

A Challenge Met by IAPPD: Sensitization Workshop for KAAC & NCHAC on Health & Development Issues Diphu, Assam | 22nd March 2025

A Sensitization Workshop for the elected Council Members of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) and North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC) was successfully held on 22nd March 2025 in Diphu, Assam. Diphu, situated in the Karbi Anglong district, is a border region of India primarily inhabited by the Karbi community, along with other indigenous groups.

The workshop, attended by sixty-one elected members (equal to Ministers, MLAs) of KAAC and NCHAC, centered on crucial health and social issues, including **early marriage, malnutrition, malaria, maternal and infant mortality and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

Mr. Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary of IAPPD, delivered the welcome address, providing insights into the objectives and significance of the workshop. This was followed by a presidential address by Mr. Bubaneswar Kalita, MP, and Vice Chair, IAPPD, remembers his involvement with IAPPD from the days of its Founder Chairman, Late Mr. Sat Paul Mittal, MP. He emphasized the need for policy-level interventions to tackle health challenges in the region. Mr. Darsing Ronghang, Member of Legislative Assembly (109), Howraghat, Diphu, in his address emphasized the role of local governance in tackling health and social issues effectively.

The workshop featured an insightful presentation by Dr. Keshab Barman, Consultant - Public Health, Assam Government, who highlighted data-driven insights on public health issues. Following his presentation, Dr. Jigmi Singay, former Health Minister of Bhutan and WHO Representative to Myanmar, shared valuable global perspectives on addressing maternal and infant mortality and eradication of Malaria.

Mr. Amarsing Tisso, MP of Diphu, joined the workshop at a later stage due to his parliamentary commitments. Addressing issues such as malnutrition, early marriage, and maternal and infant mortality rates (MMR/IMR), he emphasized that the district administration is making dedicated efforts to tackle these challenges. He also noted that the elected representatives (ERs) of the region are deeply concerned and actively engaged in addressing these issues.

Dr. Tuliram Ronghang, Chief Executive Member (CEM) of KAAC, was unable to attend the workshop despite his best efforts, as heavy rainfall disrupted his journey from Guwahati to Diphu. In his absence, Mr. Raju Tisso, Chairman of KAAC, represented him and emphasized the importance of collective efforts in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and enhancing health indicators in the region.

Mr. Debolal Gorlosa, Chief Executive Member (CEM) of the Dima Hasao Autonomous Council (DHAC), was unable to attend the workshop due to the last rites of his mother. Representing him, Mr. Donpainon Thaosen, Executive Member of DHAC, highlighted the



numerous projects initiated under the CEM's leadership. He also shared information about incentives for institutional deliveries and the progress made in reducing Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in the district.

The interactive Question and Answer session provided participants with a valuable opportunity to engage with experts, discuss critical challenges, and explore potential solutions. The session saw active participation from key dignitaries, including Mr. Surjya Rongphar, Health Minister; Ms. Rina Terangpi, Executive Member (EM); Ms. Tiluttoma Hasnu, Member of Autonomous Council (MAC), KAAC; Mr. Pawan Kumar, MAC, Dima Hasao; and Ms. Minu Teronpi, Ward Commissioner, Dephu Municipal Board.

In recognition of their participation and commitment, mementos were distributed to the elected Council Members. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Manmohan Sharma, acknowledging the contributions of all stakeholders, followed by a networking lunch.

The workshop served as a vital platform to enhance awareness, facilitate knowledge exchange, and strengthen policy frameworks for improving public health outcomes in the region. The participation of distinguished dignitaries, experts, and council members reinforced the collective resolve to address pressing health challenges and drive sustainable development in Assam.

