

REPORTING FROM INDIA'S NORTH-EAST IN THE DIGITAL AGE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

DAY ONE

MONDAY 16th NOVEMBER

8.00 AM – 2 PM

Field Visit Organized by World Vision to Mawlyngot, East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya.

Mawlyngot is a small village in Mawkyntew, East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya. It is now one of the best known tourist destinations in the state for its organic tea, orthodox black tea and blue worm. With the introduction and expansion of tea plantation many people have given up brewing liquor and taken up tea plantation. The Tea Intervention carried out by World Vision, India is just not any economic development story. The intervention popularized the 'organic' mindset and offset the damage caused by excessive alcohol production and consumption.

3.30 – 6 PM

Launch by *The Northeast Today* (TNT) in collaboration with the School of Media, Arts and Design, University of Westminster, London of the programme on the occasion of National Press Day:

CLUB HERITAGE (TRIPURA)

Tripura Castle Road, Cleave Colony, Shillong-3

DAY TWO

TUESDAY 17th NOVEMBER, 11.00am – 4pm

The English and Foreign Languages University, Umshing, Mawkyntew, Shillong - 22

As mainstream Indian media channels increasingly cut back on regional bureaux in North-East India there is a danger of an already under-represented region losing visibility on the national and global stage. Yet the region need not remain invisible in an age where big media organizations offer digital platforms for regional stories. Journalists in the region are entrenched in local networks and could provide invaluable reportage but need to equip themselves with the latest skills in digital broadcast journalism and the use of social media for reporting.

PROGRAMME

- 10.30: Arrivals, registration, coffee
- 10:50 : Formal welcome : Abir Suchiang, Assistant Professor, EFLU, Shillong Campus
- 11.00: Inaugural address by the Director, EFLU, Shillong Campus: Professor Kailash Baral
- 11.10: Address by Professor Rosie Thomas, Co-Director, Chevening South Asia Journalism Programme, University of Westminster, London
- TBC: Address by Pradyot Deb Burman, Editor-in-chief, *The Northeast Today* magazine **TBC**

11.20: **Reporting North-East India: Challenges and Opportunities**

What are the challenges and opportunities in reporting from North-East India today and how can we better understand regional news agendas vis-à-vis reporting and developmental goals?

Speakers: Linda Chhakchhuak (Co-Founder of *Grassroots Options*; independent journalist and anthropologist)

Kishalay Bhattacharjee, (Award winning journalist and Director, Reachout Foundation)

Speaker 3 (World Vision)

Chair: Dr. Daisy Hasan (Research Associate, University of Westminster, London)

12.20: **North-East India: The View from the 'Centre'**

How can we better understand national news agendas? Do mainstream media sufficiently cover the region? Where are the gaps in reporting? How can emerging and established online news platforms become effective spaces for stories from North-East India? What can we learn from innovative experiments in online journalism from other parts of India?

Speakers: Kumkum Dasgupta (Associate Editor, The Hindustan Times)
Shubhranshu Choudhury, (Award winning journalist and Founder, CG Net Swara)
Teresa Rehman (Award winning journalist and Founder Editor *The Thumb Print Magazine*)

Chair: Prof. Rosie Thomas, University of Westminster, London

1:20: Lunch

2.20: Media Education in North-East India: Curricula and Future Strategies

What is the existing state of training for journalists and media professionals in the region today? How can we achieve excellence in journalism from the region? What are some of the success stories in media training and sensitization? What are the training and educational strategies we need to develop for the future?

Speakers: Alankar Kaushik (Asstt. Professor, English and Foreign Languages University)

Dr. Ananya Guha (Regional Director, Indira Gandhi National Open University)

Tahseen Alam (Advocacy and Communication officer, UNICEF Assam)
TBC

Chair: Kumkum Dasgupta (Associate Editor, The Hindustan Times)

3:20: Tea

3.30: Concluding remarks, summary and forward plan

4.00: CLOSE