

## PRESS RELEASE

### "Honouring Heritage: First-Ever QCI Certification for Meghalaya's Traditional Healers"

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Bio-Resources Development Centre (BRDC), an Institution under PIP&SD Department, Government of Meghalaya with one of its mandate to promote the indigenous system of medicine in the State has conducted many programmes for the Traditional Healers such as documentation of Traditional medicine, training and capacity building for uplifting the traditional medical practices, setting up of Meghalaya Traditional Healing Clinics, etc. The certification of Traditional Healers under the Voluntary Certification Scheme for Traditional Community Healthcare Providers (VCSTCHP) of the Quality Council of India (QCI) is one such programme that marks a significant milestone in BRDC's unwavering commitment to preserving, promoting, and professionalising traditional healing practices in the state. The "Certificate Distribution Programme," held at the Secretariat Wellness Centre, Secretariat Hills, Shillong, stands as a testament to BRDC's pivotal role in recognising the invaluable contributions of these guardians of Meghalaya's rich heritage and ancestral wisdom. This certification programme is also one such programme that will provide the Traditional Healers access to various relevant schemes of the Ministry of AYUSH, GOI. This certification ensures that the traditional healing practices adhere to safety standards-building a bridge between indigenous wisdom and contemporary healthcare.

Nine Traditional Community Healthcare Providers (TCHPs) from across Meghalaya have been certified under the ISO/IEC 17024:2012 standards, following a rigorous evaluation of their expertise in treating common ailments, jaundice, traditional bone setting, and arthritis. These certified healers were formally felicitated during the programme, marking a significant step toward institutional recognition of traditional knowledge. This milestone paves the way for many more traditional healers in the state to be brought under this quality certification framework in the future.

The event was graced by Dr. Joram Beda, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of Meghalaya and Director, AYUSH as the Chief Guest in presence of Prof. Darlando T. Khathing, Pro Chancellor of North East Christian University and Shri. Gunanka DB, IFS, Additional Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya and Member Secretary of Bio-Resources Development Centre.



Sh. Gunanka DB, IFS in his KeyNote address highlighted various initiatives taken up by the BRDC in streamlining the Traditional Healing system, besides other Traditional knowledge sectors. This recognition is a landmark effort in preserving traditional medical knowledge which has significantly contributed to rural healthcare.

Prof. D. Khathing underlines the role played by North East Christian University (NECU), Dimapur, serving as the authorized certifying body for the North East. He further elaborated on the significance and impact of this Certification in which these Traditional Healers are even showcased in the QCI portal which can be accessed by everyone at the global level.



Dr. Joram Beda, IAS commended on the roles rendered by BRDC and NECU in streamlining this traditional heritage. Such certification not only legitimizes the contributions of Traditional Healers but also integrates them into the State's healthcare framework especially the Traditional Bone Setting practices, thereby, expanding access to culturally rooted and community-trusted health services. He further reiterated the need to further encourage R&D in Traditional Medicine sector to catalyse knowledge integration into the formal healthcare.

During the programme, experience was shared by the representatives of Khasi, Jaintia, Ribhoi and Garo Hills regions.

