

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION & PUBLIC
RELATIONS

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Signing of MoU between Health Department and PHFI

Shillong, 25th Jan 2019 : The State Government has taken up a novel initiative to address the perpetual shortage of specialist doctors in Meghalaya by launching “Design and Adoption of Alternate models for Responding to address Shortage of medical specialists in Meghalaya” (ADARSH). The provisional signing of the MoU and a workshop was conducted between State Government and Public Health Foundation of India and Indian Institutes of Public Health on 7th December 2018 in the presence of Shri P W Ingty (IAS), Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya, Shri Pravin Bakshi (IAS), Health Secretary cum Mission Director, NHM –Meghalaya, Directors of Health Services (MI, MCH and Research), Meghalaya, Prof Sanjay Zodpey, Vice President (Academics), PHFI-New Delhi and Prof Sandra Albert, Director IIPH-Shillong.

On 25th January 2019 final signing and handing of the formal MoU between State Government and Public Health Foundation of India took place in the presence of Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Shri A L Hek and Shri P. W. Ingty, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya.

Critical and specialist health workforce is important to achieve health and wider development objectives over the next few decades. Medical specialists are scarce in Meghalaya and the numbers are lower than required in the public sector, at the Community Health Centre (CHC) level and above. Even district hospitals in our state have an acute shortage of medical specialists.

The ADARSH project is an attempt to design and scale-up alternate models for responding to the critical shortage of medical specialists in the state to train doctors in the public sector. The College of Physicians and Surgeons (CPS) model is an alternative model that will be adopted in Meghalaya. PHFI/IIPH will work closely with the Government of India, State Governments, the CPS and other stakeholders to facilitate specialist doctors strengthening in the public sector. Large District Hospitals (DHs) will be leveraged for specialist doctors training. This is in keeping with the National Health Policy 2017 and a MoH&FW Steering Committee for advocating scaling-up of specialist training options like that of the CPS in district hospital.



The project will increase the number of specialists in the state through adoption of alternate model for responding to the critical shortage of medical specialists at FRUs, CHCs, Sub District Hospitals and District Hospitals for providing

patient centred secondary health care services. The participating District Hospitals will witness a strengthening of their capital infrastructure as well as the staffing of specialists. It is hoped that the presence of Post-Graduate trainees around the year in a hospital will have a domino effect that may lead to better services and higher utilization.

It is strongly felt that the State Government will directly benefit from the availability of a larger specialist pool. The population, particularly women and children, served by the District Hospitals will have 24x7 access to medical specialists. After completion of their training, the states will judiciously choose where these specialists will be posted to address concerns within the state. It is hereby informed that the two year courses that will eventually be offered will include Diploma in Child Health, Maternal Health, Anaesthesiology and Surgery.