



PRESS RELEASE

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THE 7TH ENORTH EAST AWARD 2019-2020 CONCLUDED WITH 11 WINNERS AND 12 SPECIAL MENTIONS (RUNNERS UP) AS INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS OF NORTH EAST INDIA

With the theme of the event plenary 'Sustaining the Pursuit of UN SDGs Post in Covid-19 North East India', the 7th edition of the eNorth East Award 2019-20 was concluded on June 20, 2020, as culmination of months of nomination process, and three days of virtual jury (due to Covid-19) for selecting the best sustainable development practices of North East India. The final event (held virtually first time in the history of the programme due to Covid-19) declared 23 sustainable development projects (11 winners and 12 special mentions) of North East India as winners and special mentions (runners up) in as many as 10 categories including – Access to Public Schemes, citizen services and e-governance services; Agriculture & Rural Development; Biodiversity and Sustainable Development; Livelihood and Income Generation; Education and Learning; and Health and Sanitation. As a Chief Guest, Mr. K. Moses Chalai, IAS, Secretary of the North Eastern Council (NEC), graced the occasion along with other dignitaries.

In this keynote during the Plenary Session, Mr. Chalai highlighted the fact that Covid-19 is both a challenge as well as opportunity. While there may be multipronged challenges due to Covid-19 in almost all sectors of society and economy, yet it has also forced people, institutions and governments to think differently, find low cost and alternative solutions to deal with the challenges now and for coming days, Mr. Chalai added. The North Eastern Council (NEC), in a new avatar, is constantly working under the guidance of Government of India and the Home Ministry, to take up major development works in all eight States of the region. He highlighted the need to generate more local entrepreneurship in the region with focus on improving transportation in the region to reduce cost of ferrying goods and services. There are many avenues for local entrepreneurships that the region must look into and NEC is working to support Startups in this direction. Mr. Chalai also stressed on the fact that North East India and South East Asia can converge more on trade and economy and benefit from each other with examples of Bangladesh as a case. The North East region should look at low cost

technology to support in days to come. The region lost out to 3 industrial revolutions and it cannot afford to lose out in this digital revolution.

In his remarks, *Dr. Nitya Nanda*, Director, Council for Social Development (CSD), New Delhi, highlighted the fact that the region does not need big ticket investment as this is impossible due to underdeveloped status of the region. Instead, the focus should be on small scale investment, entrepreneurship development locally based on local resources, and concentrate on small and medium businesses and go for import substitution in potential areas of fishery, bamboo, agriculture produce and others. Covid-19 should be a blessing in disguise and efforts should be directed towards this self-sufficiency through local skills development. The region still majorly lacks in infrastructure support system including health and education with 0.5 hospital beds per 1000 people. Further, without women empowerment, sustainable development is not possible, Dr. Nanda stressed.

Dr Shiladitya Chatterjee, former bureaucrat and now Advisor at Centre for Sustainable Development Goal Centre, Government of Assam, stressed the need for ensuring food security, social protection for all, and correct health inadequacies, reduce inequalities and build liveable cities as these are great learning lessons from Covid-19 in the region. The challenge is more adverse as most States in the North East falls in adverse categories in NITI Ayog's SDG Index and must work towards achieving positive outcomes. Covid 19 has exposed our massive vulnerabilities with migrant workers; very large daily wage earners; large numbers in informal employment who do not have any social protection. India has ample food in its public granaries yet much of the poor do not have adequate access. Affordability of nutritious food remains a problem, malnutrition in the general population especially children (one third are underweight) remains very high, while the relief packages announced should meet most families' cereal requirements, their food needs go beyond cereals; and the public distribution system (PDS) suffers from inadequacy of coverage especially in urban areas and lack of portability of ration cards making access by stranded migrants problematical. Covid-19 tells us to correct health inadequacies and ensure health for all (UN SDG Goal 3). Another glaring reality exposed by Covid-19 are the slums with unsanitary conditions causing the pandemic to grow and going forward slums must be replaced with decent and affordable housing for all urban dwellers.

In her remarks, *Dr. Monisha Behal*, CEO, North East Network (NEN), stressed upon the fact that achieving Gender Equality (Goal no. 5 of UN SDG Goals) cuts across all sectors and must be addressed in convergence with other critical factors of empowerment. Two key issues that Dr. Monisha stressed upon was on supporting and taking care of the frontline health workers including ASHAs and the need for fiscal efficacy in programmes meant for pandemics like Covid-19.

According to *Ms. Supriya Khound*, Project Officer, United Nations Development Programme (North East Regional Office), Covid-19 has challenged our societies whether we should look beyond traditional way of doing things or innovate. UNDP has come out

with innovative tools and resources for NGOs and for MSME support that could be effective to reorient works and strategies for these agencies to perform better, post Covid-19.

Mr. Manoj Das, Managing Director, the North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd (NERAMAC), a Central Public Sector Enterprise & Head, Advisory and Consultancy and Business Facilitation Departments, North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd., stressed on the need to reorient and reinvent on agriculture produce and marketing in a PPP mode. Mr. Ritupon Gogoi, Executive Director, Foundation for Social Transformation, Guwahati, focused on data as power dynamics and importance of development communication and planning at community level as critical factors post Covid-19 in development. Dr. Otojit Kshetrimayum, Fellow (Faculty) and Coordinator of the Centre for North East India in V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India, focused on self-employment and areas like gig workers (platform workers) as new areas of focus in North East India. Dr. Monica Banerjee, Program Director, ICCO India focused on need to look at convergence and collaboration in a post Covid-19 North East to deal with impending challenges. Mr. Raju Sharma, CSR Head, InterGlobe Aviation Ltd (Indigo) stressed on focusing on sustaining livelihood and income of vulnerable groups and communities based on the region's local resources, skills and capacities and Indigo CSR is working in that direction. In his introductory remarks, Dr. Syed Kazi, Chairman of the eNorth East Award Platform, highlighted the fact that Covid-19 has exposed the North East Region on many frontiers in health, governance, systems and citizen services and therefore, the need shall be to reorient the priorities and strategies to deal with key UN SDG goals and pursuit in each State of the region.

Finally, 11 innovative development projects of the region were declared as winners of 7th eNabling North East (eNorth East) Award 2019-2020. The winning projects were -'Election e-ATLAS', by the North Eastern Space Application Centre (NESAC) in the category Access To Public Schemes, Entitlements, Citizen & E-Governance Services; in Agriculture & Rural Development category the winner was, '1917-Integrated **Technology Enabled Agri Management System (1917iTEAMS)**,' by the Department of Agriculture, Meghalaya and NIC Meghalaya; in the Biodiversity & Natural Resources Management category, the winner was, 'Strengthening governance and management of Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) in Nagaland', by the Foundation for Ecological Security (FES); in the Environment, Climate Change Mitigation & Disaster Management Category, the winner was, 'Binbag e-Waste Management', by Binbag Recycling Services Private Ltd. In the Livelihood & Income Generation Category, the winners were - "Livelihood improvement of tribal communities from Assam- Meghalaya border areas through multiplication of spices", by the InterGlobe Aviation Limited ("IndiGo") in the Micro Livelihood Intervention Category; and in the Macro Livelihood Intervention Category, the winner was, 'Integrated livelihood with agriculture and piggery in Nagaland', by the North East Initiative Development Agency (Nagaland) (a special agency promoted by the Tata Trusts). In the category Decent Work, Skill

Development, Entrepreneurship & Employment Generation Category, the winner was, 'Bio fertilizer, bio pesticides, Probiotics based enterprise for Livestock and Aquaculture inputs manufacturing cum marketing,' by the Green Biotech Ecosolutions, Manipur. In the Quality Education & Learning Category, the winner was, 'Integrated Approach to Technology in Education (ITE) in Assam,' by the Tata Trusts. In the Health, Sanitation & Well Being Category, the winning Project was the "Bixudha Jol Asoni" by the Assam Don Bosco University (ADBU). In the Science & Tech Category, the winner was, 'Decentralized Solar Energy Initiative in Manipur,' by the Centre for Microfinance & Livelihood (CML) An Initiative of Tata Trusts. And in the Peace, Justice & Strong Institution Category, the winner was the, 'Project Mukti: Freedom from Exploitation of Children and women from Child Sexual Abuse and Human Trafficking in the state of Manipur,' by the FXB India Suraksha.

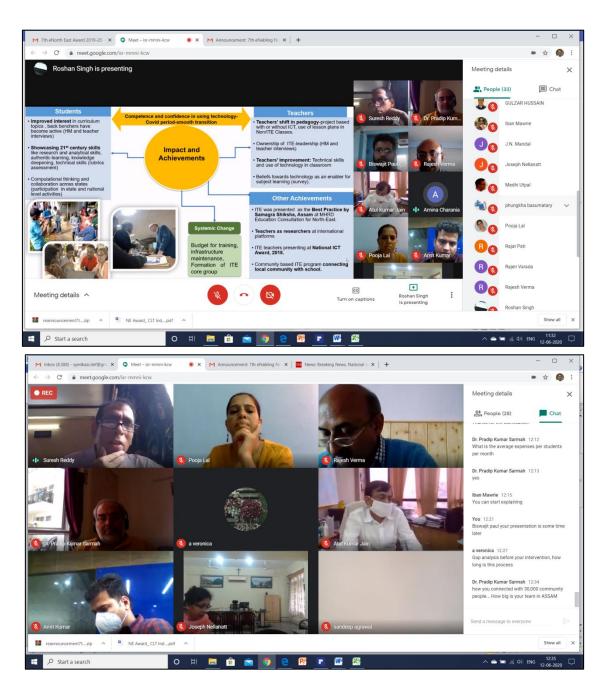
Further, 12 development projects were declared as Special Mentions (Runners Up) of the 7th eNorth East Award 2019-2020. These included - Project, 'Farmer Identity Card' by the Department of Agriculture, Meghalaya and National Informatics Centre, Meghalaya in the Access to Public Schemes, Entitlements, and Citizen & E-Governance Services Category; Project, 'NABARD Tribal Development Plan Implementation in Mizoram State', by the North East India Development Agency (NEIDA) in the Agriculture & Rural Development Category; Project, 'Conservation of community forest land through Mithun rearing (Bos frontalis), the 'Cattle of the mountain' in Arunachal Pradesh,' by the North East Initiative Development Agency (NEIDA) in the Biodiversity & Natural Resources Management Category; Project "GLOF Early Warning" **System in Sikkim**" by Emerging Solutions and e-Governance (ES & eGov) Group, CDAC Pune in the Environment, Climate Change Mitigation & Disaster Management Category; Project, 'Star Cement Livelihood & Skill Building Programme in Assam and *Meghalaya'* By the STAR Cement, Assam in the Micro Livelihood Intervention Category under Livelihood & Income Generation; Project, 'Malemnganbi Mushroom Farm, Manipur', in Livelihood and Income Generation project; under Macro Livelihood Intervention Category Project, 'DAY - National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM),' by the Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission, Govt. of Assam and the Project 'CML-TATA TRUSTS and Missing Autonomous Council (MAC) Collaborative Multi theme Livelihood Initiative in MAC areas of Assam' by the CML-TATA TRUSTS; under the Decent Work, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship & Employment Generation Category, Project, 'New generation digital integration of Artisans, Weavers, Designers, organic farmers and entrepreneurs of Northeast India,' by the Brahmaputra Fables; in the Quality Education & Learning Category, Project, " Education and Empowerment for Children of Reang Refugee Tribes in Tripura, by the Great India Talent Foundation; in the Health, Sanitation & Well Being Category, Project '*Tata Water Mission (TWM)*", as an initiative of Tata Trusts, in association with Drinkwell Technology and Gramya Vikash Mancha (GVM); and finally Project 'Satellite Wi-Fi (C-Sat-Fi)', by the CDOT Bangalore in the Information Communication Technology For Development Category.

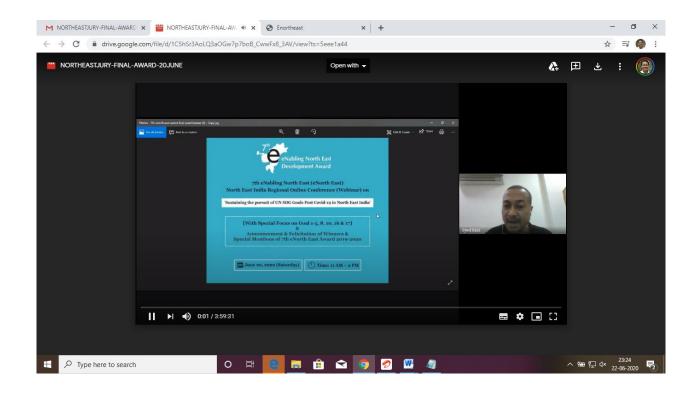
The 7th eNorth East Award 2019-2020 (http://enortheast.in/)was organised by the North East Development Foundation (NEDF) and Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF), supported by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), ICCO India, READ India, NERAMAC, NGO Planet, Development Today, Developmently Magazine, and Association for Social Media Professionals (ASMP) as knowledge partners. The objective of the eNorth East Award platform is to identify, scout, recognise, felictate, document and promote sustainable development initiatives in the region and develop a regional network of good practices and practitioners for learning, sharing, exchanging, and partnering for holistic development. The first edition of the award was launched in 2010-2011.

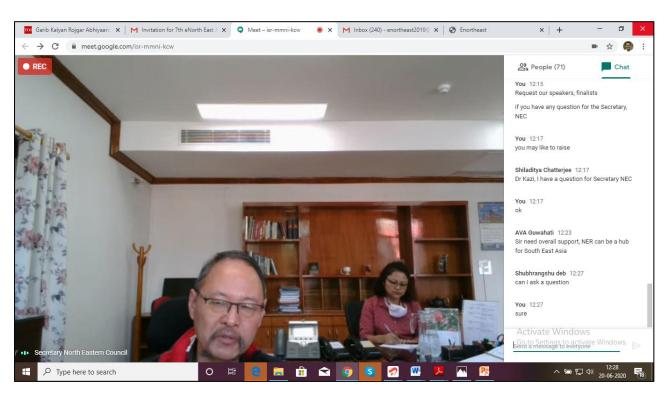
The jury for the 7th eNorth East Award selection process was held during June 9 – 12, 2020 digitally. Altogther, 21 jury experts from academics, development, public sector and media came together to assess, evaluate and shortlist the winners and special mentions for the 7th edition out of 45 development project shortlisted as finalists. The esteemed jury panels included - Dr. Jayanta Choudhury, Associate Professor at National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj - North East Regional Centre (NIRDPR-NERC); Prof. Polly Vauquline, Head, Department of Women's Studies, Gauhati University; Prof. Kalyan Das, Director at Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development, a development institute under Govt. of Assam and ICSSR collaboration in Guwahati; Dr Kaustuv Kanti Bandyopadhyay, Director of Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) and head of PRIA International Academy (PIA); Mr. Manoj Das, Managing Director at NERAMAC (NEC, Govt. of India) and current Head, Advisory and Consultancy and Business Facilitation Departments at the North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (a Govt. of India Undertaking); Prof **Dinabandhu Sahoo**, currently at Department of Botany, Delhi University and SCentific and Environment Advisor to Govt. of Manipur and Meghalaya; Dr. Papiya Dutta, PhD, Associate Professor in the Department of Rural Development, University of Science &Technology, Meghalaya; Dr Rajdeep Singha, Assistant Professor and Chairperson -Centre for Labour Studies and Social Protection, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Guwahati campus; Dr. Otojit Kshetrimayum, Fellow (Faculty) and Coordinator of the Centre for North East India in V.V. Giri National Labour Institute under the Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India; Dr Geeta Malhotra, Country Director of READ India; Dr Sriparna Bhuyan Baruah, Head, Centre for Industrial Extension, Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE); Dr. Sanjaya Kumar Pradhan, Lead - Affirmative Action & CSR, at the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC); Dr. Pooja Rani, Gargi College, Delhi University; Mr. Rajesh Verma, Former Secretary, Information Technology, Govt. of Sikkim; Dr.Avinu Veronica Richa, Assistant Professor at Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Institution of National Importance by the Act of Parliament, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India; Mr. Rajen Varada, Former CEO of the Open Knowledge Community (OKC), a joint initiative of the UNESCO and Govt. of India and currently, Governing Board Member at Digital Empowerment

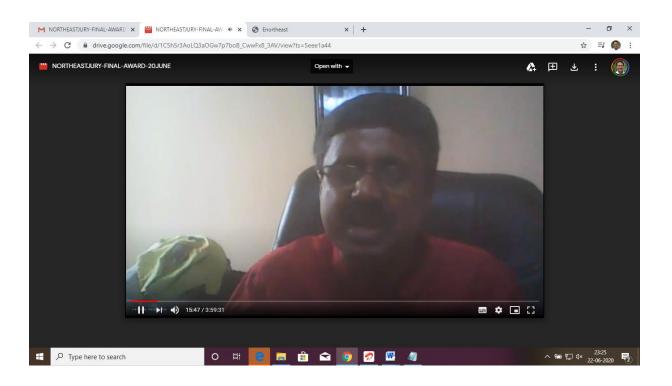
Foundation, New Delhi; *Mr. Shibu Itty*, Director, Mkg. & Communication, WWF India and Associate Vice President of iContract, the Digital arm of Contract advertising and Governing Body Member at Indian Public Library Movement (IPLM); *Ms. Debjani Khan*, Project Manager at Plan International - India Chapter; *Dr. Pradip Kumar Sarmah*, Executive Director, Centre for Rural Development (CRD); *Ms. Ibankyntiew Mawrie* is currently the Editor of the TNT-The Northeast Today; and *Dr. M. Shahid Siddiqui*, Founder of "ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY RESAERCH & ACTION" (ACRA) and current President of the Association of Social Media Professionals (ASMP), a global platform of social media for development and democracy professionals.

Few Snapshots:

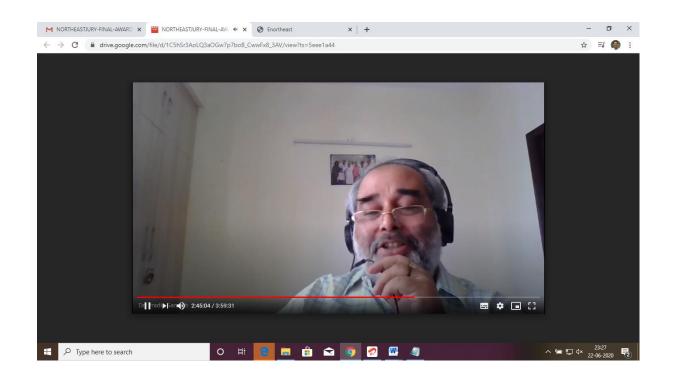


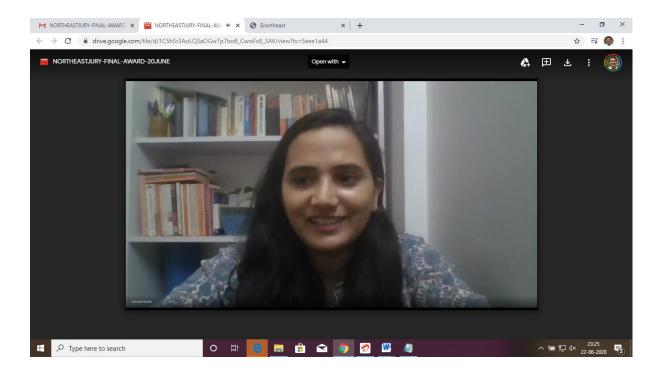






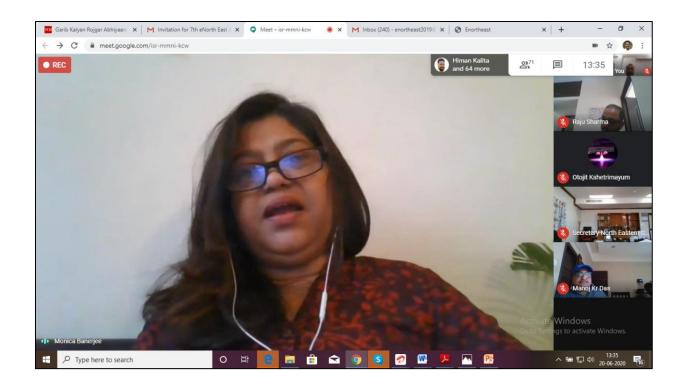


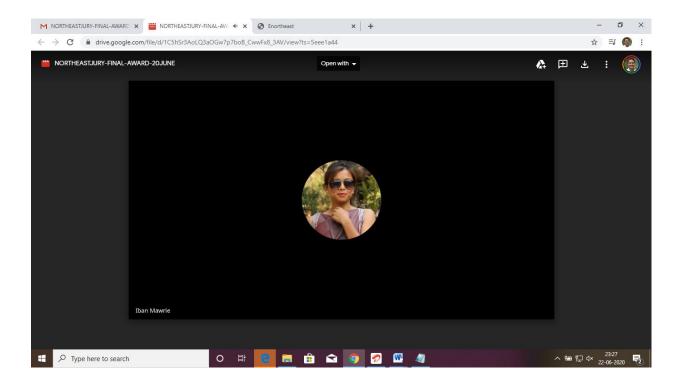


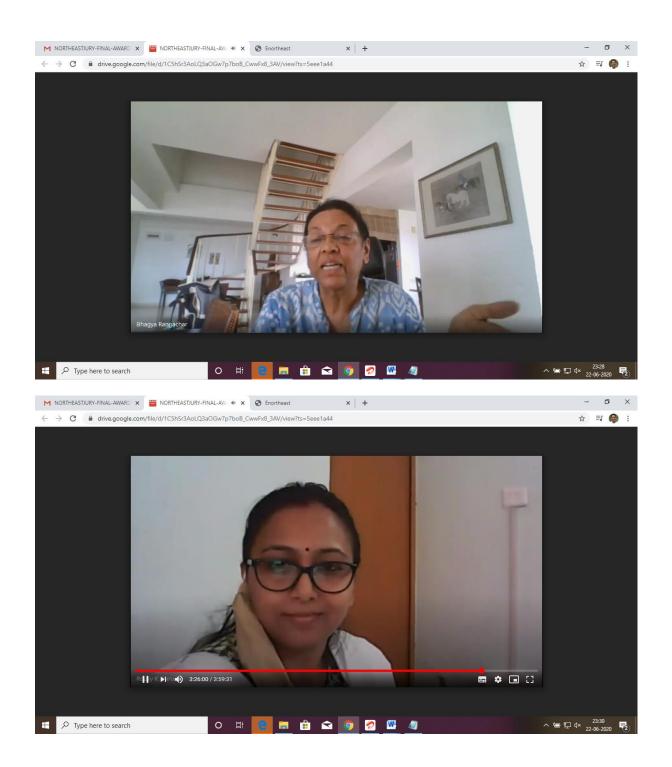


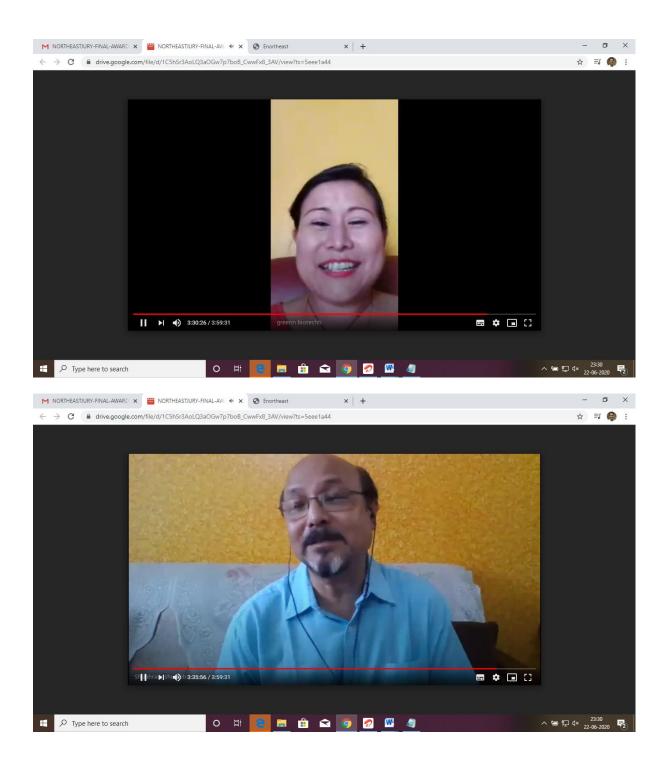




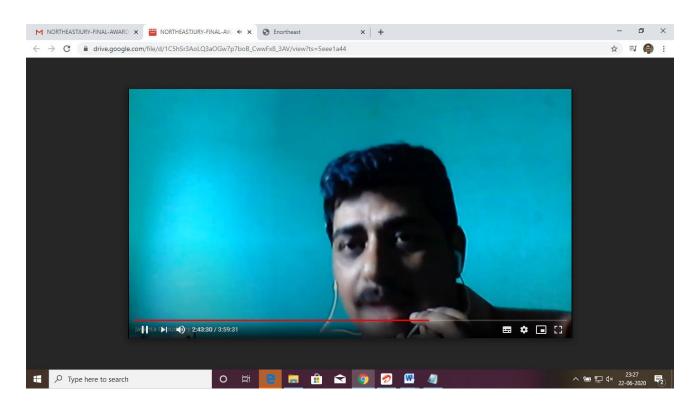


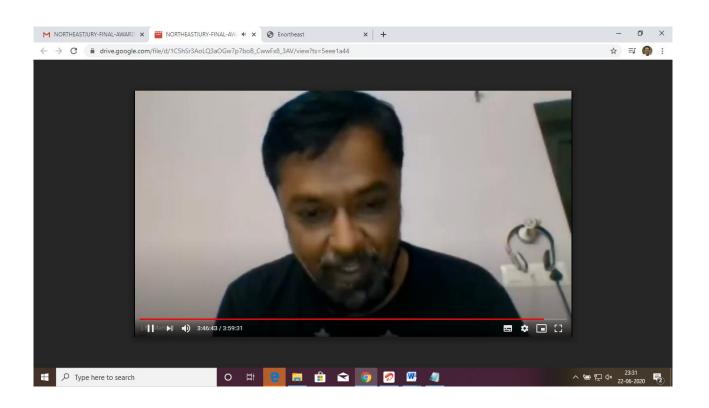


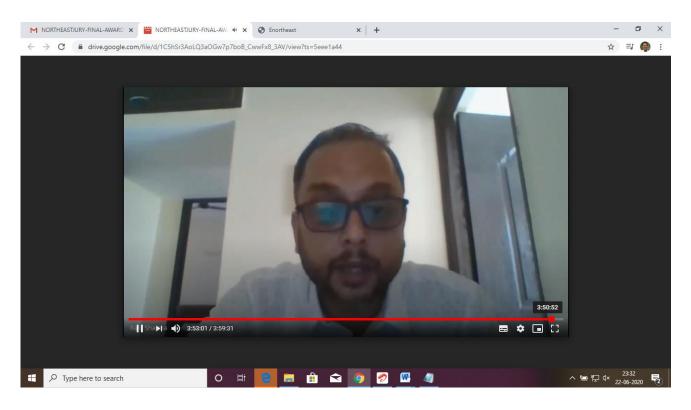


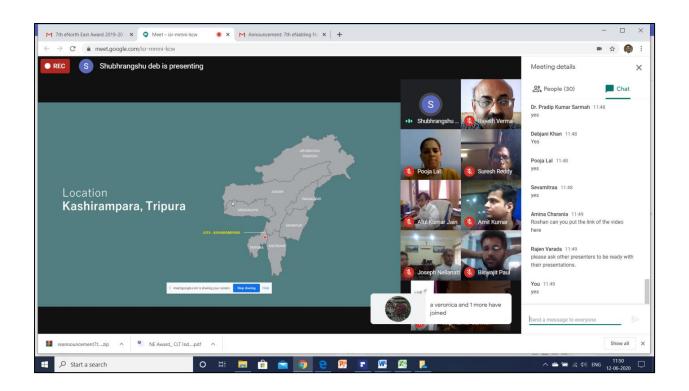




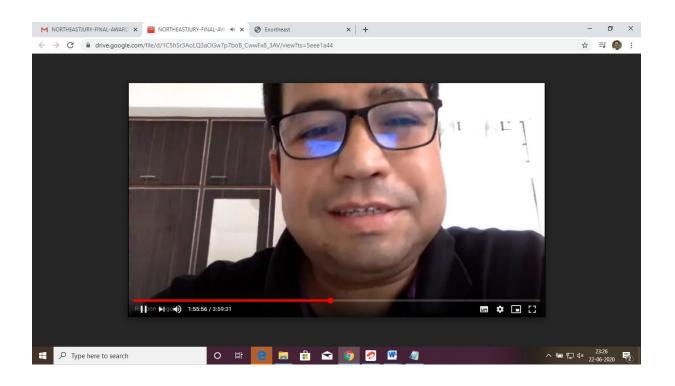


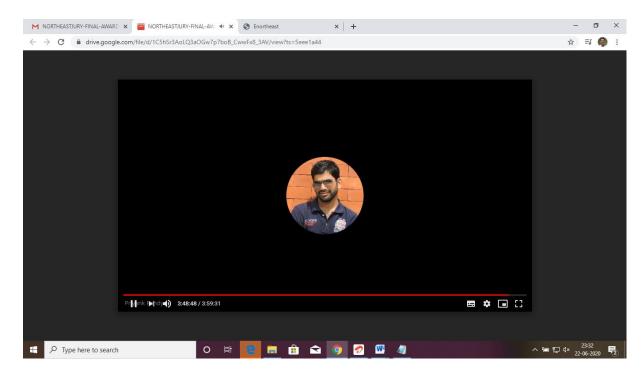














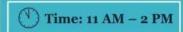
7th eNabling North East (eNorth East) North East India Regional Online Conference (Webinar) on

'Sustaining the pursuit of UN SDG Goals Post Covid-19 in North East India'

[With Special Focus on Goal 1-5, 8, 10, 16 & 17]

Announcement & Felicitation of Winners & Special Mentions of 7th eNorth East Award 2019-2020







Organisers















