

Press Release: Capacity Building Strategies for Managing Complex Disasters in the face of Climate Change

A two days training cum policy workshop on Capacity Building Strategies for Managing Complex Disasters in the face of Climate Change was launched today on 11th January 2018. The two days workshop with Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi as the project lead was launched at Delisso Abode, Gangtok. The three year project is sponsored by Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change and National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) in collaboration with SEEDS Technical Services Pvt. Ltd. and Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority. The workshop would tag on the community outreach through *Maghey Mela* scheduled for 13 and 14th January.

The inaugural address was delivered by Mr. Tsegal Tashi, IAS, State Relief Commissioner- cum Secretary, Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department who emphasized on the importance of raising issues related to Climate Change and complex disasters. He laid stress on the timing to seriously think about the woes of Climate Change staring at the face of the humanity.

The complexities of disaster and climate change were highlighted by Prof. C.K Varshney, Emeritus Professor, JNU in his keynote address. He drew attention towards various facets of Climate Change related complex disasters.

Prof Vinod K Sharma, Sr. Professor IIPA and Vice Chairman, SSDMA emphasized on the need of community involvement in the project so as to come up with productive underpinning. He emphasized on the need of developing link between Climate Change and Disasters.

Dr. Shyamli Singh, Project Coordinator and faculty IIPA in her brief about the project stated that the output of the brainstorming of the different sectoral groups would be presented to the state as action plan to further strengthen the state to stride towards a resilient Climate Smart State.

The workshop witnessed a participation of over forty participants from various departments viz. Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management, Health Care, Animal Husbandry, Planning and Development, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Fire and emergency services, UNDP and the like. The various sectoral groups were moderated under the expert guidance of Mr. Ringzing Chewang, Special Secretary LR&DM, Mr. G.C Khanal Additional director, SSDMA, Dr. G.N Raha, Mr. Prakash Rai, Ms. Usha Lachungpa, Mr. Tsering Tashi, Mr. Prabhkar Rai and Dr. Mithilesh Singh.

The valedictory session featured the major highlights of the sectoral groups to be presented to the Sikkim Government as Action plan which would help in furtherance of the endeavours of the government. Mr. Surajit Baruah, UNDP shared his reflections of the workshop.

Ms. Ambika Pradhan, IAS, Department of Mines, Minerals and Geology, Government of Sikkim delivered the valedictory address. She appreciated the efforts and outputs of the two

day training cum Policy workshop. She distributed the certificates to the participants. Mr. G.C Khanal , additional director, SSDMA proposed the vote of thanks

