

Recording of 1st informal Webinar on June 14, 2020

Dear friends, it is not mine to be personally thankful about. But just because I was among many of us who casually brought up the idea of a research forum on the table for discussion, I would like to stand on behalf of all of us to formally thank each one of you for your huge presence and contribution to the virtual discussion.

Although virtual and physically far from each other, the ambience of the platform was very welcoming and warm, made possible by what each of you represent and bring forth as leaders with great heart, carisma and leadership. What a spectacular sight it was to see each other up so close!

Like many of you, I am very happy with the turn out and outcomes of the discussions.

We have left no stone unturned as far as issues of concerns go. And although many of you have not found a space to speak today, your presence itself speaks volumes about your humility and concern for the Church that is actually the glue, the cement, that binds all of us in an otherwise expansive region we all hail from, spanning seven/eight states. How beautiful this is and if we could continue to find more and more reasons to keep coming together like this even in the days ahead.

I once again thank Mr. Lokho Moses, the President of NECCOD for highlighting in very short time the key aspects of the shape, size and direction this fledgeling initiative could take, and for his blessings.

I thank the resource persons who came very well prepared and exhorted us on the most pertinent points covering almost every aspect and summing up the tasks at hand, and into the future.

Dr. Michael Lunmithang and myself Mr. James Pochury has been tasked in the short term to be Convenor and Co-Convenor to coordinate the initial plans in the first few weeks. And we humbly but steadfastly clasp and carry the relay baton to the next person(s) waiting in the wings.

The Consensus

1. That the idea of a Northeast Catholic Research Forum is important and urgent, hugely relevant and needs to be taken up.
2. The initiative of a Northeast Catholic Research Forum need to be Pan India
3. The Scope: While it may be too early to decide the extent of how far we could go in terms of issues and priorities we take up, we need to be flexible enough so that in future we are not limited and constrained by our mandate. Having said that, we would need to be mindful of the states and national boundaries within which we function in terms of jurisdiction and

administration and within that as active citizens playing different roles, in varying capacities and responsibilities. An all inclusive body would have to be flexible on several fronts. And with big plans like this come responsibility, accountability and sustainability of funds and resources.

Scope of possible activities:

1. Socio-cultural and economic activities
2. Spiritual aspects
3. Documentation of the outstanding work of the Catholic Church and communicating Dissemination (Communication) to the world at large.
4. Fill in the gap between laity and clergy/hierarchy, generally speaking as well in places like boardings and hostels where there is lack of understanding on the part of hostel/boarding incharge.
5. Action Research - Be Organic Creators to reclaim and occupy the space now occupied by Western Colonialist concepts influencing our thoughts and writings -
- Neoliberalisation - increasing migration to NE and Subaltern (marginalised social groups) perspectives.
6. by creating awareness and knowledge production through newsletters, workshops, seminars, journal publications, etc. and disseminating the same.
7. Building linkages and collaborative initiatives with existing Church Research bodies like Indian Social Institute (ISI) and those in the Northeast.
8. Resource Mobilisation to be discussed in the near future
9. Structure of the Northeast Research Forum to be discussed in due course over the weeks.
10. Frequency of Virtual Meetings would be once every fortnight.

Members will share their suggestions to Convenors Dr. Michael Lunminthang and Mr. James Pochury who will consolidate and share with all concerned.

Mr. Felix Jajo has kindly got the audio recording done and hope you are able to access it.

Thank you! Good Evening.

- **Dr. Michael**

- **Mr. James**

Interim Conveners