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Er. Rita Rajkhowa
President

Er.Indira Das
Secretary

Dr. Bibha Das Saikia
Editor

President's Message

HAPPY NEW YEAR to
all my WEFA sisters and well-wishers!

Pray that Almighty God will bring peace,
prosperity and happiness to all of you and
to the whole world!

I am very sorry to say that our
New Year has begun with a devastating
earthquake of the magnitude of 6.78 in the
Richter scale, in the
northeast region, whose epicentre was
located at about 40
k.m. away from Imphal. Large scale
devastation had taken place in some places
of Manipur, with loss of several lives and
rendering thousands of people homeless,
with their houses collapsed due to the impact
of the earthquake . Also it had shaken some
parts of Assam, Bangladesh and Myanmar.
The largest and famous women
market of Asia , known as
Emma Market has been badly damaged w
here thousands of women used to sit
together and run their shops, causing serious
livelihood problems to them. The market
was their soul and the source of their
happiness. I pray for eternal peace for the
departed souls and for
early recovery of the injured persons !

On 8th November,2015,we could celebrate o
ur SixthFoundation Day with pomp and ga
iety



like the preceding years. Thanks to all the
WEFA members for their sincere cooperat
ion, in making the programme a grand
success.

The All India Engineering Congress was
held in Guwahati, where WEFA members
had taken part, presented some important
papers and helped in making the Congress
a good success.

It is heartening to note that, with many new
members joining WEFA, we are a very bi
g family of women engineers and now set
to target higher goals in the New Year .

Again wishing very best
wishes for the New Year I conclude here.

Long live WEFA !
Mrs. Rita Rajkhowa,
President of WEFA.

SECRETARY'S REPORT :

In pursuance to its stated objective of encouraging the school students , especially the girl students, to study Science and Technological courses WEFA conducted an awareness programme at Bodhidroom Jatiya Vidyalaya, Chandrapur, on 26th September, 2015. WEFA members Dr.Bibha Das Saikia, Er. Putuli Saikia Barua, Er.Geetimala Boishya attended the programme along with the undersigned. The members informed the students of the school about the benefits to be derived from pursuing Technical and



Vocational courses and encouraged them to give more stress on Science and Mathematics subjects. Dr.Bibha Das Saikia and Er. Putuli Saikia Barua spoke about the different Technical and Vocational courses available in the State and elaborated the process to get admission to those courses. Members distributed information booklets among the students for the above purpose .Er. Geetimala Boishya while summing up the awareness programme requested the teachers to take the students on educational tour to the nearby industries so that they become well acquainted with the industrial world. The programme was attended by about 70 students along with the Head Master and teachers of the school. The students of the

school entertained those attending the programme by presenting songs and recitation of poems.

6th Foundation Day Celebration of WEFA:

Women Engineers' Forum of Assam celebrated its 6th Foundation Day on 8th November, 2015, at the Auditorium Hall of Institution of Engineers (India), Assam Centre at Panbazar.. President of WEFA and First Lady of Arunachal Pradesh, Er. Rita Rajkhowa presided over the meeting. Welcome address was delivered by Secretary WEFA, Er. Indira Das.

Dr. Padmapani, former Director, Forensic Science Laboratory, Assam, graced the occasion as Chief Guest on this celebration day. In his speech he elaborated about the evolution of Forensic Science laboratories in the world with special emphasis on India as a whole and also in the State of Assam .He explained the role of Forensic science in convicting a person associated in a criminal or accident case.

Guest of Honour Professor Utpal Miri spoke about his association with this Forum from its early days and appreciated the effort of the Forum for upliftment of the poor and downtrodden section of the society.

Distinguished Guest and renowned innovator of 122 low-cost equipments Dr. Uddhav Kumar Bharali exhibited his innovations through a power point presentation and elaborated on how these help in reducing the labour of hard-working people and how people can become self reliant through their use.

Er. Rita Rajkhowa, President of the Forum , thanked all members of WEFA for their help and co-operation in fulfilling the aims and objectives of the Forum.

A souvenir edited by Dr. Bibha Das Saikia and Er. Mridula Das and co-edited by Dr. Mrinalini Das was released on the occasion by the Chief Guest Dr. Padmapani.



Late Kavita Devi Kakati Memorial award of Rs. 10,000/- donated by Sri Ramdas Kakati was presented to Ms. Sushmita Borah, topper of the Civil Engineering Branch in the final



examination of 2015 from Assam Engineering College. Sri Ramdas Kakati spoke about the achievements of Late Kavita Devi Kakati and hoped to encourage the girl students of Engineering courses to pursue their career as engineer through this

award. "Professor Babu Krishna Choudhury Memorial award" of Rs.10,000/- donated by Dr. Ranjana Choudhury was received by



Ms. Binita Deb, a 1st semester meritorious but needy student of Assam Engineering College, Jalukbari. One time financial assistance amounting to Rs. 10,000/- offered to Ms. Monika Naik, a 1st semester needy student of Jorhat Engineering College, was donated by WEFA member Er. Runumi Phukan.



Another award of Rs. 5000/- on merit cum means basis was presented to Ms. Manikangkana Deka, a 1st semester student of Assam Engineering Institute, Chandmari, Guwahati.



The evening started with a Borgeet by Er. Geetanjali Kakoti which set the ambience of the cultural events to follow. WEFA song presented by members of WEFA. Er. Mridula Das recited a poem 'Prashna' written by the Great poet Ravindra Nath Tagore and translated to Assamese. Dance by Kumari Richika Kakati was followed by Violin Badan by Dr. Mrinalini Das. Popular songs presented by Er. Geetanjali Kakati and Er. Bijulee Goswami were appreciated by the invited guests and members. The colourful and joyous cultural evening came to an end with presentation of Jatiya Sangeet .

At the end vote of thanks was offered by Er. Krishna Sharma. The whole programme was successfully anchored by Er. Mitali Chakravorty and Er. Pallavi Chakravorty.

30th Indian Engineering Congress:

WEFA participated in the 30th Indian Engineering Congress (From 17.12.2015 to 20.12.2015) and organised an Women Engineers meet in the morning session of the programme on 20th December. The welcome address of the meet was delivered by Er. Rita Rajkhowa, president of WEFA.

A documentary video about the Journey of WEFA was prepared by Dr Mrinalini Das and presented by Er. Utpala Roychoudhury at the meet. Er. Drishtirupa Das gave her voice and Er. Gauri Giri actively helped in arranging the documents for the video. Four papers were presented on the theme "Role of Women Engineers in Nation Building" by Lady Engineers- Dr Bibha Das Saikia, Dr. Binu Sharma, Dr. Gitima Krishna Das, Dr. Neelanjana Baruah and Dr. Nayanmoni Chetia for the meet. Secretary of WEFA, Indira Das, offered vote of thanks at the end.

Er.Indira Das.

Secretary, WEFA

Editorial

Welcome and **Happy New Year 2016**. The year 2015 is over with WEFA'S various activities. Hope the coming year will be full of new endeavors. To do so we need more young members with unbounded energy. WEFA invites new young lady Engineers to become member and join hands with us to work for the society.

With the beginning of New year, a major earthquake with a magnitude 6.78 earthquake struck [India](#) 29 km west of [Imphal](#) in the state of [Manipur](#) on January 3 with a maximum [Mercalli intensity](#) of VII (*Very strong*). At least eleven people were killed, 200 others were injured and numerous buildings were damaged. The quake was also strongly felt in [Bangladesh](#).

North East India is located in earthquake zone-V with high probability of occurrence of earthquake. Scientists in different countries are trying to forecast probability of occurrence of earthquake. But they are not successful in prediction of occurrence of earthquake. Therefore, it is urgently necessary to make ourselves prepare for mitigating any form of earthquake hazard. Assam State Disaster Management Authority from time to time organize disaster preparedness & mitigation training programme in different parts of Assam. We, lady engineers should take part in such programmes and organize mitigation units in our residential localities to make people aware about hazard mitigation.

Dr. Bibha Das Saikia
Editor

Famous Women Inventor: Invention of the windshield wiper

Although, throughout history, and now into the 21st century, famous women inventors have played a vital role in the world of innovation, we know the names of certain famous male inventors throughout history, from [Galileo](#) , [Alexander Graham Bell](#) to [Steve Jobs](#), but many women have also contributed groundbreaking ideas to science, technology, and our daily lives. In fact, women have become increasingly prevalent in the field and are responsible for momentous advances as windshield wipers, disposable diapers, the first computer language and the Mars Rover etc.

Mary Anderson (1866–1953) was an American [real estate](#) developer, rancher, [viticulturist](#) and [inventor](#) of the [windshield wiper](#) blade. In November 1903 Anderson was granted her first [patent](#) for an automatic

car window cleaning device controlled inside the car, called the windshield wiper.

Mary Anderson, in her visit to [New York City](#) in the winter of 1902, in a [trolley car](#) on a frosty day, she observed that the driver of the car drove with both panes of the double front window open because of difficulty in keeping the windshield clear of falling snow. When she returned to Alabama she hired a designer for a hand-operated device to keep a windshield clear and had a local company produce a working model. She applied for a patent and in 1903 was granted, a 17-year patent for a windshield wiper. Her device consisted of a lever inside the vehicle that controlled a rubber blade on the outside of the windshield. The lever could be operated to cause the spring-loaded arm to move back and forth across the windshield.

In 1905 Anderson tried to sell the rights to her invention through a noted Canadian firm, but they rejected her application as they did not consider it to be of commercial value. After term of patent expired in 1920 and the [automobile manufacturing business](#) grew exponentially, windshield wipers using Anderson's basic design became standard equipment. In 1922, [Cadillac](#) became the first car manufacturer to adopt them as standard equipment.

Memorable quotes:

Take up one idea. Make that one idea your life - think of it, dream of it, and live on that idea. Let the brain, muscles, nerves, every part of your body, be full of that idea, and just leave every other idea alone. This is the way to success. - **Swami Vivekananda.**