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Er. Rita Rajkhowa
President

Er.Indira Das
Secretary

Dr. Bibha Das Saikia
Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR 14TH NEWS LETTER

I have to start my column with the saddest news of losing our greatest scientist, Missile man, our beloved teacher and the most popular, former President of India known as People's President, Respected Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam who died in Shillong on 27th July while delivering lecture to the teachers and students of IIM, Shillong. This is the greatest loss of our country. As our Prime Minister said our country has lost one 'Ratna'. We have lost our most noble, humble and virtuous Guru who really loved our North East. He loved Assam and the mighty Brahmaputra so much, that, he named one ballistic missile as 'Brahma'. While writing this message I could not stop my tears coming down from my eyes.

An eminent scientist of international repute, Dr. Kalam in his capacity as Director of DRDO, made extra ordinary contribution to the growth of Rocketry Missiles and Space Technology. His sudden demise is an irreparable loss for the country. In his death, India has lost

one of the greatest sons ever born and one of the greatest scientists and Presidents. The void that has been created by his passing away would be almost impossible to fill up.

Now our duty will be to follow his teachings, to work for the downtrodden, to help the poor & needy students which we have been doing to some extent and now we will have to gear-up our action.

Lastly, I pray for the eternal peace for the departed soul of our beloved Guru and most loving person, Dr. Kalam !!! Long Live Dr. Kalam !

Mrs. Rita Rajkhowa,
President, WEFA.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

WEFA conducted an awareness programme at Swahid Kushal Konwar High School at Panikhaiti, Guwahati on



4th April, 2015 in a bid to encourage students for studying Science and Technology. Following members of WEFA attended the programme-

Er. Bandita Phukan- Vice President,

Er. Dr. Bibha Das Saikia- Executive member (Editor, News Letter)

Er. Putuli Saikia Baruah- Joint Secretary,

Er. Geetimala Baishya- Joint Secretary.

Students of class IX and X of the school attended the programme along with their teachers. WEFA members informed the students about the benefit to be derived by studying Science and Technology courses. They gave inputs regarding opportunities to study Technological courses in Assam and elaborated about different avenues open to the students in professional and vocational courses. Students were informed about the number of seats in Technological courses in different Engineering Colleges in Assam and how to get admission into different courses. Er. Geetimala Baishya while offering vote of thanks, concluded the programme by encouraging the students to study hard so that they can achieve their goal and become self reliant.

The programme was a grand success.

On 16.05.2015 WEFA members felicitated Er. Rita Rajkhowa, President of

the Forum and designated First Lady of Arunachal Pradesh with bouquet of



flowers and Phulam gamocha in a sombre programme. Members also presented gifts to show their love and respect and wished her a bright future as First Lady of our neighbouring state. Er. Rajkhowa in her speech thanked all members and requested Er. Bandita Phukan to carry out the responsibilities of President during her absence.

The Forum wishes a bright future for the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and former Chief Secretary of Assam Sri Jyoti Prasad Rajkhowa and First Lady of Arunachal Pradesh and President of WEFA Er. Rita Rajkhowa.

On 5th June, 2015, WEFA members celebrated **World Environment Day** by planting saplings of flowers and fruits at



Kasturba Seva Kendra, Saokuchi, Guwahati with co-operation of the staff present in the Seva Kendra. Afterwards a meeting was held in the Seva Kendra campus with the authorities and workers of Seva Kendra and the villagers present in the programme and discussed about the possibility of conducting vocational training such as Weaving and Tailoring by WEFA in the premises of the Seva Kendra to the interested women. Vice President Nayan Bhandari Sarma and authority of Seva Kendra agreed on principle but both suggested more discussion about the training. The meeting ended with a beautiful song sung by our member Dr. Mrinalini Das which made the celebration more meaningful.

6th Annual General meeting of WEFA:

WEFA held its 6th AGM at the conference hall of the Institute of Engineers under the presidentship of Er. Bandita Phukan on 27th June, 2015 at 4-30 PM. The meeting started with a Guru Vandana was



rendered by Er. Bijuli Goswami. Secretary, WEFA, read out the minutes of the last AGM held on 21st September, 2014 and approved by all members. Presentation of Annual Report of activities and Annual audited accounts were done by Secretary and Treasurer of the Forum respectively. WEFA song (chorus) was presented by WEFA members.

Members of WEFA discussed about the celebration of 6th Foundation Day and it was decided that a Souvenir will be published on the occasion. To conduct the celebration and Souvenir publication several committees were formed.

Vice President Bandita Phukan in her inspiring speech requested all members to work for the Forum and make the Foundation Day a grand success.

WEFA's endeavour to encourage meritorious but economically weak student.

On 30th June WEFA members went to Chandrapur High School and felicitated Sima Kalita who passed HSLC



Examination with 86% mark from this School and awarded financial assistance of Rs.3000/- (Rupees Three Thousand only). Daughter of a poor labourer Sima lost her mother at a very early age. But she surpassed all her difficulties and concentrated on her studies with the active help of the teachers of the School and thus came out of the School Leaving Examination with flying colours. It may be mentioned here that for the last two years WEFA had encouraged her to study and awarded financial assistance. Besides, the Vice President of WEFA and Secretary of Sarvodaya Trust, Er. Nayan Bhandari Sarma offered financial assistance for her studies on the same day. The team of WEFA comprising of Er. Nayan Bhandari Sarma, Vice President of WEFA, Er. Rekha Majumdar, Secretary WEFA Er. Indira Das, Treasurer Er. Labanya Padmapati Baruah and Er. Mridula Das went to Sima's house and met her family and discussed about her

future plans. WEFA made it clear that the Forum will help her with her studies in future also depending on her educational performance.

Indira Das

Secretary, WEFA.

Editorial

Summer season of past few years made us feel that temperature is increasing every year. With the change in pattern of rainfall led to change in climate. Based on 1971-2005 data, climatologists have reported that North East states of India bear significant brunt of global climate change phenomena. Climate change has dramatic impacts on natural resources, economic activities, food security, health and physical infrastructure. India is one of the countries that most strongly affected by climate change. The threat is especially great wherever people's livelihoods are particularly dependent on natural resources. In these vulnerable areas, climate adaptation measures are of central importance for the protection of rural livelihoods and for ensuring sustainable development.

Nestled in the Himalayas, the North Eastern Region of India comprises the 'Seven Sister States' of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura, plus the

'Brother' state of Sikkim. The region is a global biodiversity hotspot, as well as being home to many different ethnic groups with rich cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the environment.

Studies have shown that effect of climate change differ according to race, religion and gender. Climate change make women more vulnerable and expose them to greater risks than males. Understanding of climate change in South Africa is based mainly on experience and local knowledge, which is communicated orally. Women tend to hold more of this knowledge than men do because of their experience with farming and gardening. In response to drought, some women plant crops near [wetlands](#) or other water sources. They also preserve food for periods of drought or crop failure. Despite their knowledge of climate change, many responses in South Africa (like the South African Country Study on Climate Change Vulnerability & Adaptation Assessment) do not address gender.

The [Climate & Development Knowledge Network](#), Directed by Krishnendu Bose commissioned a film to be made on the impact of climate change women in India. The film looks at the way in which women, who make up two thirds of the farming workforce, are poorly represented in agricultural policy. It depicts the

challenges faced by rural women working in agricultural fields where drought and flooding is harming their livelihoods..

Various project activities for climate change started ranging from policy advice at the state level to direct community/micro level support and creation of partnership and networks in the region and beyond. Working with the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MoDoNER) at the national level, it supports the three North-Eastern states in their efforts to enhance the climate resilience of rural communities. The regional project partners are the State Planning Department in Meghalaya, the Nagaland Empowerment of People through Economic Development and the Department of Science, Technology and Climate Change in Sikkim. These project activities range from policy advice at the state level, to direct community level support and the creation of partnerships and networks in the region and beyond. Additionally, the project applies a range of human, institutional and societal capacity development measures:

- Preparation and assistance in implementing State Action Plans on Climate Change
- Drafting of a water policy in Meghalaya
- Spring-shed development and the preparation of village water

security plans in Tendong Hill region, Sikkim

- Support for the cultivation of indigenous rice varieties in Meghalaya and Nagaland
- Improvement of Eri silk production in Meghalaya
- A study on the regeneration, conservation and sustainable management of oak forests in Sikkim
- Inputs for the integrated management of land and water resources in the Upper Umiam River Basin, Meghalaya
- Breeding of indigenous fish species in Meghalaya
- Support for the compilation of climate change relevant data in Meghalaya
- Training and awareness raising on climate change, at government and community levels

Similar to other states, Assam is also in need of project & its execution in the same pattern for the betterment of rural people of Assam and women in particular.

At last I would like to conclude the editorial note with a prayer for eternal peace to the departed soul of our beloved ex-president of India “A.P.J Abdul Kalam” on behalf of the members of WEFA.

Bibha Das Saikia
Editor, WEFA

Memorable quotes by the scientist, author and former President Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam

- You have to dream before your dreams can come true.
- Excellence is a continuous process and not an accident.
- Life is a difficult game. You can



win it only by retaining your birthright to be a person.

- Man needs his difficulties because they are necessary to enjoy success.
- We will be remembered only if we give to our younger generation a prosperous and safe India, resulting out of economic prosperity coupled with civilization heritage.
- Those who cannot work with their hearts achieve but a hollow, half-hearted success that breeds bitterness all around.
- Educationists should build the capacities of the spirit of inquiry, creativity, entrepreneurial and moral leadership among students and become their role model.
- Look at the sky. We are not alone. The whole universe is friendly to us and conspires only to give the best to those who dream and work.
- If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are the father, the mother and the teacher.
- My message, especially to young people is to have courage to think differently, courage to invent, to travel the unexplored path, courage to discover the impossible and to conquer the problems and succeed. These are great qualities that they must work towards. This is my message to the young people.
