

**SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
ON
LAND ACQUISITION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITATION CENTER – ENTRY AND
EXIT POINT
IN
UMKYRPONG VILLAGE, EAST JAINTIA HILLS DISTRICT**



सत्यमेव जयते

Meghalaya Institute of Governance (MIG)
Lumpyngad Cottage, Bishop Cotton Road, Shillong- 793001
Phone No.: 0364-2505977, Email: migshillong@gmail.com

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ABOUT MEGHALAYA INSTITUTE OF GOVERNANCE

The Meghalaya Institute of Governance was created as one of the institutional support mechanism of the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority with a vision to explore, share and promote good governance in Meghalaya by assisting the government, private sector, the voluntary sector and the communities in putting good governance into practice.

In exercise of powers conferred by the Sub Section (1) of Section 4 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (No. 30 of 2013), the Government of Meghalaya had notified the Meghalaya Institute of Governance as the State Social Impact Assessment Unit for carrying out Social Impact Assessment Study.

The Social Impact Assessment Team is as follows:

- 1) Shri. A.B.S. Swer, OSD, MIG (Team leader)
- 2) Smt. Ibakordor Dohling (Assistant Manager, training)
- 3) Smt. Naphisha B. Kharkongor (Programme Associate, Research)
- 4) Shri. Spainlang Lyngdoh (Programme Associate)
- 5) Shri. Wanrapbok Syiemlieh (Programme Associate)
- 6) Smt. Carielyne Kharsyntiew (Intern)
- 7) Smt. Biloris Malngiang (Programme Associate)
- 8) Smt. Beautiqueen Shylla (Research Associate)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Meghalaya Institute of Governance had carried out a Social Impact Assessment Study for the setting up of Facilitation Centre - Entry and Exit point at Umkyrpong Village. The objective of this study is to identify the likely impacts which may result from the proposed project.

The concept of a Facilitation Centre – Entry and Exit Point came up as a concession to the demands of local pressure groups to set up the Inner Line Permit to check on the entry of unwanted elements into the state. The Facilitation Centre – Entry and Exit Point was proposed to be set up in all sensitive areas of the state to address the issues of unauthorized immigration into the state, illegal flow of trades and goods, criminal activities, etc. The Facilitation Centre- Entry and Exit Point proposed by the State Government of Meghalaya aims to address these issues by preventing unlawful entries into the State and to facilitate the legal flow of people, goods and vehicles into the State.

The Facilitation Centre - Entry and Exit Point is proposed to be set up in Umkyrpong village which falls under the Saipung Block, East Jaintia Hills District. The proposed project site within Umkyrpong is located in Lapatang locality which is at a distance of about 3 km from the homestead area of Umkyrpong. The village is a tribal area which borders Assam and is about 36.2 Km from the district headquarter of Khliehriat. According to the 2011 census, the village has a total population of 613 people with 300 males and 313 females. The village has a total number of 140 households. The occupational status of the people in the village is mainly agriculture. The literacy rate among the people is very low. The socio economic survey of the respondents shows that a majority are farmers with little or no educational qualifications. Their annual income is less than Rs. 20,000/-.

The research methods adopted for this study was qualitative wherein the primary data was collected from the respondents by using research tools like reconnaissance survey, interview with the Village Authority, focus group discussion, questionnaire and public hearing etc. The secondary data was collected from the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Revenue Branch, Khliehriat. Data analysis and interpretation shows that some of the people from Meghalaya carry out smooth economic activity in Assam. They have to pay an amount of Rs. 1500/- per annum for use of this land. The residents of Umkyrpong fear theft, threats from militant groups and haphazard illegal fishing, blast fishing or dynamite fishing.

In terms of setting up a Facilitation Centre – Entry and Exit Point at Umkyrpong, the respondents are of the opinion that after the construction has been completed there would be retaliation by the Government of Assam. The Government of Assam might set up a similar check on the entry of people into their state and this may have adverse effects on the people of Meghalaya farming there. However, a majority of the respondents feel that the setting up of a Facilitation Centre - Entry and Exit Point will bring no change in the relationship between the people of two States; no effect on the community way of living and will further improve the safety of the people in the village.

During the Public Hearing, held on the 15th of June, 2016 the residents of the village could not reach a consensus on the setting up of a Facilitation Centre – Entry and Exit Point. The local MDC objected to the project saying that further study was needed before any approval can be given.

Outline of the report:

Chapter 1: Introduction: This section describes the background, needs and objectives for the proposed construction of a Facilitation Centre.

Chapter 2: Description of Project: This section describes the project details, location of project area, maps etc. for the setting up of Facilitation Centre.

Chapter 3: Research Methodology: This section describes the approaches adopted by the Social Impact Assessment Team for data collection. The approach for the study is a qualitative study.

Chapter 4: Demographic Profile of the Village: This section describes the brief demographic profile of the villages and draw out the anticipated impact likely to come up from the proposed project.

Chapter 5: Description of Project Area: This section will describe the project area to be acquired for the purpose of the project

Chapter 6: Anticipated Project Impact: This section shall describe the anticipated project impacts which the Research Team witnessed during the Reconnaissance Survey.

Chapter 7: Data Interpretation and Analysis: This section describes the data which has been collected and analysed from the field. Mitigation measure has been drawn out to address the likely impact to be incurred from the said construction project.

Chapter 8: Public Consultation: As part of the Social Impact Assessment Study, a public hearing was held to discuss the findings of the Research Team. This chapter is a detailed summary of the events.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

The border problem between Assam and Meghalaya has persisted for decades now. It first started when Meghalaya challenged the Assam Reorganisation Act of 1971, which bestowed Blocks I and II of the Mikir Hills to Assam (presently, the Karbi Anglong District). Meghalaya contends that both these blocks formed part of the erstwhile United Khasi and Jaintia Hills District when it was created in 1835. At present there are 12 points of dispute along the 733 kilometre Assam-Meghalaya border.

Non-Governmental Organisations and pressure groups from Meghalaya have demanded mechanisms to curb influx into the state and have proposed the implementation of Inner Line Permit in the State to protect and address the demography, identity and national security of the State.

In lieu of the implementation of the Inner Line Permit in the state, the Government of Meghalaya has proposed the setting up of Facilitation Centre cum Entry and Exit Point in border areas to check the movement of people into and out of the state; it aims to prevent illegal immigration and check anti-national activities from across the border.

Land to be acquired for this project has been identified in Lapatang locality of Umkyrpong by the Revenue Branch of the Office of the District Commissioner, East Jaintia Hills District. The Meghalaya Institute of Governance has been notified as the Social Impact assessment (SIA) Unit for conducting the Social Impact Assessment Study under section 4(1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (No.30 of 2013).

1.2. Objectives of the Social Impact Assessment Study

- To carry out baseline survey from the project site.
- To bring out the likely impacts from the proposed project.
- To draw out preventive measures to address the likely impacts from the project.

Land Acquisition For Construction Of Entry And Exit Point Cum Facilitation Centre At Umkyrpong Village, East Jaintia Hills District.

2. Description of Project

2.1. Objectives of The Project

The objective of this project is to check the entry of people into the state and to facilitate legal flow of people, goods and vehicles into the State.

2.2. Need for The Project

In order to address to the issues of unauthorised immigration, illegal flow of goods and service, criminal activities, etc. into the State of Meghalaya the Facilitation Centre will act as a check for the exchange and interaction of goods and services between the States of Assam and Meghalaya. The Facilitation Centre will smoothen all arrivals and departures of people from the state as well as carry out inspection to avoid any kind of unforeseen issues.

2.3. Project Location

The Facilitation Centre- Entry and Exit Point will be constructed at Lapatang locality in Umkyrpong, East Jaintia Hills District. The total land to be acquired according to the survey carried out by the Revenue branch, Khliehriat on 04-06-2015 is about 24478.60 sq.mtrs. The project is located in a community land under the ownership of the Umkyrpong Dorbar Shnong. The boundaries outlining this acquired land are:

North	-	Village Land and River Kupli
East	-	River Kupli
South	-	Land of Imlang Lamare and Smt. Jingieit Maner
West	-	Land of Kolet Lamare and village land

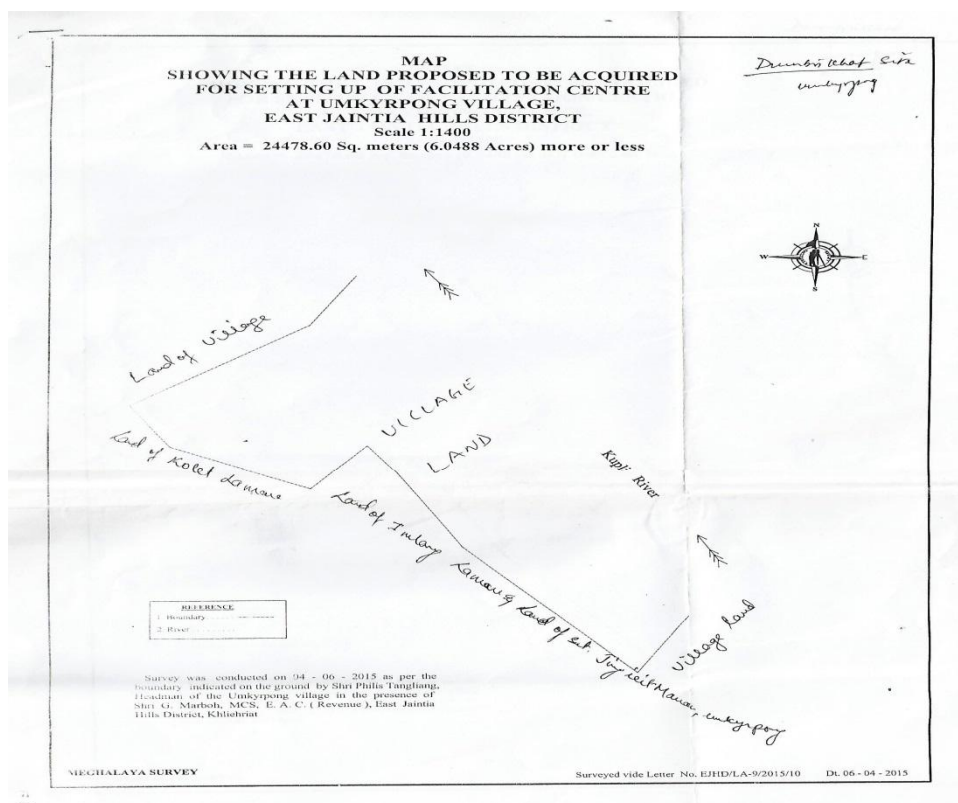
2.4. Proposed Schedule for Implementation

The project was proposed in January, 2015 but due to project site selection, the project has lapse.

2.5. Maps for Proposed Project Area

The map provided in the report is conducted by the Office of the Deputy Commissioner (Revenue Branch), Khliehriat, East Jaintia Hills District. The survey of the proposed site was conducted in June, 2015 in the presence of Shri. Philis Tangliang, Headman of the Umkyrpong Village, Shri. G. Marboh, MCS, EAC. (Revenue), East Jaintia Hills District Khliehriat.

Map 1: Showing and area of 24478.60 Sq. metres(6.0488 Acres) more or less.



Source: Office of the District Commissioner (Revenue Branch), Khliehriat, East Jaintia Hills District.

3. Research Methodology

3.1. Research Method

The research methodology used is a qualitative and descriptive one. This method describes the specific behaviour, facts concerning the nature of the problem. It involves gathering data that describes the events, followed by the organisation, tabulation, depiction and description of the data collection.

3.2. Methods for Data collection

Reconnaissance Survey: The reconnaissance field survey was carried out to understand the project area before formulating the questionnaire and interview schedule for primary data collection. Before the data was collected, the research team was able to survey the project area, brief the village functionaries and the respondents about the purpose of the data collection and type of data required.

Secondary Data: The research team first reviewed and researched on related literature to understand the requirements and needs of the project area. Based on this literature review the team was able to get an insight on the background of the project and this allowed for group identification and formulation of questionnaires. The secondary data of relevant documents such as project description, maps, details of land owners, etc. was obtained from the Office of the District Commissioner (Revenue Branch), East Jaintia Hills District.

Primary data: Primary data was collected through interviews with the Village Authority, focus group discussion and field observation. The research team took a sample of 27 respondents and 2 village members from the Village Executive Committee using the methods mentioned. The target group for respondents were selected on the basis of people's transit between the two States like traders, labourers, farmers, etc. The methods used in the field both at the community level and the household level were structured and designed based on the likely impacts on the project area.

3.3. Data Processing and Analysis

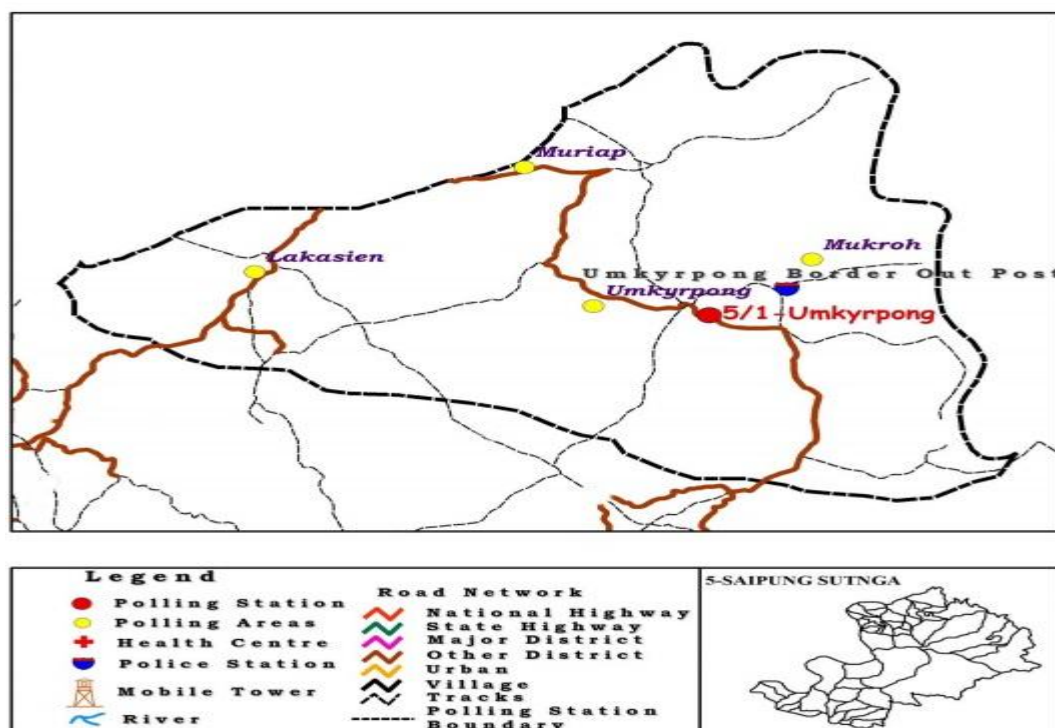
The data collected has been systematically arranged by the researcher using Microsoft Excel. A part of the data has been qualitatively analysed.

4. Demographic Profile of the Village

Umkyrpong Village (latitude 25.57 and longitude 91.87) falls under the administrative block of Saipung Community and Rural Development Block in East Jaintia Hills District. The village is about 39 km from the National Highway- 44 and from the District headquarter at Khliehriat.

The village has four localities, these are Mynkrem, Lumlaphet, Leilad and Lumtehksew. According to the 2011 census, the village has a total population of 613 inhabitants with 300 males and 313 females. There are approximately 140 households in the village. The community members are mainly Scheduled Tribes. Most of the community members are Christian and the literacy rate in the village is about 15% male and 8% female only. The occupational status in the village is mostly agricultural activity and only a few people are engaged as daily wage workers and casual labourer.

Map 2: Map of Umkyrpong Village



Source: Election Commission of Meghalaya

5. Description of Project Area:

The location of the land to be acquired for the construction of Facilitation Centre - Entry and Exit Point is at Lapatang locality of Umkyrpong village in East Jaintia Hills District. The total land to be acquired according to the survey carried out by the Revenue Branch, Khliehriat on 04-06-2015 is about 24478.60 Sq. Metres (approximately). From the Social Impact Assessment Team's preliminary site visit it was observed that the land to be acquired is a barren land and used only for seasonal cultivation. Earlier this location was one of the major transit points for casual labourers from Assam, who come to work in Meghalaya as coal labourers, vendors, and other activities. However, this area currently has low activity. The River Kupli separates the two states: Meghalaya and Assam and acts as a natural border. The Entry and Exit Point Cum Facilitation Centre will be constructed about 3 km from the village.

The pictures below were taken during the reconnaissance survey or preliminary site visit carried out by the Social Impact Assessment Team from the Meghalaya Institute of Governance, Shillong.

Picture 1: Proposed site for the construction of Entry and Exit point.



Source: Social Impact Assessment Unit, Meghalaya Institute of Governance, Shillong

Picture 2: Proposed site for the construction of Entry and Exit point.



Source: Social Impact Assessment Unit, Meghalaya Institute of Governance, Shillong

6. Anticipated Project Impacts

The following were observed by the SIA Team during the reconnaissance survey:

Since the project site is a barren land and located near the river Kupli there is a high chance that the water level will rise up and flood the area during the monsoon season. Because of this reason the land utility in this area is used seasonally only.

Since the project site is located about 3 Kms from the villages' homestead area, effect on individual households, structures and other vulnerable groups is unlikely to happen in that area.

The absence of some sort of checking or patrolling by the Government of Meghalaya in Umkyrpong has enabled the encroachment of Assam people into Meghalaya to collect firewood, timber, blast fishing, etc in the river bank of River Kupli. This has also made people with criminal intention to move freely within this area. Issues like illegal trespassing free flow of goods and criminal activity has caused a lot of tension to people living there. This type of issue has raised questions in the mind of the researcher about the safety and integrity of the village.

During the dry season when the water level is low, Assam people enter into Meghalaya using boats to work in the state. Likewise, the people from Meghalaya go to Assam to carry out agricultural activity and marketing in the area. It is seen that both the States are dependent on each other, so the setting up of the proposed Facilitation Centre - Entry and Exit may hinder this relationship.

The construction of the Facilitation Centre - Entry and Exit Point at Umkyrpong may affect the farmers who farm in Assam and daily commuters from that particular village. As the people fear that the Government of Assam will retaliate by creating measures that might impede their movement into Assam and affect their agricultural activity which is their main source of livelihood. The businessmen or women between the two States are likely to be affected too due to non-availability of valid documents for trading between the areas.

Problems faced by the village

In the SIA Unit discussion with the respondents certain problems were drawn out. These problems elucidate the need for some sort of patrolling in the village to ensure safety of the villages.

- Blast fishing by the Assam people at the river bank of Wah Kupli.
- No proper patrolling, no proper law and order from the Officer-in-Charge of the Police Out-post existing in Mooriap.

- Entering of the Assam people in Umkyrpong village for illegal timber felling.
- Encroachment of Militants groups into the village.
- Farmers from Meghalaya whose land is located in Assam were threatened and harassed by Assamese locals.

7. Data Analysis and Interpretation

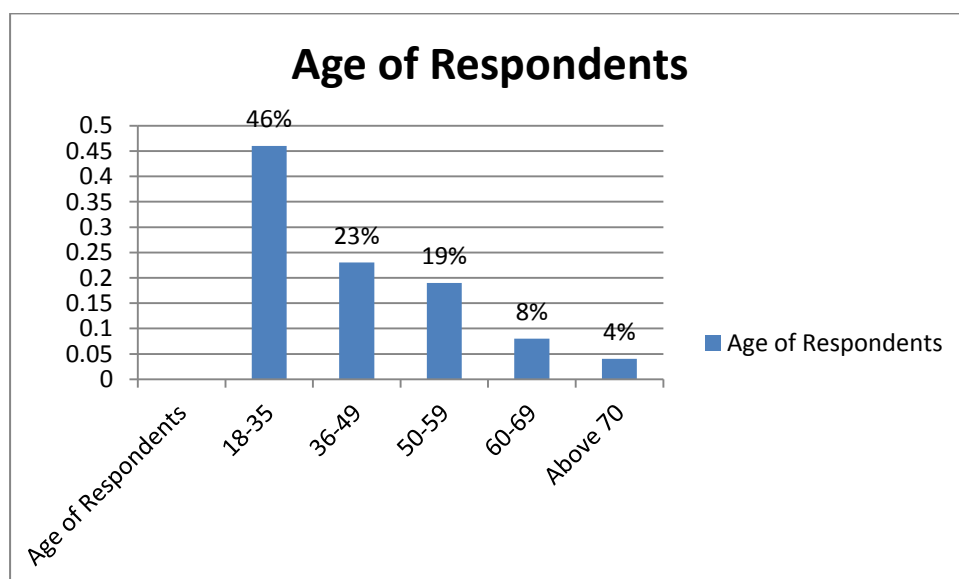
The primary data collected and gathered from the respondents has been analysis and interpreted with the help of Microsoft Excel.

7.1. Socio- Economic Profile of the Respondent

This section describes the socio- economic profile of the Respondents falling under the age group of 18-60 years and above.

Table 1: Age of Respondents			
Sl.no	Age of Respondents	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
a	18-35	12	46%
b	36-49	6	23%
c	50-59	5	19%
d	60-69	2	8%
e	Above 70	1	4%

Chart 1: Age of Respondents



The table 1 and Chart 1 indicates the respondent's age groups. Majority of the respondent fall under the age groups of 18-35 years.

Table 2: Gender of Respondents			
Sl.no	Gender	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
a	Male	11	15%
b	Female	16	85%

Chart 2: Gender of Respondents

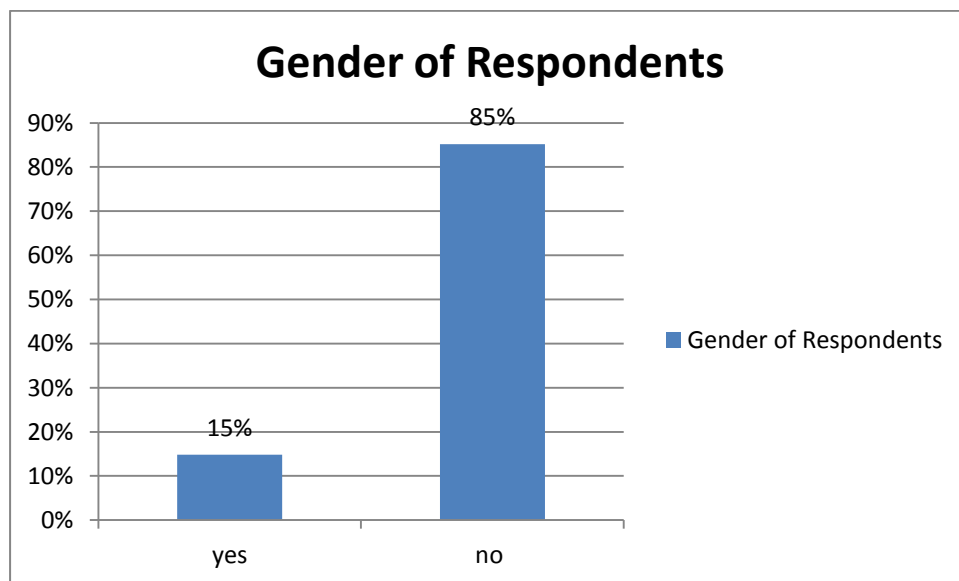


Table 2 and Chart 2 indicates the gender of the respondents with 15% of the respondents being male and 85% being female.

Table 3: Occupation of Respondents			
Sl.no	Occupation	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
a	Farmers	16	73%
b	Government Employee	0	
c	Business	0	
d	Student	0	
e	Daily wage worker	0	
f	Others	6	27%

Chart 3: Occupation of Respondents

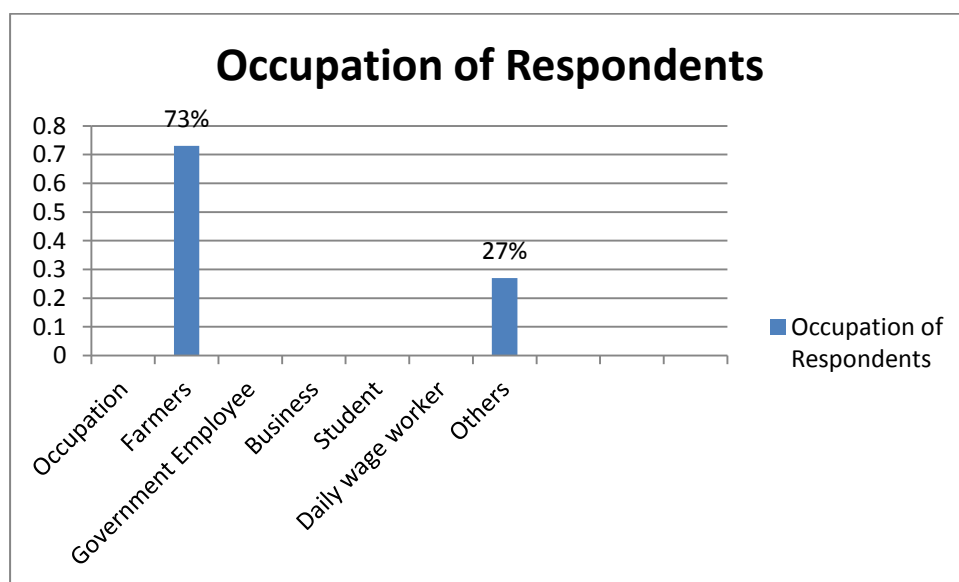


Table 3 and Chart 3 indicates that the major occupation of the respondents. 73% are involved in agriculture and agricultural activities, 27% in other occupation namely as homemakers.

Table 4: Annual Income of Respondents

Sl.no	Income per annum	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
a	Less than Rs. 25,000	5	28%
b	>Rs. 25,001- less than Rs. 50,000	7	39%
c	>Rs. 50,001- less than Rs. 75,000	0	-
d	>Rs. 75,001- less than Rs. 1,00,000	0	-
e	>Rs. 1,00,001	0	-
f	Not earning	6	33%

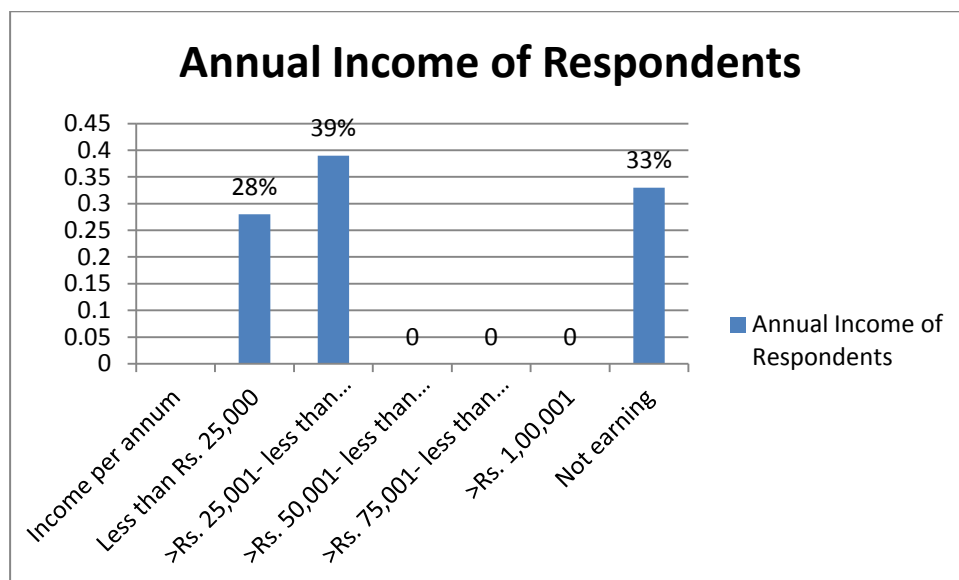
Chart 4: Annual Income of Respondents

Table 4 and Chart 4 shows 28% of the respondents earn less than Rs. 25,000 per annum, 39% earn more than Rs. 25,000 per annum and 33% don't have a calculable income as they are homemakers.

7.2. Focus Group Discussion with Community Members of Umkyrpong:

Focus Group Discussion was held on 11th May, 2016 with the community members of Umkyrpong. The number of participants attending the Focus Group Discussion in Umkyrpong Village is 27 nos. falling under the age groups of 18 to 60 years and above. Community members who attend in this Focus Group Discussion were both males and females. Majority of the members are farmers. The Focus Group Discussion lasted about an hour and data collected from the discussion has been listed down and video recorded for further reference.

During the Focus Group Discussion the following were discussed with the residents of Umkyrpong village.

Phase Wise Assessment of Proposed Construction Project

7.2.1. Awareness level on the proposed construction site

Most of the Participants in Umkyrpong Village were unaware about the proposed setting up of Integrated Facilitation Centre- Entry and Exit point in their village except for the Village Head Authority of the village.

Since most of the participants were unaware about the Integrated Facilitation Centre, the Social Impact Assessment Team brief out the residents on the needs and objectives for setting up the proposed project.

7.2.2. Type of Land utility for proposed construction site

The proposed land to be acquired is mainly used for seasonal cultivation because during rainy season the water level of the River Kupli rises up to this proposed acquired land. So the people cannot cultivate during the heavy monsoon season. However, most of the years this land remain unused and is used as a transit point by the community members.

7.2.3. Land utility by the community members

When the participants were asked if they make use of the proposed project land, most of them said that since this land belongs to the Umkyrpong Dorbar, only some family members uses this land for seasonal cultivation. Since this land is used as a transit point for the people from Assam and

Meghalaya, most of the community members from Meghalaya use this route to travel to Assam to carry out their agricultural activities in Assam.

7.2.4. Familiarity with the functioning of the Facilitation Centre- Entry and Exit Point

Most of the participants were unfamiliar with the functioning of the Facilitation Centre- Entry and Exit Point except for three or four participants who were aware of its functioning. At the onset, the Meghalaya Institute of Governance may suggest that in order to make the people understand the functioning of a Facilitation Centre- Entry and Exit Point, it is important that the Government of Meghalaya issue a notice or article on the daily newspaper on how the proposed Facilitation Centre- Entry and Exit Point will work and how it can benefit them and the State as a whole.

7.2.5. Perception of respondents on how the Facilitation Centre- Entry and Exit Point should function.

The respondents were asked to voice their concerns on the construction of the Facilitation Centre. They were asked to describe their thoughts before and after construction work on Facilitation Centre- Entry and Exit Point. One of the participants said that it will be like a check gate only.

A majority of the respondents were not aware on how the Facilitation Centre- Entry and Exit Point was to function. Only the village headman and some respondents said that the Facilitation Centre should check on the entry of people especially those who come from Assam. The Social Impact Assessment Team then brief them, that the Facilitation Centre- Entry and Exit Point will not act as a Check Gate rather it will be an entry and exit point where people, goods or trades will be halt before entering into or moving out from the state.

7.2.6. Advantages of setting up a Facilitation Centre- Entry and Exit Point

The respondents were then asked to list out the advantages that are likely to come up from the setting of a Facilitation Centre. The respondents from Umkyrpong said that once the Facilitation Centre has been set up:

- People will not try and encroach into the Meghalaya-Assam border.
- It will create employment opportunity to the youth of the village.
- It will reduce illegal migrants and criminal intention.
- It will also reduce the illegal transportation of natural resources like trees from Meghalaya to Assam.

7.3. Concerns likely to come up from the Facilitation Centre- Entry and Exit Point

The respondents were asked about their concerns over setting up of the Facilitation Centre- Entry and Exit Point. Respondents in Umkyrpong fear that if the construction work is completed they may have to pay taxes or any fee when using the service there.

The respondents also fear that if the functionaries who are employed in this centre are from other places, the locals might be harassed and trouble by them.

There was also a feeling from some respondents that goods and products which they bring from Assam which were never taxed before might be taxed once the Facilitation Centre- Entry and Exit Point has been set up.

6.4 Likely impact on the community safety

When the respondents were asked about the likely impact the Facilitation Centre would have on community safety, they replied that the project will not have any negative impact on the community safety rather it will improve and strengthen the safety level of the people with criminal intent.

6.5 Likely impact on the community wellbeing and liveability

The respondents were asked about the likely impact on the community wellbeing and liveability. Most of the respondents said that there will be no such impact as people from Assam and Meghalaya cooperate with one another and so far they have not faced any problems with each other.

6.6 Aspiration and fear from the said project

When the respondents were asked about their aspirations and fears from the proposed project some of the respondents said that they are afraid of repercussions from Assam. Likewise, they suggested that local people should be the first to gain employment from this project either as skilled or unskilled labourers. Policemen should also be there in this Facilitation Centre to look after the law and order in the area.

6.7 Likely impact on the environment

When the respondents were asked about the likely impact on the environment they said,

“Any kind of construction will change the topography of the area and environmental affect will be there because the trees will be cut. Problems will be there during the construction phase mainly, but after completion we will receive more benefit”.

6.8 Deter mining the necessity and convenient of the project site

When the respondents were asked about the necessity and convenient of the project site area, they said that the proposed project site selected by the government officials is convenient for them.

Picture3: Showing the Focus Group Discussion held in Umkyrpong Village



Source: Taken by Social Impact Assessment Unit, Meghalaya Institute of Governance

Picture 4: Showing the Focus Group Discussion held in Umkyrpong Village



Source: Taken by Social Impact Assessment Unit, Meghalaya Institute of Governance

8. Public Consultation

The Meghalaya Institute of Governance had conducted a public hearing on the 15th June 2016, on the Integrated Facilitation Centre-Entry/Exit point in Mooriap, Umkyrpong and Lakasein Village at 12:00 p.m, as part of the Social Impact Assessment study under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 notified by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.

The Public Hearing was chaired by Shri. Aibanswer, OSD, Meghalaya Institute of Governance. Also present were Shri. B. Wahlang, District Forest Officer, Forest Department, Shri P. Tangliang MDC along with the members from the Village Executive Committee and the land owners. More than 86 people from the three villages attended the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing commenced with the reading of the draft Social Assessment report by Programme Associates of the Meghalaya Institute of Governance, Shillong thereafter the floor was opened for discussion on the proposed Facilitation Centre cum Entry and Exit Point.

Shri B Wahlang, District Forest Officer, Forest Department said that it will not affect the Forest Department nor provisions of Forest Acts. He however, gave an assurance to send the local officers to further examine the project sites and reports will be submitted ensuring that there won't be any impacts on forests in the proposed project sites.

Shri P. Tangliang, Local MDC, asked, "will the Forest Department be able to implement this project to attain security for my constituency of these three villages?" He said that the reason he attended the Public Hearing was because he thought that this project was meant for the construction of a Police Outpost and not a Facilitation Centre or Entry-Exit point. Since the local MDC was not familiar with the functioning of the Entry Exit Point, he requested further explanation on the proposed project. He advised the locals that they should be aware about the functioning of the Facilitation centre before they accept the project.

Shri Wessly Mannar from Umkyrpong Village said that the details of the report which has been read out by the M.I.G were being compiled after discussions with the locals of the three villages. He also said that there have been demands from the three villages to employ the locals during and after the project construction.

Shri P. Paslein, Headman of Mooriap Village, asked the Government to identify another location for the project in place of Khuiong as there were times during the monsoon that the site becomes flooded and he also wanted the locals to get employed in the project.

A participant said that, he does not understand about this project nor the functioning of it. He further said that he and few people from the village had gone to the Home Minister to oppose this project in Mooriap. He requests the people to think further into this matter and not to take any decisions at the moment.

Another respondent from Umkyrpong Village said that if we oppose and talk about the same agenda we will not reach anywhere; therefore we should ask questions here to clear our doubt. Another said that the Programme Associates from the Meghalaya Institute of Governance had come to our village to brief about the project and to know about the impacts which can happen during and after the completion of the project. He feels that this project will bring benefit to the three villages as a whole.

Participants from Lakasein village said that he welcomes this project in the village as he thinks it will bring benefit to the people and will check on illegal migrants as well as goods and products which come from other states.

The headman of Lakasein village fear that they may lose the project that the Government had proposed. He said that they get to utilize the land in Assam by paying a certain amount of money to the land owners and they don't create problems within the stipulated time period. We will not disturb the Assam people which travels through this Facilitation Centre. To conclude, it depends on the decision taken by the majority as a whole.

Shri Aiban Swer, OSD M.I.G, said that the proposal for the construction of this Facilitation Centre arose after the ILP agitation. He had also mentioned about villages such as Khanduli and Malidor who had already accepted the projects. The process of SIA for these projects had been briefed and he made it clear that neither MIG nor the District Administration have the power or jurisdiction on the functioning of these projects and in providing employment. He cited an example in the case of Garo Hills where the Facilitation Centre acts as a trading place. He also concurred with Bah P. Paslein that if possible to identify another location in place of Khuang for the project as there were times during the monsoons, the place gets flooded. He put a question to the villagers that if they are paying two thousand per year to utilize the land in Assam, why don't they cultivate or use their own land for farming. The villagers responded by saying that the land in their own village is not productive or fruitful.

Conclusion: This Public Hearing was not approved by the people of the three villages as there was disapproval by the Local MDC saying that further study is needed before they approve the said project.

Picture 5: Showing the Chairman conducting Public hearing



Source: Taken by Social Impact Assessment Unit, Meghalaya Institute of Governance

Picture 6: Showing the Public Hearing



Source: Taken by Social Impact Assessment Unit, Meghalaya Institute of Governance

Picture 7: Showing the community member participating in Public Hearing



Source: Taken by Social Impact Assessment Unit, Meghalaya Institute of Governance

9. Social Impact Mitigation Plan

9.1 Findings

In the social relations and community well-being the following were observed:

- A majority of the respondents feel that after the proposed construction there will be no change in the social relationship of people between the two states.

In their trade relations, the respondents have pointed out that they have not faced any problems with the Assamese people who come to trade every market day in Sutnga and Karbi-Anglong markets. The coming of the proposed Facilitation Centre – Entry and Exit Point may disrupt these peaceful relations. The Facilitation Centre may make the entry and exit of Assamese traders troublesome and thus deter their coming. The change in this economic activity may affect and raise the prices of goods and commodities which are brought by these traders into Umkyrpong and the other markets in Meghalaya.

In the aspects of trade and economic activities the following was observed:

- A majority of the respondents are farmers who earn additional household income trading small goods in Sutnga and Karbi-Anglong markets. Since majority of the people living in Umkyrpong are farmers and small business vendor like retail, is important to keep in mind that the proposed construction does not diminish the income or capacity to earn additional income of these farmers and small traders of the area.
- Majority of the respondents who went to Assam have to cross the River Kupli for farming in the land of Assam whereas about 90% of the Respondents do not have their own agricultural land where they have to take on lease from the Assamese people by paying an amount of Rs. 1500/- per annum for the rented land.

The following were observed with regards to crime and criminal activities in the area:

- A majority of the respondents feel that the Facilitation Centre - Entry and Exit Point should effectively and efficiently check on illegal immigration, illegal flow of goods and trade and criminal intention.

With regards to border issues the following were observed:

- A majority of the respondents who travel to Assam have to cross the river Kupli for trading, marketing, and farming etc. It is important that there should be a proper checking on the proposed construction project to improve the relation and trust between traders and officials.
- Though the proposed project may address the border issue, there are some concerns which arise among the respondents who feared that after the completion of the proposed construction project registration for arrival and departure may be difficult later, over payment of fee, and employment of outsiders may likely occur.

Apart from the above problems the following were observed:

- A majority of the respondents feel that the incompleteness of work would be the primary problem to arise during the construction phase of the proposed project. In order to address to these concerns, the government officials should provide a target year for inception and completion of the whole project.
- Proper maintenance of the entry and exit point should be made to prevent any like of unforeseen problem.

9.2 Recommendations

- In order to address to the need of the people early implementation of the proposed construction should be executed at the earliest. However, the local people should not face any kind of insecurity and hardship when using this point.
- After the completion of the proposed project, majority of the respondent felt that the project will have a better impact on the village in term of community way of living and safety. This proposed construction may start a long over-due dialogue between the governments of Assam and Meghalaya to address the border issues.
- In order to address these concerns the respondents have requested that the officials working in the Facilitation Centre provide identity cards or keep a register of locals to avoid over checking and difficulty in passing through these points. Reduction of restriction on regular user especially farmers. Employment of local people should be a priority for unskilled or clerical jobs. It may be recommended that the use of locals to check the entry and exit of people would be best as the locals themselves can identify unwanted elements. It would to a certain degree create local employment.

- Collaboration between the Meghalaya and Assam Government is required to improve the accessibility to basic amenities in these border areas in term of education, health, livelihoods promotion, etc.
- Practice of accountability and transparency should be encouraged for functionaries who will be taking charge of the Entry and Exit Points cum Facilitation centre.
- Employment opportunities should be given to the local people during the construction phase and operational phase.
- Steps should be taken up to address to community safety during the construction phase especially where boulder and stone needs to be properly dispose off so that accident does not occur in the area.
- Local people should be exempt from paying any fee except in certain cases as deem fit by the functionaries and legal laws.
- A fee that has been already paid should be monitored and restricted.

ANNEXURES

Annexure 1: Letter from the Government of Meghalaya for conducting Social Impact Assessment Study.

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
EAST JAINTIA HILLS DISTRICT: : KHLIEHRIAT.

Email:- dc.khliehriat@gmail.com

Fax No. : 03655-230033
Phone No.: 03655-230713

EJHD/LA-9/2015/70,

Dated Khliehriat the 19th November,2015.

To


The Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya,
Revenue & Disaster Management Department,
Shillong.

Subject:- Construction of Facilitation Centres at Malidor, Ratacherra, Mooriap,
Umkyrpong and Lakasein.

Reference: RDA.90/2015/1, Dated 16th November,2015

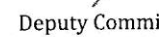
Sir,

With reference to the above, I am to send proposals for conducting Social Impact Assessment for the proposed Acquisition of Lands for the Facilitation Centres at Malidor, Ratacherra, Mooriap, Umkyrpong and Lakasein in East Jaintia Hills District, Khliehriat. The details of the lands are indicated below:

Sl No	District	Village	Rural/Urban	Total Area Sq. Mtrs	Area to be acquired Sq. Mtrs
1.	East Jaintia Hills District	Malidor	Rural	4957.92	4957.92
2.	East Jaintia Hills District	Ratacherra	Rural	17161.97	17161.97
3.	East Jaintia Hills District	Mooriap	Rural	7934.96	7934.96
4.	East Jaintia Hills District	Mooriap	Rural	21604.70	21604.70
5.	East Jaintia Hills District	Mooriap	Rural	19781.08	19781.08
6.	East Jaintia Hills District	Umkyrpong	Rural	24478.60	24478.60
7.	East Jaintia Hills District	Lakasein	Rural	4803.37	4803.37

In this connection, I am to request you to take up with MIG to facilitate early initiation of the SIA as aforementioned with due intimation to the Undersigned

Yours Faithfully,


Deputy Commissioner,
East Jaintia Hills District,
Khliehriat.

Memo: EJHD/LA-9/2015/70-A,

Dated Khliehriat the 19th November,2015

Copy to:

1. Officer on Special Duty, Meghalaya Institute Governance, Shillong for information and necessary action.

2. Secretary, Executive Committee Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council, Jowai with a request to kindly issue a consent from your Office for initiation of Land Acquisition proceedings in respect of the above proposals. Proforma for the District Council consent is enclosed herewith.

3. The Under Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya Political Department for information.


Deputy Commissioner,
East Jaintia Hills District,

Annexure 1 and 2: List of participants in Focus Group Discussion

Attendance Sheet		Name of Village : UNKURPONG (Lapatang)		Date : 11.05.16				
Sl. No.	Name	Village	Age Group	Sex	Occupation	Annual Income	Contact No.	Signature
1.	Medit Kistein	Unkypung	60	F	Homemaker	-	-	
2	Phisila Longdon	"	45	F	Farmer	-	-	
3	Beki Longdon	"	70	F	Homemaker	-	-	
4.	Nikel Kistein	"	54	F	Homemaker	-	-	
5.	Anti Shadap	"	18	F	"	-	-	A. Shadap
6.	Kit Pastein	"						
6	Kip Pastein	"	32	F	Farming	720,000	-	K. Pastein
7.	Kilamon Manar	"	21	F	"	-	-	K. Manar
8	Nishwa Chumrang	"	27	F	Homemaker	-	-	
9.	Istil. Pastein	"	250	F	"	-	-	
10	Aphuk Lomwong	"	50	F	Farming	-	-	
11.	Phon Lomwong	"	28	F	"	-	-	
12.	Plisi Lomwong	"	32	F	"	-	-	
13.	Sani Vadokh	"	21	F	Homemaker	-	-	S. Vadokh
14	Pynhai Manar	"	25	F	Farming	-	-	
15.	Pynhai Vadokh	"	30	F	"	-	-	

[illegible]

Source: Social Impact Assessment Unit, Meghalaya Institute of Governance.

Annexure 3: Public Notice letter



Meghalaya Institute of Governance (MIG)

Lumpynggad Cottage, Bishop Cotton Road
Shillong- 793001, Meghalaya

Email: migshillong@gmail.com

No: MIG 163/2016/375

Dated: 1st June-2016

Public Notice

The Meghalaya Institute of Governance has been notified as the State Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Unit to conduct Social Impact Assessment Study for acquisition of land in East Jaintia Hills District for the purpose of setting up proposed Facilitation Centre in the following:

- i. Mooriap measures an area of 7934.96 Sq.m and 21604.70 Sq.m for Exit Point; 19782.08 Sq.m for Entry point.
- ii. Umkrypong measures an area of 24478.60 Sq.m for Entry/ Exit Point.
- iii. Lakasein measures an area of 4803.37 Sq.m for Entry/ Exit Point.

In connection with this, a Public Hearing will be held in Mooriap Playground, in East Jaintia Hills on the 15th of June, 2016 at 11:00 Am for all the three project mentioned above.

All interested persons are invited to attend the said Public Hearing to express their claims/ objections/ suggestion, if any, on the proposal.

Dr. BDR Tiwari, IAS
Executive Director,
Meghalaya Institute of Governance,
Shillong.

Annexure 4: Attendance at Public Hearing

Public Hearing at Mooriap on Social Impact Assessment on Construction of Facilitation Centre – Entry and Exit Point at Mooriap, Umkyrpong and Lakasein on 15th June, 2016

Sl. No.	Name	Village	Designation	Contact No.	Signature
1	Aban Lwen		ESD. MIG.		
2	B. Wilyang		D/F, Shilling		
3	J. Laksoni	Mooriap	member		
4	P. Langling		M D C		
5	F. Pasrah		Range Forest Officer w/c Saipungkang		
6	Phisimon Pasleu	Mooriap	Rangbah Shong	9856606241	P-Pasleu
7	Philis Tangliang	Umkyrpong	Wahel Shong	9856869907	
8	Julis Pasleu	Lakasein	Wahel Shong	9856781174	
9	Pynba Pakem	Mooriap	Secretary Shong	8575221298	
10	Shri. Westy Manar	Umkyrpong	member	9856139379	
11	SHAN BOR Langliang	Mooriap	"		
12	Boriskil Saka	Mooriap		9856221464	
13	Phikis Tangliang	"			
14	Sonlis Tangliang	"			

Meghalaya Institute of Governance – SIA Unit

Public Hearing at Mooriap on Social Impact Assessment on Construction of Facilitation Centre – Entry and Exit Point at Mooriap, Umkyrpong and Lakasein on 15th June, 2016

Sl. No.	Name	Village	Designation	Contact No.	Signature
15	Rilat Dkhar	Mooriap	Teacher	9856634409	
16	Rolin Tangliang	Umkyrpong	Teacher		
17	Shri Moses Angkrah	Diengshymun	Fr-I Saipungkang	9856040097	
18	Shri Bahlong	Mooriap			
19	Bettin Pasleu	Lakasein			
20	Rupchynra Pasleu	Mooriap			
21	Antrese Khyfchu	Sekfya			
22	Sh. Solomon Pasleu	Mooriap	G/S	9615279683	
23	Shri. Orkpat Tangliang	Lakasein			
24	Lara Pasleu	Lakasein			
25	Man Sik Saka	La Ra Seli			
26	Man. Welsan Pallen				
27	Affirming. I. Pakem	Lakasein	Secretary	8575407741	
28	Wino Pakem	Lakasein			

Meghalaya Institute of Governance – SIA Unit

Public Hearing at Mooriap on Social Impact Assessment on Construction of Facilitation Centre – Entry and Exit Point at Mooriap, Umkyrpong and Lakasein on 15th June, 2016

Sl. No.	Name	Village	Designation	Contact No.	Signature
29	Sual Lyngdoh	Mooriup	Member		
30	KIL Salake	Lakasein			KIL Salake
31	Ebanzi Pakein	Lakasein		8014190963	
32	Koris Tangliang	Lakasein			S. Pakein
33	Sipao Pakein	Lakasein			
34	Heimon Tangliang	Do			H. Tangliang
35	Karban Pakein	Do			K. Pakein
36	Koris Tangliang	Do			K. Tangliang
37	Ribas Tangliang	mooriap			R. Tangliang
38	Rihun Pakein	mooriap			R. Pakein
39	Kolban Pakein	Lakasein			K. Pakein
40	Wili's Tangliang	Lakasein			W. Tangliang
41	Slong Salake	mooriap			S. Salake
42	Kelso Pakein	mooriap			K. Pakein

Meghalaya Institute of Governance – SIA Unit

Public Hearing at Mooriap on Social Impact Assessment on Construction of Facilitation Centre – Entry and Exit Point at Mooriap, Umkyrpong and Lakasein on 15th June, 2016

Sl. No.	Name	Village	Designation	Contact No.	Signature
43	Paki Pakein	Mooriup		8014236126	P. Pakein
44	Korban Pakein	Mooriup			K. Pakein
45	Paki Tangliang	mooriap			P. Tangliang
46	Paki Tangliang	mooriap			P. Tangliang
47	Harwell Pakein	Lakasein			
48	Bait Pakein	Lakasein			
49	Shall Salake	Lakasein			S. Salake
50	Niklos Salake	mooriap			N. Salake
51	Sarkaria Pakein	Lakasein		8575351731	S. Pakein
52	medis pakein	Lakasein			M. Pakein
53	Bilbi Tangliang	Lakasein			B. Tangliang
54	Arin Tangliang	mooriap			
55	Morning Tangliang	mooriap			
56	Hep Tangliang	mooriap			

Meghalaya Institute of Governance – SIA Unit

Public Hearing at Moorlap on Social Impact Assessment on Construction of Facilitation Centre – Entry and Exit Point at Moorlap, Umkyrpong and Lakasein on 15th June, 2016

Sl. No.	Name	Village	Designation	Contact No.	Signature
57	Serej Salakhe	moorlap			
58	Samuel Bamon	moorlap			
59	Joy Pakem	moorlap			
60	Singam Tangliang	11			
61	Jiat Dikhar	moorlap			J D
62	AR Ki Long Liang	moorlap			A T
63	K. Saba Pa	Lakasein			K. Saba Pa, Lakasein
64	N Tangliang	Saumasi			N Tangliang
65	T Tangliang	moorlap			T Tangliang
66	Joseph Dikhar	moorlap			J Dikhar
67	Ran Tangliang	moorlap			R. Tangliang
68	Bitson Lyndah	moorlap			B - Lyndah
69	Mojan Pakem	moorlap			M. Pakem
70	Kaymen	moorlap			K. Tangliang

Meghalaya Institute of Governance – SIA Unit

Public Hearing at Moorlap on Social Impact Assessment on Construction of Facilitation Centre – Entry and Exit Point at Moorlap, Umkyrpong and Lakasein on 15th June, 2016

Sl. No.	Name	Village	Designation	Contact No.	Signature
71	Alada Pasten	Lakasein			
72	Morbiang Tangliang	moorlap			M. Tangliang
73	Pepa Dikhar Tangliang	moorlap		989	P. Tangliang
74	Wankait Tangliang	moorlap			W. Tangliang
75	Pesi Pasten	Lakasein			P. Pasten
76	Odling Tangliang	Lakasein			O. Tangliang
77	Box Makem	moorlap			B. Makem
78	Lisa Tangliang	moorlap			L. T
79	Doenon Tangliang	moorlap			
80	Cheki Tangliang	moorlap			Shaki
81	Meral Sutaga	moorlap			M. Sutaga
82	Lam Pasten	moorlap			
83	Yomiki Tangliang	moorlap			Y. Tangliang
84	Daimwan Pasten	moorlap			D. Pasten

Meghalaya Institute of Governance – SIA Unit

12c



■ Annexure 5: Semi Structured Interview Scheduled for Focus Group Discussion

MEGHALAYA INSTITUTE OF GOVERNANCE

Focus Group Discussion on Land Acquisition for setting up of Facilitation Center- Entry and Exit

Point at_____

Name:

Date:

Part A: Usage of project site

1. How many of you use the proposed project site?
2. How often do you visit the proposed project site?
3. What is the primary purpose of your visit to the project site (name of project area_____)?
4. What kinds of things or activities do you see are carried out from the proposed project area?
5. What is the problem you faced when using this project site?
 - How significant is the problem?
 - What cause the problem?
6. What measure has been taken up to address the problem?

Part B: About the project

1. How many of you are aware of the proposed entry and exit point to be set up in your village?
2. How did you come to know about the proposed entry and exit point?
3. How many of you are familiar with the functioning of the entry and exit point?
4. When you think of an entry and exit point, what is the first thing that comes to your mind?
5. What do you like best about the proposed entry and exit point?
6. What is the problem likely to come up with this proposed entry and exit point?
7. What measures can be taken up to address the following question?

Part C: Impact of the project

1. How will the project have an impact on the community safety?
2. How will the project have an impact on the community wellbeing and liveability?
3. How will the project have an impact on the community resources/ common property resources?
4. How will the project have an impact on the environment?

5. Any other impact to be faced by the community as a whole?

Part D: Others

1. Do you feel the need to construct this Entry and Exit Point in another area? If yes, which area is more convenience and why?
2. What are your aspiration and fear from the project?

Annexure 6: Semi Structured Interview Scheduled for Key Informant Interview

MEGHALAYA INSTITUTE OF GOVERNANCE

Key Informant Interview on Land Acquisition for setting up of Facilitation Center- Entry and Exit

Point at _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Part A: Land Owner details

1. Name of Land owner:
2. Occupation of land owner:
3. Income status of land owner (annum)
4. Land size to be acquired:
5. Type of Land:
6. Usage of land:
7. Numbers of trees within proposed area:
8. Number of family member dependent on the land to be acquired:

Part B: About the project

1. Are you aware that the government has proposed to construct a Facilitation Centre- entry and exit point?
2. Have you been notified from the government that your land will be acquired from the setting up of Entry and Exit Point?
3. Do you want to give the land for the proposed Entry and exit point?
4. If yes, why do you want to give the land?
Or, what is lacking or the problem you faced from the land to be acquired?
5. If no, what are the factors that prevent you from wanting to give away the land?
 - a) How will the person's household be affected from the acquisition?
 - b) How will the person's economic income be affected from the land acquisition?
 - c) How many people are employed from the land to be acquired?
 - d) What is your relation with the people employed?
 - e) What is the income of the people employed from this land?

6. What are your aspiration and fear from the project?

Annexure 7: Reconnaissance Survey

MEGHALAYA INSTITUTE OF GOVERNANCE

Interview schedule for the members of Village Authority/Village Council

Place:

Date:

TOPIC FOR SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

Land acquisition of land for Entry and Exit Point and facilitation center at Khanduli.

Part A: Profile of the Respondents

1. Name :
2. Age :
3. Gender :
4. Ednl.Qualification :
5. Community :
6. Designation :
7. Time of service :

Part B: Settlement Demographic Survey

Distance of village to nearest urban area:

Distance of village to the nearest National Highway:

Land use pattern

	Area	Condition/change
Village total area		
Agricultural area		
Forest area		
Barren area		

Homestead		
Community area		

1. Project details:

Description	Details	
Type of investment		
Type of project		
Project area and location		
Project implementing agency	Central	
	State	

2. Assessment

2.1 Land Assessment

Description	Details	
Location of the land required		
Total quantity of land required in acres		
Ownership of land	Government	
	Private	
	Others	
Land utility or land use details in project area	Commercial	
	Housing	
	Agriculture	
	Others	

Determining the necessity for land acquisition		
Alternative, if any		

2.2 Assessment of Structure (in numbers)

Description	Details (in numbers)	
Total number of structure that would be disturbed		
Type of structure	Pucca	
	Semi-pucca	
	Kuttcha	
Usage of structures	Residential	
	Commercial	
	Community	
	others	

2.3 Socio-economic Assessment

Description	Details	
Name and numbers of localities in the project area		
Type of localities	Urban	
	Rural	
Total population	Male	
	Female	
Total household		
Social groups	SC	
	ST	
	OBC	
	General	
Religion	Hindu	
	Muslim	
	Christian	
	Others	
Literacy rate	Male	
	Female	
Occupation details	Agri-labourer	
	Non-agri labourer	
	Farmers	

	Business	
	Private service	
	Government service	
	Others	
Population of project affected families (PAFs)		
Vulnerable families among PAFs	SC	
	ST	
	Women headed household	
	Physically disabled	
	Aged	
Income details of the PAFs	BPL	
	APL	

2.4 Community Infrastructure/ public service

Sl.no	Institution	Number of Units	Condition (3A's- available, accessible, & affordable)
1.	Primary School		
2.	Secondary School		
3.	Higher Education		
4.	Anganwadi center		

5.	Self Help groups		
6.	Public Distribution Centre		
7.	Hospital		
8.	Public Health Centre		
9.	Community Hall		
10.	Library		
11.	Youth clubs		
12.	Traditional healers		
13.	Religious institution		
14.	Accessibility to PHE water		
15.	Accessibility to community well		
16.	Road (Black top and Kutcha)		

17.	Transportation		
18.	Community Forests		
19.	Cremation/burial ground		
20.	Playgrounds		
21.	Market		
22.	NGOs		
23.	Bank		
24.	Others		
	Total		