguring Trade and Commerce in Spatio-temporal Matrix

Technical Session 3: Re-routing Trade Initiatives: Asian Highway-1 and Beyond

Technical Session 4: Reorientation of Entrepreneurial Ventures: North East India and South East Asia

Technical Session 5: Literature from the Margin: Appresentation versus Representation.

Technical Session 6: Negotiating Binaries: From either/or to both/and also....

Technical Session 7: Paradigm Shift in Agriculture: From Chemical to Organic.

Technical Session 8: Negotiating Border Issues: Porosity of Border versus Security Re-arrangement.

Technical Session 9: Rethinking Trade Initiatives for the Digital Age.

Technical Session 10: From Margin to Centre: Boosting Cottage & Small Scale Industries to Capture World Market.

Technical Session 11: Trade and Commerce in Post Globalized World: FDIs and Beyond.

Technical Session 12: Interface between North East India & South East Asia: Exploring Tourism and Service Sector Industries.