

A REPORT ON WORLD HERITAGE WEEK CELEBRATION AT AS DIMA HASAO DISTRICT OF ASSAM 2016-17

The Directorate of archaeology have celebrated world heritage week in the district of Dima Hasao with a week long programme from the 19th November to 25th November, 2017 in collaboration with the District Archaeology, Dima Hasao. In order to create awareness among the people for preservation of the archaeological sites and monuments in the hilly state, the Directorate has organized various programmes in different places of the district. The inauguration programme of the world heritage week has been observed in the historic Asalu fort which was the first colonial establishment in the Naga region of undivided Assam on 19th November. Remains of the British made fort still exists in the vicinity of the Asalu village for which the inauguration function was organized in the fort campus in collaboration with the village council of Asalu. A public meeting was held on the field of Asalu fort where Executive Member of Dima Hasao council was invited as chief guest for the inaugural function. The nearby villagers were involves to clean up the monuments and a traditional stage was constructed for function. In the function the village leaders, public leaders have been assured to safeguard the archaeological monuments in the area. A photographic exhibition was also held at the site to create interest among the public on the archaeological heritage.

The next day, on 20th November, 2017, a national seminar was organized in the Halflong Govt College in collaboration with the college on the theme of “Recent Trends in Archaeology”. Scholars from Gauhati University, Cotton College, North East Hills University, Shillong and Tura campus, Govt. Haflong College, Directorate of Archaeology, Assam presented their papers. Students and teachers of the college have actively taken part to organize the seminar. As a part of the world heritage week, 2017, a public awareness meeting has been organized in a remote Dimasa village Dubongling or Derebere, on 21st

November, which is famous for the prehistoric stone jar. The villager took active participation in the programme. The scholars who came for the National Seminar also attended the awareness meeting and delivered lectures on protection and preservation of the archaeological monuments especially on stone jars. On 22nd November another awareness programme was held in a remote village of Dima Hasao district, namely Khobak which is inhabited by Baite tribe. Moreover the village is known for its large stone jar site which was discovered by J.P Milles and Hutton in 1931. The village people took part in the programme and the officers of the Directorate of Archaeology Assam have delivered lectures about the importance of archaeological heritage and its preservation aspects.

The closing ceremony of the world heritage week was held at the auditorium of district library of Dima Hasao, Haflong, on 25th November, 2017. The officers and staffs of the Directorate of Archaeology, Assam and the District Archaeology, Dima Hasao organized the closing programme successfully, people from nearby village participated in the function. Cultural shows were performed by the local youths for the occasion with traditional dress.