

## **RIGHT TO INFORMATION ON WHEELS**

### **A REPORT FROM JAINTIA HILLS DISTRICT**

Right to information got legal sanctity in the year 2005 with the enactment of the Right to Information Act 2005. With a view to create awareness about various aspects of the Act, the District Administration, Jaintia Hills District under the guidance of the Meghalaya Administrative Training Institute, Shillong and in co-ordination with different Departments/ NGOs and trained resource persons of the District, convened a meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2008 to chalk out programmes for undertaking an Awareness Campaign on Right to Information Act at different market places of the District. Accordingly, the programme for creating Awareness was duly chalked out and different Departments/ NGOs and trained resource persons were deputed and instructed to conduct the Awareness Campaign on RTI Act 2005, as per the following schedule:

<b>SL.NO.</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>VENUE</b>	<b>NAME OF RESOURCE PERSONS</b>
1	05-08-2008	Wahiajer Market	1. Smti R.Lyngdoh 2. Shri H.H.Mohrmen
2	06-08-2008	Nartiang Market	1. Dr. B.Plain 2. Dr. (Mrs) J.N.Shullai
3	07-08-2008	Iawmusiang Market (Jowai)	1. Dr. (Miss) N.Sutnga 2. Dr. (Mrs) J.N.Shullai 3. Smti I Rymbai 4. Shri O.R. Challam
4	08-08-2008	Shangpung Market	1. Dr. B.Plain 2. Shri K.D.Phawa
5	09-08-2008	Khliehriat Market	1. Shri S.C.Laloo 2. Shri S.Thyrniang
6	11-08-2008	Mookaiaw Market	1. Dr.(Miss) N.Sutnga 2. Shri R.Nongkhlaw
7	12-08-2008	Sutnga Market	1. Dr. B.Plain 2. Shri K.D.Phawa
8	13-08-2008	Rymbai Market	1. Smti R.Lyngdoh 2. Smti I.Rymbai 3. Shri O.R.Challam

9	14-08-2008	Raliang Market	1. Shri S.C.Laloo 2. Shri S.Thyrniang
10	16-08-2008	Dawki Market	1. Dr.(Miss) N.Sutnga 2. Shri R.Nongkhlaw 3. Shri B.Jarian
11	18-08-2008	Khanduli Market	1. Shri S.C.Laloo 2. Dr. (Mrs) J.N.Shullai 3. Shri K.D.Phawa
12	22-08-2008	Jarain Market	1. Dr.(Miss) N.Sutnga 2. Shri H.H.Mohrmen
13	23-08-2008	Iawmusiang Market (Jowai)	1. Smti R.Lyngdoh 2. Dr.(Miss) N.Sutnga 3. Smti I Rymbai 4. Shri O.R. Challam
14	25-08-2008	Iooksi Market	1. Smti R.Lyngdoh 2. Smti I Rymbai 3. Shri O.R. Challam
15	26-08-2008	Muktapur Market	1. Dr. (Miss) N.Sutnga 2. Dr. (Mrs) J.N.Shullai 3. Shri H.H.Mohrmen
16	30-08-2008	Umkiang Market	1. Dr. B.Plain 2. Dr.(Miss) N.Sutnga 3. Shri T. Sariang

To make the Campaign more fruitful and accessible to the common people especially those living in the interior rural areas of the District, the campaign was named RTI on Wheels Campaign. The Departmental vehicle of the Information and Public Relations Department was made the resource vehicle to carry out the campaign. Some of the highlights of the Campaign were:

1. Two songs in local dialect were composed and prepared highlighting the importance of the Act and urging the people to come forward and exercise their right.
2. Short street plays on RTI i.e.- TIP IEI HOK and KA HOK BAN TIP were also performed on each campaign days. The skits were the special attraction of the campaign and created lot of interest among the audience.

3. The RTI pamphlets and calendar issued by MATI were distributed to the public requesting them to go through the instructions stated therein.
4. The Resource Persons who were trained at MATI were pivotal to the campaign. During the campaign these resource persons highlighted the importance of the right to be informed of various aspect of the governance and also answered to the queries and doubts of public.

The response of the participants and the public was positive. The trained and experienced Resource Persons / NGOs deputed for the campaign played a vital role and made remarkable achievements in creating awareness on RTI Act 2005.

**ENCOURAGING SIGNS :**

1. People appreciated such initiative taken up by the District Administration to create mass awareness of the Act.
2. More programmes / Campaign required for the uncovered villages under this Act.
3. In Rural areas the participation of the people was very high especially during query session.

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