



The 6th eNorth East Award Summit 2016: A Report

Shillong, February 26, 2016:

The summit overview:

The 6th edition of the “eNorth East Award Summit 2016” concluded here in the North Eastern Council (NEC) Auditorium in Shillong on 26th February amidst a plethora of innovative offerings and knowledge interchange. One of the flagship events of North East Empowerment Foundation, each year this Digital Award platform sources the innovative digital initiatives from the North East region to recognise, honour and celebrate the success stories of best digital practices from the region. The entire process takes almost 6 months’ time for completion and the process is implemented phase by phase. The nominations of applications/projects/initiatives are sought from across the North East region that has substantially contributed towards building up of a viable knowledge capital with a far-reaching socio-economic impact in the society. The end-result is, a good number of organisations, both government and private nominate their projects to enter the e-Award competitions, which are screened by the jury and the eligible ones are identified as finalists. This year the winners and special mentions were selected on the spot after the jury viewed all the presentations of the finalists. A total of 10 digital innovations were selected as winners and 9 innovations as special mentions for the year 2016 in 14 different categories.

The summit proceedings:

This day-long Award Summit was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Shri Ram Muivah, Secretary, North Eastern Council in the presence of Shri R M Mishra, Principal Secretary, Planning, Development Commissioner and CEO, Meghalaya Basin Development Authority, and Shri. D. P. Wahlang, Commissioner & Secretary, Information Technology, Meghalaya.



The Chief Guest and the Guest-of-Honours encouraged and praised the initiatives of NE digital innovators for taking IT/ICT and its uses so seriously by providing remedial solutions for some cutthroat problems faced by the development practitioners of the region. In the same breath, the dignitaries also commended the efforts of the organisers for facilitating a networking platform to the digital innovators from the region, thereby, enabling them to showcase their 'best practices' before a distinguished audience.

There were 65 finalists for the year 2016 in 14 categories which included e-Governance & Citizen Services Delivery, e-Health, e-Learning & Education, e-Commerce & Business, e-Livelihood & Enterprise, e-News & Media, Social Media for Empowerment and Mobiles for Services Delivery. The finalists represented all the 8 north eastern states and from rest of India whose work has been



based in North East using digital applications, platforms and solutions. The finalists presented their innovations and work in front of the 3 different jury expert panels in 3 different technical sessions to compete for the winner and special mention positions for the year 2016.

The Dignitaries:

The Chief Guest, Dr. C. Lyngdoh, MLA and Parliamentary Secretary, Agriculture, Food and Civil Supplies, felicitated the winners and special mentions along with other dignitaries, which included Shri G. K Chin, Financial Advisor, North Eastern Council, Shri Rajesh Verma, Former IT Secretary, Sikkim, Prof. Basav Roychoudhury, IIM Shillong, Dr. Charu Malhotra, Indian Institute of Public Administration, Dr. Monica Banerjee, Director, National Foundation for India, Shri Amitabh Singhal, Board Member, Public Interest Registry, Shri Ebenezer Lyngwah, Head Consultant, DIT, Meghalaya, Dr. Shailendra Choudhury, Director, Administration and S&T, North Eastern Council, Moushumi Dey, Doordarshan Kendra, Shillong, and Sanjeev Sarma, Joint Secretary, NEICTA.



The Winners and Special Mentions:

The 10 winners of the 6th eNorth East Award for digital innovations in North East India included – Nagaland Police SMS based Vehicle Monitoring System (Nagaland Police); Meghalaya State Agriculture Marketing Portal (Directorate of Horticulture, Meghalaya); ICT Solutions including Real Time Monitoring using Mobile Phones to address Health system Gaps in Assam (UNICEF); Design and Delivery of e-Education in Health & Medical Sciences to the Medical Colleges of North East Region (CDAC NOIDA and All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi); Xondhan.com (Assam); Virthli.in (Meghalaya); e-Auction System for North Eastern States (CDAC, Kolkata and NERAMAC, Meghalaya); Design and Development of Bio-resource Database for India region of Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot (Institute of Bio-resource & Sustainable Development, Dept. of Biotechnology, Govt. of India, Manipur Centre); Online Approvals and Sanctions Information System (OASIS) of the North Eastern Council and NIC Meghalaya; and Brahmaputra Community Radio Station.

Among the 9 Special Mentions included – Giskaa.com (Manipur); Cooperative Core-Banking Solutions for the Meghalaya Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd; Arunachal Mobile Sewa for Citizen Services (State Council of ITE & e-Governance, Arunachal Pradesh) and Sahityarathi.com (Assam). Data Dizitization - using Mobile Tablets, Demi Solutions, Sikkim etc.

The Summit Organisers:

The 6th eNorth East Award Summit 2016 was organised by the North East Development Foundation, Digital Empowerment Foundation, Impulse NGO Network, and Meghalaya Information Technology Society (Dept. of IT, Meghalaya) and supported by the North Eastern Council.

6th eNorth East Award Theme:

The theme of the 6th e-North East Award Summit is “Digital North East for Digital India” in keeping with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Digital India campaign.

The Summit Objective:

There are plenty of digital innovations happening in the North East region, with the coming-of-age bright entrepreneurial minds, putting together brilliant ideas for implementation in the region and ensuring a technical facelift to the development process of North East India. The e-north East Award Summit is a first-of-its-kind flagship event of North East Development Foundation (NEDF), a unit of Digital Empowerment Foundation



(DEF), New Delhi. North East Development Foundation (NEDF) has created the e-North East Award platform in 2010 as an effort to mainstream the North East region by bringing its progressive digital initiatives to the national and international focus as well. Therefore, to encourage and recognize the invaluable ICT/IT initiatives of the region, nominations are generally invited from the techpreneurs, various government departments, start-ups and innovating individuals for showcasing their projects in the e-North East Award Summit in the following categories: i) e-Governance and Citizen Services Delivery, ii) e-Livelihood, Enterprise, Commerce and Business, iii) e-Environment and Tourism, iv) e-Learning and Education, v) e-Cultural and Heritage, vii) e-Financial Inclusion, viii) e-News, Media and Entertainment, ix) e-Inclusion and x) e-Health xi) Mobiles for Service Delivery xii) Social Media for Empowerment. These initiatives are screened by a jury panel of industry and academic experts, which in turn select the Winners and Special Mentions. This e-Award platform is one of the knowledge-sharing and knowledge-networking platforms for the innovators, government and the stakeholders to formulate pro-people policies and influence government decision-making for a sustainable vibrant digital eco-system in North East region. The first five editions of eNorth East Award & Summit were held in – Guwahati, Assam (2010); Kohima, Nagaland (2011); Gangtok, Sikkim (2012) ; Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh, 2013); and Aizawl (Mizoram in 2014) respectively. In each edition the Award platform has collaborated with respective State IT Departments as host partner and organizer to achieve bigger outcome and output from the programme efforts.

Impact and outcome of the Summit:

The 6th eNorth East Award created a very positive impact and outcome not only among the participants but also among various stakeholders who want to keep themselves updated about the progress of the region. As many as 250 people participated in the Award Summit. Since its inception in 2010, many innovators awarded in the eNorth East Award Summit, got connected with wider social platforms like Manthan Awards, Mbillionth etc. organized by DEF. The innovators, whose “best practices” are acknowledged by the eNorth East Award platform, have carved a niche for themselves till date. Some innovations such as www.sakori.org, a job portal from Guwahati, **assamese cuisine.com**, a food website from Assam, **xomidhan.com**, an Assamese career counselling portal, **Dealer Point Registration**, an online service application from Meghalaya, **Meghalaya e-Governance Core Infrastructure and e-Service Delivery project** are some of the past winners, which have come a long way in terms of brand popularity and image makeover in the North East region. Even other innovations without any award, are also going places and doing brisk business through the eNorth East platform by sheer networking and business collaboration with like-minded partners. One such instance is a Project titled, **“E-Tendering/e-Procurement system for Govt. of Assam/Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya”**, an online innovation by Nexprocure/NPX, Nextenders. In the 6th eNorth East Award Summit,



frank and informal interaction between the stakeholders (both government and private) laid bare the most challenging issue of fund mobilization for the innovators of North East region. Along with this problem, solutions came to light when North Eastern Council (NEC), a stakeholder and supporter of this mega event proposed to work closely with the organizers to push ahead the mandate and requirements of the eNorth East Award Secretariat. NEC has also announced a cash award in the forthcoming eNorth East Award Summits to be held in the future. This declaration has generated lot of positive synergy and geared up the youths and entrepreneurs to work on more ICT innovations as evident from the feedback received by the eNorth East Award Secretariat.







Organisers

