



A MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER BY CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ASSAM ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE, GUWAHATI ISSUE I: AUGUST 2017

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Message from Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam

I am very happy to know that the Centre for Sustainable Development Goals (CSDGs) has taken the initiative to publish a monthly e-newsletter of the Centre from the month of August 2017, for bringing updated information on implementation of SDG in the state of Assam as well as inputs from other parts of the country and abroad on the matter.



This is an excellent initiative which will assist in devolving knowledge on the initiatives taken on SDGs across the globe. I also hope that the e-newsletter turns to be a platform for everyone working on SDGs to understand and engage on the activities taken up by the Government of Assam and take forward our mission together. I convey my best wishes for all success for the endeavor.

Shri. Sarbananda Sonowal
Chief Minister

Message from Hon'ble Minister of Finance, T&D, Health & FW, Education and others

I am delighted to know that the Centre for Sustainable Development Goals (CSDGs) has taken the initiative to create a e-newsletter, Dorpon, to document and share the progress in taking forward our vision and strategy for SDGs in Assam. The SDGs are international benchmarks and this is an excellent initiative which will assist in spreading knowledge, awareness, and progress of the initiatives taken locally, regionally and from across the globe. Furthermore, this is a great platform for everyone working on SDGs to better understand the activities being worked on by the Government of Assam and thereby take forward our mission together. I look forward to seeing this platform develop and wish them success.

Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma
Minister for Finance, T&D, Health & FW, Education & others



Message from Chief Secretary, Assam



I am delighted to know that the Assam Centre for Sustainable Development Goals has launched an e-newsletter disseminating information on SDGs in Assam. This initiative will help in expanding our understanding on SDGs and help us be updated on global initiatives. Assam has been at the forefront of taking the pursuit of SDGs within their country and this initiative will further help in involving all stakeholders in understanding the relevance of SDGs in our region and across the globe. I wish the Centre for SDGs all the best in taking forward this initiative.

Shri. V. K. Pipersenia,
Chief Secretary

About Centre for Sustainable Development Goals and DORPON

The Centre for SDGs (CSDGs) was set up as a think-tank to coordinate between different government department and agencies to take forward the SDGs in Assam. The CSDGs works closely with the Transformation and Development Department (TDD) to create a roadmap for SDGs in Assam and formulate strategies and action plans for all departments in the state. It also disseminates information on SDGs to all functionaries starting from the grassroots level to the highest level of administration. Dorpon, the e-newsletter developed by the CSDGs is an effort to get information on SDGs to all. It aims to take forth news and information from the regional and international level related to SDGs, to spread awareness and disseminate understanding of SDGs to all. We hope you find this e-newsletter informative and useful.

Shri K. V. Eapen
Addl. Chief Secretary, Transformation and Development Department

Dr. R. M. Dubey
Prof. & Head, CSDGs

SDG EVENTS IN ASSAM

Strategy Plans and Action Plans (SPAPs)

24th April 2017, Guwahati: In order to finalise the departmental SPAPs, a departmental Conclave was held for Goal 3 and Goal 6. Goal 3; **'Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages'**, was organized by the Health and Family Welfare Department and the Goal 6; **'Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all'**, was organized by the Public Health Engineering Department, Govt. of Assam. This was held on the 24th of April at AASC, Khanapara. Participants included experts from the Government of India, from NGOs and International Organisations. Speaking at the event, Shri. V. K. Pipersenia, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam, spoke on devolving accountability and focus on ensuring proper utilization of resources in order to achieve the SDGs.

Participants from the conclave on Goal 3 and 6



Corporate Conclave

11th May 2017, Guwahati: The Transformation and Development Department, CSDGs in collaboration with ONGC and UNDP held a one day conclave on **'Synergising Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)'** The one-day conclave aimed to create linkages between current CSR activities and SDGs, and create a platform for engagement and partnerships to take forward SDG related activities in Assam. The Conclave was attended by Shri V. K. Pipersenia, Chief Secretary Government of Assam, as Chief Guest, along with delegates from UNDP China, Indonesia and India offices, along with other participants from NRL, TATA Group and other corporates, MSMEs and NGOs operating in the state.



The Assam Strategic Vision Document, 'Assam 2030: Our Dream, Our Commitment' being released by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, along with Hon'ble Ministers Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary, Shri Keshab Mahanta, Shri. Parimal Suklabaidya, Shri P. K. Borthakur, and Chief Secretary Shri. V. K. Pipersenia in July 2016.

Divisional Conclave: Taking SDGs to the Districts

1st June 2017, Guwahati: In an effort to disseminate understanding and functioning of SDGs to the Districts, the Lower Assam Divisional (LAD) Commissioner in collaboration with the Kamrup Metro District, T & D Department and Centre for SDGs, AASC, organized a one day conclave on 1st June 2017, at AASC, Khanapara, Guwahati. This one day conclave focused on engaging district level officials in understanding what is happening at the Departmental level in terms of SDGs and how their work can be directly correlated to the SDGs. The Chief Secretary, Shri V. K. Pipersenia, while speaking at the inaugural session laid the framework by engaging district departmental Officials to the Goals and Targets which were relevant to their work. Shri. Ahmed Hussain, Divisional Commissioner, LAD, laid down the pioneering work being done in Assam for promoting the SDGs and how localization of these goals is a priority for the state. This conclave was the first one of a series of four, which will focus on engaging and taking SDGs to the lowest level of administration.

Finalizing Strategy and Action Plan for SDG Goal 1 (No Poverty) and Goal 2 (Zero Hunger)

June 8th, Guwahati: Developing a strategy plan for achieving SDG Goals 1 & 2 are crucial for the overall development of the state. Goal 1 emphasizes on reducing poverty and providing social protection measures to all and Goal 2 aims to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition and commits to universal access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food at all times of the year.

The Panchayat and Rural Development Department is the lead department for Goal 1 and Agriculture Department is for Goal 2. Both departments got together on 8th June 2017, to organize a conclave to discuss and finalise their strategy and action plans for both the goals. Along with these departments various supporting departments also participated in the discussions. The inputs from this conclave will assist in formulating the departmental and state action plan for Goal 1 & 2.

Promoting SDG Goal 4 on Quality Education

16 and 17 June, Guwahati: Quality Education (Goal 4) assists in addressing the major challenges in the education sector in the state. This goal ensures that all girls and boys complete free primary and secondary schooling by 2030. It also aims to provide equal access to affordable vocational training, and to eliminate gender and wealth disparities with the aim of achieving universal access to a quality higher education. The Education Department has prepared a draft Strategy Paper & Action Plan (SPAP) with a vision to ***"All Children in School and Learning with Quality within and outside School"***. In order to take forward the discussions on finalising the SPAPs the Education Department in collaboration with UNICEF and CSDGs and T&D Department.

The Conclave was designed to have detailed group discussions among participants who were divided into 5 groups for school education comprising of, free, equitable and quality education, pre-primary education, school environment and facilities, vocational and technical training, and ICT teaching and learning. The group on higher education focused on education as a lifelong process, ICT for change and financing higher education.

The Hon'ble Minister for Education, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, after listening to all the key discussion points of the group exercises stressed on the key ideal of no one should be left behind. He remarked on his recent visits to Habong and other parts of Hamren town in West Karbi Anglong, he saw how these areas are approximately 30 years behind in the developmental curve of mainland Assam. This shows the pathway as to where the journey to implement the SDGs should start from the most vulnerable and marginalized.



Shri. K. V. Eapen, Addl. Chief Secretary, T&D Department addressing the gathering for the conclave on Quality Education on 16th and 17th June, 2017.

IN FOCUS: Goal 1, End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 1 calls for an end to poverty in all its manifestations by 2030. It also aims to ensure social protection for the poor and vulnerable, increase access to basic services and support people harmed by climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.

For more information on progress, targets and indicators: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg1>

SDG UPDATES

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2016: The HDR Report 2016 states that although average human development improved significantly across all regions from 1990 to 2015, one in three people worldwide continue to live in low levels of human development, as measured by the Human Development Index. For full report visit: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/hdr/2016-human-development-report.html>

INDIA VOLUNTEERS TO NATIONAL REVIEW OF SDGS: Every year countries volunteer to review their progress on few pre-designated goals. This year India will be volunteering for review in July along with a host of other countries on SDG Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 and 17. For more information: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/india>

Monthly Reads

- The Sustainable Development Goals: What local governments need to know (Guidance and systemization of experiences) Download PDF: <http://localizingthesdgs.org/library/view/40>
- ASSAR, IIHS, March 2017: BARRIERS AND ENABLERS TO CLIMATE ADAPTATION: Evidence from rural and urban India, Written by Chandni Singh, Kavya Michael and Amir Bazaz With input from Ritwika Basu, Arjun Srinivas, Harpreet Kaur and Tali Hoffman: http://www.assar.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/138/

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

1. From IISD, 1 June 2017: Adaptation and Loss and Damage Update: UNFCCC, NATO, FAO Advance Work on Adaptation. By Elena Kosolapova: <http://sdg.iisd.org/news/adaptation-and-loss-and-damage-update-unfccc-nato-fao-advance-work-on-adaptation/>
2. From the Guardian 15 May 2017: How to get girls to school in the least educated country on earth? By: Jill Filipovic, writes from Niger <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2017/may/15/niger-girls-education-challenge-un>
3. From the Guardian 24th April 2017: Matt Damon, 'Children are drinking water so dirty, it looks like chocolate milk'. By: David Smith, Washington <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2017/apr/24/matt-damon-children-are-drinking-water-so-dirty-it-looks-like-chocolate-milk>
4. UN News Centre, April 18th 2017: UN forum highlights importance of stronger partnerships for financing sustainable development. <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2017/04/un-forum-highlights-importance-of-stronger-partnerships-for-financing-sustainable-development/>

SDG in ACTION

Extract from
Achieving the SDGs: Taking Action for the 2030 Agenda In Your Community
By Michelle DiSabato, on May 15, 2017

Full Article can be accessed on: <https://npengage.com/outcomes-impact/achieving-the-sdgs/>

1. **Get informed.** There are lots of resources available to get acquainted with the SDGs, what they seek to achieve, and what's being done to make progress on the 2030 Agenda. Visit the [UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform](#) or try taking [our SDGs true/false quiz](#) to explore the goals.
2. **Familiarize yourself with the SDGs indicators.** Spend some time reviewing the [SDGs targets](#) within the goals that align with your focus areas to see how the work you're already doing could be contributing to achieving SDGs results. Speak with your partners and colleagues about the indicators relevant to you to ensure you're on the same page about measuring progress from your work.
3. **Evaluate your ability to measure outcomes, not just outputs.** It is more critical than ever to ensure you can [measure outcomes and assess results data](#) stemming from your investments in social good. With the enormity of the issues the SDGs seek to address, no one change-maker can achieve the goals alone. We will be best positioned to answer the question, "Are we making progress?" when each participant is speaking the same language and measuring results in an apples-to-apples way.

Centre for Sustainable Development Goals Team

Advisers and Mentors:

- Shri Anurag Goel, Adviser and Mentor, AASC, Assam
- Dr. Shiladitya Chatterjee, Adviser, CSDGs, Assam

Team:

- Shri Anjan Chakravarty, IAS, Director, AASC
- Dr. R. M. Dubey, IFS (Retd.), Prof. & Head, Centre for SDGs
- Shri J. C. Phukan, Consultant, CSDGs
- Smti Vijaylakshmi Barua, ACS, Joint Director, AASC
- Shri Anukriti Kaushal, UNDP, State Technical Officer (SDG Based Planning)
- Smti Supriya Khound, UNDP, State Technical Officer (SDG Based Planning)
- Smti Wahida Rahman, Consultant, Monitoring and Evaluation, UNICEF
- Shri Anupam Neog, Research Assistant, AASC
- The entire team of T&D Department

UPCOMING EVENTS: Conclave on SDG 7, 8, 9 on AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY, DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH, INDUSTRY INNOVATION AND INFRA-STRUCTURE ON 5TH AUGUST 2017

CONCLAVE SDG GOAL 11 ON SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES ON 9TH AUGUST

*Disclaimer: This newsletter is only for internal circulation and uses material and resources from around the world with sources cited for spreading information on SDGs.

Goal 1: DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ 78% of the world's extreme poor live in rural areas, with the majority dependent on agriculture
- ◆ About 1 in 5 people in developing regions are poor
- ◆ Only 27 percent of the world population enjoys sufficient social protection. Half of the world are excluded
- ◆ Social protection tends to stimulate the local economy, with positive effects on agricultural production, rural employment and poverty reduction.
- ◆ Ending poverty and hunger using natural resources sustainably depend in large part on how people gain access to land, fisheries and forests

Source: FAO, (updated 2017), <http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/goals/goal-1/en/> accessed: 20.05.2017

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