

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE VALEDICTORY SESSION OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION BETWEEN NER(I)-ASEAN ON 23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY, 2018 AT CLASSIC GRANDE, IMPHAL

Dr. S. Ranjan Singh, Hon'ble MLA and Chairman, Tourism Corporation, Manipur,

Shri M. Asnikumar, Vice-Chairman, Manipur Infrastructure Development Agency,

Shri R. R. Rashmi, Chief Secretary, Manipur,

Other dignitaries on the dais,

All the participants,

Distinguished Invitees,

Friends from Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to address this august gathering at the valedictory session of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention between North Eastern Region of India and ASEAN with focus on what is termed CLMV comprising of the countries of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. I am also happy that Manipur has been in the focus of the Convention being organized by Manipur Infrastructure Development Agency in short MIDA and International Chamber for Service Industry under the auspices of Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. I understand that this important 3<sup>rd</sup> Convention is being held in the State as a follow-up of the North East Development Summit held at Imphal in the month of November last year.

The Convention is indeed a very heartening step and I congratulate all the delegates for their active participation in the

deliberations in the past two days. I am sure, those who have come from outside have also enjoyed their stay in this beautiful scenic state of Manipur blessed with excellent climate and rich culture of diverse communities. I wish that the delegates might leave with a very pleasant memory of the Convention.

Manipur Infrastructure Development Agency or MIDA being the only professional body in this discipline and having been established only recently, deserves all appreciation for its relentless efforts in promoting business opportunities within and outside the region and boosting International trade in services for specific sectors along with exchange of manpower. I am happy to learn that the focus of the entire Convention was on Service Industry, with detailed deliberations on need based quality Higher Education, Innovative Skills Development Programmes, Aviation connectivity in the region, Promotion of Tourism, Developing Hospitality Infrastructure, Wellness and Medical Tourism Services, Developing hub for the Media-Entertainment, Bio-economy and Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises. All these are very relevant for the youths of Manipur and essential for developing an industry base in the state. As you are all well aware, India's trade with CLMV countries has grown faster and so also the trade with ASEAN countries as a whole. There is a huge potential of about US \$ 100 billion of additional export with the coming of tri-lateral highway, connectivity improvements in the North East India, Act East Policy and other major initiatives.

Under the dynamic leadership of our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, we all understand that the North-East region of India is poised for a tremendous leap on the development front. The region has a

distinct advantage of being strategically located with access to the CLMV market. Under the initiative of 'Act East Policy', India seeks economic cooperation with ASEAN and other neighbouring countries through the various gateways of the region emphasizing on overall socio economic development in the region, and let me assure you that Manipur is ready to take the lead.

Today's business world is evolving faster than ever before. Amplified by technology that is enabling the world to become smaller by means of the internet, now-a-days businesses are under compellation to be more efficient, receptive and innovative. It is obvious that the growth in certain sectors and for a certain category of people cannot be sustained for a long period. The overall growth must also touch upon the people at the grass root level. The academicians should be able to bring out viable model so that the poorest of the poor gets his due from the economic growth.

I always look at the Commerce fraternity as an important partner in nation building and transforming the country. I am happy that the Manipur Infrastructure Development Agency has made strategic alliance with other stakeholders in the field in making the endeavour of learning through sharing for the development of the state. I congratulate the organizers for their laudable and praiseworthy efforts and, once again, thank the organizers for inviting me to this mega event.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.