



A
Report
on the
Open Symposium Competition
on
**"Land Restoration, Desertification,
and Drought Resilience"**

Supported by



Organized by

MANIPUR TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

Acknowledgement

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of the Open Symposium Competition on "Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience" held on June 21, 2024, at Manipur Technical University.

First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Department of Environment & Climate Change, Government of Manipur, for their invaluable support and collaboration. Their commitment to environmental sustainability has been instrumental in making this event possible.

I am deeply grateful to the esteemed jury members for their time, expertise, and insightful evaluations, which greatly enriched the event. Your guidance and feedback were invaluable to all participants.

Special thanks to the organizing committee members for their dedication and hard work in planning and executing the event seamlessly. Your efforts ensured that every aspect of the symposium ran smoothly.

I also wish to acknowledge the enthusiastic participation of our students, whose presentations and innovative ideas were the highlight of the symposium. Your passion and commitment to addressing environmental challenges are truly commendable.

Lastly, I would like to thank the faculty members and staff of Manipur Technical University for their unwavering support and cooperation. Your collective efforts have made this event a great success.

Thank you all for your contributions and support. I look forward to continued collaboration in our efforts towards a sustainable future.

Warm regards,



(Kosygin Leishangthem)
Assistant Professor
Manipur Technical University

Introduction

On June 21, 2024, Manipur Technical University (MTU), in collaboration with the Department of Environment & Climate Change, Government of Manipur, successfully organized an Open Symposium Competition focusing on the theme "Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience." The event aimed to raise awareness, inspire innovative solutions, and provide a platform for knowledge exchange among students and faculty members. This report provides a comprehensive overview of the event, including its objectives, structure, outcomes, and future recommendations.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the symposium were:

- To raise awareness about land degradation, desertification, and drought.
- To encourage students to develop and present innovative solutions to these environmental challenges.
- To provide a platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration among participants.
- To select a university representative for the State Level Open Symposium Competition.

Event Structure

The symposium was meticulously planned and executed by the organizing committee, led by Mr. Kosygin Leishangthem, Assistant Professor, and his team. Originally scheduled to be held in the Incubation Centre, the event was relocated to the 6th Semester classroom of the Civil Engineering Department, near the pond.

Participants

A total of 12 students participated in the competition, representing various departments of MTU. Each participant delivered a 6-minute presentation on their chosen topic related to the symposium theme.

Sl	Name	Course	Branch	Semester
1	Alonika Langhu	B.Tech	Civil Engineering	6th Sem
2	Babysan Ngangom	B.Tech	Electrical	6th Sem
3	Kharibam Manithoi Devi	B.Tech	Civil Engineering	6th Sem
4	Khundrakpam Abebisana Devi	B.Tech	ECE	6th Sem
5	LAIKHURAM DHANALUXMI DEVI	B.Tech	Civil Engineering	4th Sem
6	Longjam Romita Devi	MBA	MBA	2nd Sem
7	Ningthoujam David Singh	B.Tech		6th Sem
8	Rosia Langpoklakpam	MBA	MBA	2nd Sem
9	Sristie Oinam	B.Tech	Civil Engineering	6th Sem
10	Thumningtha	MBA	MBA	2nd Sem
11	Wilson Thangjam	B.Tech	Electrical	6th Sem
12	Wilson Thangjam	B.Tech	Electrical	6th Sem

Jury and Moderation

The symposium featured a panel of three esteemed jury members who evaluated the presentations based on criteria such as relevance, innovation, clarity, and impact. Experienced faculty members moderated the event, ensuring smooth proceedings and facilitating engaging discussions.

Event Proceedings

Welcome Address

The event commenced with a welcome address by Mr. Kosygin Leishangthem, who highlighted the significance of the symposium theme and acknowledged the support from the Department of Environment & Climate Change. He expressed gratitude to the participants, jury members, and faculty for their involvement and commitment.

Participant Presentations

Each participant was allotted 6 minutes to present their research, ideas, and projects. The topics covered a wide range of issues, including:

- Sustainable agricultural practices to combat desertification.
- Innovative water management techniques to enhance drought resilience.
- Afforestation and reforestation strategies for land restoration.
- Community-based approaches to land conservation and management.

Themes and Key Insights

Global Context: Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience

- **Challenges:**
 - The global scale of desertification affects over 2 billion people, particularly in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.
 - Land degradation leads to reduced agricultural productivity, exacerbating food insecurity and poverty.

- Climate change intensifies the frequency and severity of droughts, further stressing vulnerable ecosystems and communities.
- **Solutions and Initiatives:**
 - The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) focuses on achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN).
 - The Great Green Wall, an ambitious project in Africa, aims to restore 100 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.

National Context: India's Efforts and Challenges

- **Challenges:**
 - Over 30% of India's land area is affected by desertification and land degradation, with severe impacts in states like Rajasthan and Gujarat.
 - Drought-prone regions face acute water shortages, impacting agriculture and daily life.
- **Solutions and Initiatives:**
 - The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) includes missions focused on sustainable agriculture and water management.
 - The Green India Mission aims to increase forest and tree cover, restore degraded ecosystems, and enhance biodiversity through community participation.

Local Context: Manipur's Environmental Issues and Responses

- **Challenges:**
 - Rapid deforestation and soil erosion are significant issues.
 - Local communities face water scarcity and loss of agricultural productivity.

- **Solutions and Initiatives:**

- Community-led afforestation programs.
- Sustainable farming practices and water conservation techniques.

Jury Deliberation and Announcement of Winner

After the presentations, the jury members deliberated on the scores and feedback. The winners were announced as follows:

- **First Prize:** *Ms. Laikhuram Dhanaluxmi Devi* from the 4th Semester, B.Tech Civil Engineering Department.
- **Second Prize:** *Ms. Thumningtha* from the MBA 2nd Semester.
- **Third Prize:** *Ms. Rosia Langpoklakpam* from the MBA 2nd Semester.

The winners were awarded cash prizes of INR 3000, 2000, and 1000 respectively, along with certificates.

Conclusion and Closing Remarks

The event concluded with closing remarks from the jury panel, who commended the participants for their efforts and encouraged them to continue working on sustainable solutions to environmental challenges. The jury emphasized the importance of such platforms in nurturing young minds and fostering a culture of environmental stewardship.

Outcomes and Impact

Selection of University Representative

Ms. Laikhuram Dhanaluxmi Devi was selected as the representative of MTU for the *State Level Open Symposium Competition*. This achievement not only recognizes her excellence but also highlights the university's commitment to addressing environmental issues.

Knowledge Exchange

The symposium facilitated a rich exchange of knowledge and ideas among participants, jury members, and attendees. It provided an opportunity for students to showcase their research and receive valuable feedback from experts in the field.

Awareness and Engagement

The event successfully raised awareness about land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience among the university community. It also motivated participants to engage in further research and initiatives related to environmental sustainability.

Future Recommendations

Based on the success of this symposium, the following recommendations are proposed for future events:

- **Increased Participation:** Encourage more students from diverse departments to participate in future symposiums to broaden the range of perspectives and ideas.
- **Workshops and Training:** Organize pre-symposium workshops and training sessions to help participants enhance their presentation skills and deepen their understanding of the themes.
- **Extended Collaboration:** Strengthen collaboration with external organizations, government bodies, and NGOs to provide participants with more resources and exposure.
- **Follow-up Initiatives:** Implement follow-up initiatives to support the continued development and implementation of the innovative solutions presented during the symposium.

Conclusion

The Open Symposium Competition on "*Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience*" was a resounding success, achieving its objectives and making a significant impact on the participants and the university community. The event not only highlighted the importance of addressing critical environmental challenges but also showcased the talent and dedication of the students of Manipur Technical University. We look forward to future symposiums and continued efforts towards environmental sustainability.



**OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR
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(A University established under the Manipur Technical University Act, 2016)
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www.mtu.ac.in/www.mtuonline.in

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Imphal, the 21st June, 2024

To

The Director

Department of Environment and Climate Change
Government of Manipur
Porompat, Imphal-East, Manipur

Subject: Nomination of University Winner for State Open Symposium Competition

Dear Sir,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am pleased to inform you that the Open Symposium Competition on "*Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience*" was successfully conducted at Manipur Technical University on June 21, 2024. The event was coordinated by *Mr. Kosygin Leishangthem* and his strong team, and it witnessed enthusiastic participation from our students.

A total of 12 students presented their innovative ideas and solutions on the theme. After careful evaluation by our esteemed panel of judges, **Laikhuram Dhanaluxmi Devi** was declared the winner of the competition. We are confident that **Laikhuram Dhanaluxmi Devi** will represent Manipur Technical University with distinction at the State Level Open Symposium Competition.

Please find the details of the winner below:

Winner: Laikhuram Dhanaluxmi Devi

Department: 4th Semester, B.Tech Civil Engineering Department.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this significant event and are grateful for the support and coordination provided by the Department of Environment & Climate Change. We believe that such initiatives are crucial in fostering awareness and driving action towards environmental sustainability.

Thank you once again for your support. We look forward to continued collaboration in future endeavors.

Yours sincerely,

(Keishan Biju Singh)

Assistant Registrar
Manipur Technical University
Imphal

Patrons



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