

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF STATE HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL: MIZORAM

VENUE: Directorate of Higher and Technical Education Conference Room

31st.7. 2014 (1:00PM)

Chairman: Pu R.Romawia, Hon'ble Minister, H&TE and Chairman, SHEC

Members present:

1. Pu R Romawia, Minister, H&TE, Chairman, SHEC
2. Pu H Zothangliana, Parliamentary Secretary, H&TE, Vice Chairman SHEC
3. Dr K L Pradhan, member Secretary, SHEC
4. Pu K Lalnghinglova, Commissioner, H&TE
5. Dr L N Tluangi, Director, H&TE
6. Pu Zochungnunga, Former Director, H&TE
7. Prof. Vanlalchhawna, Dept. of Economics, MZU
8. Pu Zoremthanga, MCTA
9. Pu Lalthanzara, Mizo Academy of Science
10. Dr Lalchungnunga, Chairman, MBSE
11. Dr Vanlalhruaii, Principal, IASE
12. Prof. Sangkima, Former Principal, Govt. Aizawl College
13. Pu H Vanlalkeua, Former Joint. Director, H&TE
14. Pu K Lalhmingthanga, President, Mizoram Chamber of Industries and Commerce.
15. Dr. Lalthanzara, Mizo Academy of Science.

Invitees:

16. Pu Khuangkunga, Jt. Secretary, H&TE and Taxation, (Special Invitee)
17. Dr. Zarzoliana, Joint State Project Director (RUSA)
18. Pu Lalkanglova Sailo, Finance Officer, H&TE (RUSA)

Members absent with apology:

1. Prof. R.P.Tiwari, Dett. Of Geology, Mizoram University.
2. Dr. Tawnenga, Principal, Pachhunga University College.
3. Mr. Lalbiakzuala, President, Central Young Mizo Association

4. Prof. R. Sharma, Deptt. Of Bio-Chemistry, NEHU, Shillong. He could not attend the Council Meeting due to late received of the letter.

The meeting began with welcome address from Pu R.Romawia, Hon'ble Minister H&TE and Chairman of the SHEC. He explained how the State Higher Education Council was evolved and expressed his gratitude to the members for having accepted their appointments. He informed the members of the Council of the various reasons why some members were not able to attend the meeting and gave a brief account of the significance of the first meeting of the Council stressing on the importance of education as a whole and highlighted that financial problems are the biggest obstacles for uplifting education in the state. He further mentioned the significant roles played by SSA and RMSA towards development of education at the elementary and secondary levels of education and how RUSA could also play its part in the higher level of education. He reported how the council has been set up which is the prerequisite for RUSA and said that the meeting is greatly necessary and important.

He then invited all members to give self-introduction.

After a round of self-introduction, the Chairman invited Dr K L Pradhan Member Secretary SHEC to give a report on the activities performed so far towards implementation of RUSA in the state.

- 1. Member Secretary's Report:** The Member Secretary after expressing due respect to all members present commenced his report with the measures taken by the Department of Higher & Technical Education / the State Government. Way back in January 2013, the Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India has communicated to the Chief Secretary, Mizoram to examine the content of newly proposed Centrally Sponsored Scheme – RUSA. The Directorate of Higher & Technical Education has submitted to the Government a brief note on RUSA Scheme with explanation on 30th January 2013 as:

RUSA funding pattern: 90:10 Centre; State Northern States & Jammu and Kashmir, etc.

Goal: to achieve the target of Gross enrolment Ration of 30% for the age group 18-23 by 2020 and to improve the overall quality of the State Higher Education etc.

Scope: The project will support all the States University and Colleges (Both 12B and 2F and non 12B and 2F) from all states & UT across the Countries.

Approach: Funding the institution would be under a few key components, The yardstick for deciding the quantum of the funds for the states and institution will be the norms that would reflect the key result areas (ACCESS, EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE),

Prerequisites for eligibility for RUSA funding:

- Creation of State Higher Education Council.
- Creation of State Accreditation Council/
- Preparation of State Perspective Plans
- Commitment of certain stipulated share of fund by the State towards RUSA.
- Academic, sectoral and institutional governance Reforms
- Filling Faculty positions

Under the Scheme an initial preparatory amount will be proved to the State government to prepare them for complying with the priority requirements.

On 4th February 2013, the then Director has move to the Government of Mizoram for Creation of State Higher Education Council. On the basis of the letter, Government has constituted State Higher Education Council on 11th September 2013 with Commissioner & Secretary Higher & Technical Education as Chairman and 15 members (vide No. B.13017/5/2013-HTE dated 11 Sept. 2013

Meanwhile, I was attached to the Directorate HTE from the Govt. Aizawl College to take up the issues of RUSA Scheme. On 7th & 8th October 2013 I was detailed to attend the two days Workshop on RUSA in New Delhi. On 8th October, I met the Director, RUSA Mission and appraised the State willingness to participate in the RUSA Scheme. Since Mizoram was one of the poll bound state, the matter shall be considered only after the formation of new Government. Yet, he has given me the RUSA Document, Undertaking and Checklist forms, which was submitted to the Government for necessary action.

After returning from New Delhi, letter has been sent to all institutions under Govt. to submit Annexure 4. Institutional Plan Template (Institutional Basic Information and Institutional Development Proposal) on 13 Nov. 2013.

On 27 Nov. 2013 briefing on RUSA conducted with Jt. Director i/c RUSA as Resource person. Institutions were asked to prepare IDP and

submission completed in March 2014. The clarifications were given to the query made by the members. Collection of Census data, other relevant data, compilation, tabulation and refinement of Institutional data are carried out side by side.

On 5th December, a meeting was held at the office chamber of Commissioner & Secretary, H&TE to discuss the issue of reconstitution of State Higher Education Council. The meeting formed a Selection Committee for SHEC with following members ; Chairman – Prof. A.N.Rai, (Former V.C. of MZU/NEHU) Member Secretary – Dr. K.L.Pradhan Joint Director (RUSA), Dr. L.N.Tluanga (former Director of Education, Pu Denghnuna IAS (Rtd. Former Secretary H&TE) and Pu Zochungnunga (Former Director of H&TE). Due to unavoidable circumstances on the part of the Chairman (designated) the Selection Committee meeting was held on 31st January 2013. On the same day recommendation members for SHEC was submitted to the Government for approval.

In January 2014, Dr. Zarzoliana, Associate Professor from Hrangbana was attached to the Directorate as OSD (RUSA). On 17/18 February, Consultation On RUSA was organized by TISS at Guwahati was attended by the Officials of H&TE and Principals

Selection of Project to be undertaken: The programmatic and financial norms of RUSA for the 12th Plan contain **18- Components**. On 4th March 2014, the meeting of Officials of Higher & Technical Education Department, Mizoram in the office Chamber of Hon'ble Higher & Technical Education has tentatively selected the various projects that can be undertaken by Mizoram during the 12th Plan period for its State's Higher Education Plan. However, the selection is still subject to change. The selected project components are:-

- 1) Creation of 1(one) University by Conversion of four Colleges.
- 2) Up gradation of existing degree Colleges to Model Degree Colleges (all located in EBD and non EBD in Aizawl District)
- 3) Creation of New Colleges (Professional) viz. Engineering College, Institute of Fashion Technology, Professional Oriented Degree Commerce College, School of Foreign Languages, College of Sports and Physical Education

- 4) Infrastructural Grants to various Colleges
- 5) Research Innovation and Quality Improvement for select Institutions
- 6) Equity Initiatives for all the existing Colleges and Institutions
- 7) Faculty Recruitment Support to achieve RUSA target STR 15:1
- 8) Introduction of various vocational courses most relevant to the State under Vocationalization of Higher Education
- 9) Leadership Development of Educational Administrators
- 10) Institutional Restructuring and Reforms
- 11) Capacity building and Preparation, Data Capturing and Planning
- 12) Management Information System
- 13) Up-gradation of two existing Polytechnics and CDTP for one Polytechnic
- 14) Management Monitoring, Evaluation and Research (MMER).

State Project Directorate: RUSA State Project Directorate was created vide Memo No.B.13017/8/2-14-HTE dated 31 March 2014 with three Officials.

Lifting of ban on recruitment: Lifting of ban for Creation and filling up of post purely for RUSA was issued by Finance Department Govt. of Mizoram under No.A.28022/1/2010- F.Est, dated 20th March 2014. Fresh Check-Lists and Undertaking was faxed to MHRD for consideration.

Letter sent to all institutions under Govt. to submit Annexure 4. Institutional Plan Template (Institutional Basic Information and Institutional Development Proposal) on 13 Nov. 2013.

On 12th March 2014, three officials, Commissioner & Secretary, H&TE, Joint Director (RUSA) and OSD (RUSA) attended the Third Project Approval Board of MHRD at New Delhi. Towards the end of the session, the sanction order for release of Preparatory Grants from RUSA was handed over to us.

State Project Directorate: RUSA State Project Directorate was created vide Memo No.B.13017/8/2-14-HTE dated 31 March 2014 with following Officials

State Project Director (RUSA) : Commissioner & Secretary, H&TE
Additional Project Director : Dr. K.L.Pradhan, Joint Director (RUSA)
Deputy Project Director. : Dr. Zarzoliana, OSD (RUSA)
Finance Officer : Pu Lalkanglova Sailo (w.e.f. 15th July 2014)

Lifting of ban on recruitment: One of the important prerequisite - Lifting of ban for Creation and filling up of post purely for RUSA was issued on 20th March 2014 No.A.28022/1/2010-F.Est, by Government of Mizoram Finance Department.

Selection of Consultancy Firm: On 19th March 2014, the Government has issued a notification calling for Expression of Interest from reputed empanelled firms for RUSA Projects. Since the numbers of applicants were less than the prescribed norms, a fresh Expression of Interest was floated again on 25th March 2014. The final selection of Consultancy firm was held on 5th May 2014 at the Office chamber of Commissioner & Secretary, H&TE and selected M/s Mizoram Technocrats Company (P) Ltd. To undertake the RUSA projects a MOU was prepared and submitted to the Government for approval.

State Higher Education Council was constituted by executive order VideNo.B.13017/5/2013-HTE dated 11 Sept. 2013. However, as it was not in line with RUSA Guidelines it was reconstituted and Notification issued on 13th May 2014 Vide No.B.13017/5/2013-HTE , Dated 13th May 2014. It consists of 3 Office Bearers and 18 Members including representative of MHRD, 3-Eminent Scholars from outside Mizoram.

As per RUSA document, the Council must be converted into statutory body by Act of State Legislature within two years.

Cabinet Approval of RUSA Scheme. A Memorandum was prepared and submitted by Department to the Political and Cabinet Department vide letter No. B.131017/11/2012-HTE dated 25th June 2014 for approval of RUSA Scheme by the Council of Ministers.

Budget Allocation of Fund. The amount sanctioned i.e. Preparatory Grants by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) amounting to Rs. 2.70 Crore Central Share and Fund allocation for Preparatory Grants with

appropriate heads of accounts have been approved by Finance Department, Government of Mizoram as under:

- 2202 - General Education**
03 - University & Higher Education
103 - Govt. Colleges & Institutions
05 - Rastriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)/CSS
00 -
(32) - Grants-in-Aid General- Non Salary.

The State is in the process of releasing Preparatory Grant matching contribution amounting Rs. 30 lakhs. Planning Department requested the Department to meet this matching contribution from the existing budget of the Department.

RUSA Bank account at IDBI in the name of State Project Directorate RUSA was opened as with two signatories 1) State Project Director (RUSA) and Member Secretary SHEC follows;

Sno.	IDBI Bank Required informations	IDBI Bank Required information/details
1	Name of Account Holder	STATE PROJECT DIRECTORATE RUSA
2	Account No.	0159102000003223
3	Account opening date	4 th of July, 2014
4	Type of Bank account	CURRENT
5	Bank Name	IDBI BANK
6	Bank name with branch address	IDBI BANK, AIZAWL BRANCH, H.No. E-16, LALTHUAMA & SONS BUILDING, CHANMARI, RAMHLUN ROAD, CHANMARI, AIZAWL, MIZORAM, PIN- 796007
7	Branch Code	159
8	IFS Code	IBKL0000159
9	MICR Code	796259002
10	Bank contact details	Landline no.-0389-2305445 (Branch Manager) & 2305481/82 (; Mobile- 8415902997; FAX no. 0389-2325791

and release of State matching contribution is under active process.

Preparation of State Higher Education Plan (SHEP) was undertaken from the beginning of June 2014. Consultancy firm was asked to depute its

experts to help in preparation of SHEP in collaboration with Officials of RUSA Project Directorate of the State.

On 26th June 2014, a stakeholder meeting of the Principals was organized in the Conference Hall of Directorate Higher & Technical Education, under the Chairmanship of Commissioner & Secretary, H &TE Department. The Chairman & the Vice-Chairman of the Council also joined the meeting. The first session of the conference was devoted for Consultation on RUSA Scheme and sharing of problems and challenges specific to individual Colleges and their expectations from RUSA Scheme.

The preparation of State Higher Education Plan in Data Capturing Format (DFC) details is now completed and placed before you for discussion and approval for onward submission to the Ministry of Human Resource Development

- 2. MIZORAM STATE HIGHER EDUCATION PLAN:** The State Project Director- cum- Commissioner and Secretary, H&TE, Pu K. Lalnghinglova pointed out that the plan being discussed is still in its draft stage. He explained briefly the various components of the plan and cited one example, opening of NIFT in Mizoram, which shall generate employment opportunities to the young generation. He further mentioned that considering the enthusiasm of the people of Mizoram in Sports, opening of Sports College would be a positive step to promote the untapped talents of the youth of the state. He also made query whether it would be more appropriate to open a separate School of Foreign Language or to put one at already existing institution since this would benefit to those youth who seek opportunities for employment in other countries and also to guide foreign visitors in the state in the years to come.

The chairman invited members to raise questions and queries and discussion followed.

Pu Zochungnunga enquired about availability of funds under RUSA which was clarified by Dr K L Pradhan by stating that the fund cannot yet be utilized and necessary financial assistance is pulled from other sources. He further said in spite of vigorous search of office accommodation for RUSA it has been going on without much success. He acknowledged Pu Khuangkunga

for the efforts he has put in towards the process of implementation of RUSA scheme and his expertise in Official procedures.

Dr Lalchungnunga enquired how the State's share in 90:10 funding pattern could be met by the state. This was clarified by Pu Khuangkunga, Jt. Secretary by mentioning the setting up of 'Commitment of certain stipulated share of fund by the State towards RUSA', a prerequisite for RUSA funding. Dr K L Pradhan stated that as per RUSA Guidelines, State is free to raise 50% of the State matching share through different sources such as MPLADS, MLALADS, Viability Gap Funding from DoNER, Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).etc. He also apprised the Council Members that the State has to commit 4% of GSDP for Higher Education. He continued that in 10 to 20 years, Mizoram may need a State University like other North-Eastern states such as Meghalaya which has more than one State Universities. In relation to 'Up-gradation of existing Colleges to Model Degree College', 7 Colleges all located in EBDs of the 11th Plan and four Colleges in Aizawl District have been identified such as, Govt. Mamit College, Govt. Kolasib College, Govt. Champhai College, Govt. J.Buana College, Govt. Serchhip College, Govt. Lawngtlai College, Govt Saiha College, Govt. Zirtiri Residential Science College, Govt. Aizawl College, Govt. Hrangbana College and Govt. J Thankima College: that the plan also includes setting up of Engineering College in Lunglei, Sports College at Thenzawl, etc.

Pu Zochungnunga mentioned that the plan looked too ambitious and suggested that strengthening of existing funding agencies would be better rather than being too ambitious on preparing plans.

Pu H Vanlalkeua mentioned the suggestion made about amalgamation of colleges in 2006, which looked relevant at the time, that, it may not seem feasible today with the changeover to semester system and suggested that instead opening more colleges by the government which the government cannot maintain properly, the Churches should rather be encouraged to open new colleges.

Prof. Vanlalchhawna highlighted that Mizoram University cannot provide seats for all candidates, that cluster of colleges may be necessary soon but cautioned that the aim should not be too high initially. He further pointed out that the fund released by the MHRD for RUSA scheme shall be

as per RUSA guidelines and deposit in the name of State Higher Education Council account not State Project Directorate RUSA.

Dr Vanlalhruaii reminded the members that AISE is the only Teacher Education Institution in the state but that the plan does not give special provision for Teacher Education and requested the meeting to help meet the desire of AISE to become a deemed University since they have plans on opening Masters and PhD courses within 2-3 years.

Dr K L Pradhan clarified that the plan has been prepared as per the programmatic and financial norms of RUSA Scheme for the 12th plan only and highlighted the various plans such as Infrastructure plan for each college; he also highlighted the inclusion of vocationalization of Colleges citing an example such as introduction of Sericulture in colleges so students taking vocational subjects in class XII will no longer feel left out; that plans such as introduction of foreign language at Govt Aiaawl College, Information Technology at Zirtiri Residential Science College etc., that the students get their certificates in vocational subjects along with their Under Graduate Certificates.

Prof Vanlalchhawna enquired if these identified colleges would prepare their own Detail Project Report. This was clarified by Dr K L Pradhan that Colleges themselves by submission of Institutional Development Proposal (IDP) have indicated their critical needs and interests and accordingly funds were applied for them limiting to the financial and programmatic norms of RUSA Scheme. Preparation of DPR would be done from RUSA State Resource Centre and not the colleges.

Pu K Lalhmingthanga suggested that the Council has to be very cautious in making decisions; that agenda has to reach the members at least 15 days in advance so that there would be more time for preparation before the actual meeting.

Joining Prof. Vanlalchhawna, who had earlier pointed out that the fund released by the MHRD for RUSA scheme shall be as per RUSA guidelines and deposit in the name of State Higher Education Council account not State Project Directorate RUSA, Pu Zothangliana, Vice- Chairman, SHEC proposed to resolve that RUSA account should be opened in the name of SHEC. A short discussion was followed by the resolution.

2.1 RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL: *The Council members unanimously resolved that RUSA account should be renamed/opened in the name of SHEC.*

Pu H. Zothangliana, Vice- Chairman, SHEC further discussed that the conditions to be fulfilled by Colleges to be converted into university as per RUSA Guidelines seem to be above the quality of the proposed colleges. He also pointed out that the recurring expenditure to be borne by the state in future seems to be very big and asked the members of the council to exercise their expertise to examine the pros and cons and feasibility of the proposed creation of university by conversion of the four Colleges.

Pu Zochungnunga highlighted that many colleges in Aizawl operate in crowded areas that cluster of colleges at Aibawk may sound appropriate but that it may not be practical for now. However, he further stated that owning a land is crucial since every RUSA project is based on availability of land.

Prof Vanlalchhawna questioned on the concept of ‘Cluster of colleges’. Discussion followed on this topic. Dr Lalchungnunga shared his experience at Serampore College and suggested that faculty from different colleges come to take classes at the proposed State University.

Discussion followed on how college faculty could be uplifted to hold Principal posts in colleges. That the only obstacle to become full fledged principal is that college faculty having PhD cannot become guides to PhD scholars.

Pu Lalthanzara enquired if a M.Sc. (Environmental Science) could be employed to teach in colleges and why more funds are not proposed for science. This was clarified by Dr K L Pradhan that it is not feasible to take EVS teacher in colleges because this is taught only in the IVth semester; that it is not possible to put more funds for science since it is not given in the RUSA guidelines, that amount is fixed from RUSA and that no change can be made.

Dr Vanlalhruii approved owning a land at Aibawk and the plan made on utilizing it.

Pu J. H Zoremthanga stated that many students hesitate to go to colleges outside Aizawl because of lack of good hostel facilities as many do

not have relatives to stay with, thus approving upliftment of existing colleges in outside Aizawl.

Prof. Sangkima reminded the members that the aim of RUSA is to have 30% GER to higher education by 2020. If Higher education is not given its due importance, there will not be development. He stressed the importance of more involvement of the state government in higher education emphasizing the importance of opening a State University and having college faculty as research guides to PhD scholars.

More discussion followed on college teachers becoming guides to PhD scholars.

Dr Lalchungnunga stated that Aibawk land should go on as planned. The Chairman then discussed the value of education and the financial problems involved. However those involved in the field could do their best so as to achieve a better quality. He stated that it would take time for Mizoram to have a State University but eventually hoped that one day there would be a comparison between Mizoram State University and the existing Mizoram University.

2.2 RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL: *In view of the growing significance of providing access to Post-Graduate Studies, Creation of University at Aibawk by Conversion of four Colleges in a cluster and by pooling their resources was approved. The under graduate courses in those four Colleges need not be closed down and shall continue to function as under graduate colleges in their respective areas.*

Pu H. Zothangliana, Vice-Chairman, SHEC highlighted briefly that it is RUSA that could bring new light to Higher Education in Mizoram. He thanked all members for their expertise, for giving a lot of thoughts to development of Higher Education in Mizoram. He mentioned that budget allocation is a very important issue and that it is very much necessary to have higher plan allocation, encouraging all members involved in education to work even harder for development of higher education in Mizoram.

2.3 RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL: *After detailed discussions and clarification of doubts, the State Higher Education Plan in DCF details was*

approved as it is for submission to MHRD, RUSA Resource Centre for critical examination and appraisal.

The Chairman invited Pu H. Zothangliana, Vice-Chairman, SHEC to propose vote of thanks.

The meeting was concluded by the Chairman at around 3:55 pm.

Sd/- 31.7.2014

(H. ZOTHANGLIANA)
Vice-Chairman
State Higher Education Council

Sd/- 31.7.2014

(R.ROMAWIA)
Chairman
State Higher Education Council

Sd/- 31.7.2014

(DR. K.L PRADAHAN)
Member Secretary
State Higher Education Council