

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE CLOSING PROGRAMME OF THE 3RD WORLD BAMBOO WORKSHOP-2019 ON 8TH FEBRUARY, 2019 AT CITY CONVENTION CENTRE, IMPHAL

Shri Th. Biswajit Singh ji, Hon'ble Minister (Textiles, Commerce & Industry),

Shri Th. Shyamkumar ji, Hon'ble Minister (Forest & Environment),

Dr. J. Suresh Babu, Chief Secretary, Manipur,

Mr. Michel Abadie, President, World Bamboo Organization,

Ms. Susanne Lucas, Executive Director, World Bamboo Organization,

Prof. Nirmala Chongtham, World Bamboo Ambassador, World Bamboo Organization,

All the distinguished participants from India and abroad,

Friends from the Media,

Distinguished Invitees,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to be present here in the Closing Programme of the 3rd World Bamboo Workshop held for the first time in India and it is, indeed, heartwarming to learn that around 34 countries from across the world have participated in the Workshop. It is a proud privilege for the State of Manipur to host such an important international event of this magnitude. I am sure the various sessions scheduled during the Workshop have witnessed intense interactions and fruitful deliberations on important issues pertaining to bamboo or 'green gold' with good feedbacks from the stakeholders and I am looking forward with great interest to go through the report of the Workshop.

It is to be appreciated that the World Bamboo Workshop is the largest international multi-disciplinary theoretical and practical event for and about bamboo, in which people from all over the world participate including world leaders and experts in the use of bamboo. It is an annual event organized by the World Bamboo Organization with the objective of spreading the traditional use and application of bamboo of a particular region of the world

while making efforts to bring in all the scientific, technical and traditional knowledge available around the world. The thrust area in the present Workshop has been promotion of sustainable plantation, development and use of the natural product of bamboo for the benefit of the communities which have huge natural growth of bamboo. Special focus has also been given on projecting bamboo to be a part of New Urban Agenda.

Manipur is blessed with an abundance of natural growth of bamboo which has made this “green gold” an integral resource in the lives of the people of the State. In this 3rd World Bamboo Workshop at Imphal, the State has seen the largest ever congregation of world renowned bamboo experts, both in the field of construction technology and knowledge. International Bamboo Expo Conferences, Workshops with hands-on demonstration and Interactive Sessions have been important features during this global event. Exhibition on various bamboo products alongwith demonstration of the latest technologies and practices in processing, treatment and production of various bamboo products by the world renowned bamboo experts also formed a part of the Workshop. Over 50 Exhibition stalls showcased diverse and exquisite bamboo products ranging from structural to domestic uses apart from displaying various bamboo textiles, food products and local handloom and handicrafts products. I am sure, the people of Manipur particularly the bamboo artisans and the bamboo related entrepreneurs have been immensely benefitted. It would help to enhance the technological and scientific uses of our rich natural resource of bamboo for the economic and overall welfare of our people.

For the advanced economies of the world, bamboo provides a new alternative to the many uses of wood as a material while it may even be a novel item of nutritious food. The key factor here is that bamboo provides a very good natural resource that is both sustainable and eco-friendly. In addition, the fact that bamboo today is generally found in its abundance of natural growth in less developed economies provides a great opportunity for the people of these areas to exploit this wonderful natural resource to its

advantage by availing of the latest and best technologies that are being brought about through new innovations and advancements across the world. The Government of Manipur, having acknowledged these potentials, has wholeheartedly ventured to host this important international event, the first of its kind for India. It is expected that the workshop will throw light on how the State can develop its huge natural potentials in bamboo for the advancement of the economy of the State and to provide economically viable and gainful alternatives to its people.

I am confident that the deliberations and exchanges of information, knowledge, know-how, demonstration of latest technologies and sharing of the technological advancements in the development of bamboo, used both as raw material for construction and as nutritious food items through the various sessions in the Workshop will definitely benefit the people of the State. It will help in taking us forward in a big way and support in activating and putting in place the necessary Government mechanism and policies to enable us to make much better use of this invaluable natural resource. The 3rd World Bamboo Workshop 2019 at Imphal, Manipur should be a game-changer for the people of Manipur as well as the State Government in its engagement to bring about huge benefits from the State's rich bamboo resources. The economic benefits, the environment benefits and the health and nutritional benefits can be derived better in a scientific and eco-friendly manner for the overall benefit of the people.

Let me conclude with the earnest hope that all the distinguished representatives and experts from other parts of the country and overseas will go back to their respective states and countries with message of their pleasant stay in this small State of the easternmost part of India. With these few words, it is my immense pleasure to close the World Bamboo Workshop and I thank the organizers for inviting me to this memorable function.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.