GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
FORESTS & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
ORDER BY GOVERNOR

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NOTIFICATION

No. FOR.12/2019/ 49, **Dated Shillong, the 24th August, 2020.**

Meghalaya being a part of the Indo-Burma Mega biodiversity hotspot is endowed with rich forests, ancient sacred groves and a variety of flora and fauna. Conservation of the environment is a sine-qua-non for sustained development. The Constitution of India in Article. 51 A (g) states, "It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures". It is therefore incumbent on all citizens of India to ensure that the environment is protected.

Global warming has become a reality and manifested itself in the ever increasing changes in climate which is bound to affect in the long run the ecology of the region. This can be reversed by proper and timely remedial actions. Concerted efforts by both the Government and the citizens is therefore, the need of the hour.

The Government of Meghalaya is therefore pleased to notify an award in the field of forests and environment to be called the "Meghalaya Excellence Award on Environment Protection". The Award will include a Citation, a Trophy and a Cash Prize of Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh) only which will be presented on the occasion of World Environment Day, i.e 5th June of every year.

As such, it has become necessary to lay down the following guidelines in order to put in place the Meghalaya Excellence Award on Environment Protection

1. **Title:** These Guidelines shall be called as the Guidelines on **The Meghalaya Excellence Award on Environment Protection.**

2. **Objectives:** The basic objectives for the Award are as follows:

(1) To generate mass awareness amongst the different sections of society on the importance of forest and environment conservation.

(2) To encourage the people to take proactive steps in preservation, maintenance, sustainable utilization, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment.

(3) To recognise and appreciate the valuable services and outstanding contributions of a person or persons in protection and improvement of the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers, catchment areas, biodiversity and wildlife.

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3. **Person or body eligible for the Award:** The following entities who render valuable services or make outstanding contributions in the field of forest and environment conservation within the State for not less than 5 (five) years shall be eligible for the Award:

(i) Individuals including Government employees.

(ii) Voluntary Organisations (NGOs) based in the State.

(iii) Traditional Institutions like Village Durbar, Nokma Clan, Raid, Doloiship, Hima, etc.

(iv) Institutions or Organisations under Government including bodies constituted under provisions of Forest and Environmental Acts and Rules or Executive orders (Joint Forest Management Committees, Wildlife Conservation Area Committees and the like)

(v) Corporate Sector (Private or Public Sector Agencies).

(vi) Eco-clubs at School level which have continuously participated in the environment conservation activities for the last five years.

4. **Nature of Award:** One or more of the following activities will be considered for the Award.

(i) Protection, amelioration and preservation of the natural resources including community and privately owned forests, plantations, sacred groves, living root bridges and the like.

(ii) Eco-restoration and protection of critical catchment areas and other sources of important perennial streams, rivers and rivulets.

(iii) Control and prevention of pollution.

(iv) Protection and conservation of Wildlife including biodiversity.

(v) Innovation, development, use and propagation of environmentally sound and cost effective technologies through extensive research or field works.

(vi) Motivation and extension work involving stakeholders, rural poor, cooperatives in environment protection and amelioration and setting up of grass root level institutions and social fencing of community forests.

5. **Mode of receiving applications and eliciting recommendations:**

(i) Wide publicity in print and electronic media will be made to solicit the maximum number of applications in the nominations for the award.

(ii) Proposals or recommendations or applications along with biodata and particulars as prescribed at Annexure-I will be received in the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Meghalaya not later than the 10th of December of every year.

(iii) Recommendations for the award shortlisted from the applications received will be submitted to the Chief Secretary by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Meghalaya with his endorsement through the Forests & Environment Administrative Department, for final consideration by the first week of March of the selection year.

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6. **Selection Committee:** There will be a Selection Committee which will examine and scrutinise the proposals, recommendations or applications and offer suggestions regarding the most deserving candidate(s) in any or all activities mentioned at para 4 above for consideration by the Government. The Committee will consist of 4 (four) members having expertise in the related fields with the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force,Meghalaya as Chairman, as the Government may from time to time appoint.

7. **Selection Criteria:** While endorsing application or recommending for the award, the following criteria should be followed:

(i) Subject matter may be of preventive, restorative or innovative in nature taken by the concerned applicant accompanied with sufficient materials and evidences. The indicators for ecological restoration of a place are the different scenarios observed before and after any intervention or corrective measures resulting in the perceived improvement of eco-system services. Preventive measures taken by the applicant can be indicated and confirmed when due to persisting and concerted efforts, the environment or its components are saved from potential danger or destruction.

Claim for innovation of any technology shall not be eligible for the Award unless it is cost effective, applicable on the ground, versatile and acceptable to the local community or the stake holders. Successful awareness raising and motivation can be gauged from the facts that the general perception, conduct and attitude of the local community in particular and the public in general towards the environment are significantly changed and people began to live and act as responsible citizens.

(ii) Only one award will be selected against the categories or activities (i), (ii) and (iii) and one each for (iv), (v) and (vi) specified at para 4 so that the total award in a particular selection year is 4 (four) in all. However, the selection committee may recommend in order of preference up to three most deserving candidates or applicants from each category for final consideration and selection by the Government. Only one application will be entertained in any particular year from the same person or entity.

(iii) A winner of any award against any activity or category will be selected only once and will not be eligible to apply again for the same activity in subsequent years. However, they will be eligible to apply for an award against the remaining categories or activities in the subsequent year(s) only.

(iv) While short listing awardees, care should be taken that all noteworthy aspects of every application are taken into consideration to ensure that the final selection is free and fair.

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(v) The application addressed to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Meghalaya may be submitted through the concerned Deputy Commissioners, Divisional Forest Officers or Autonomous District Councils for necessary recommendations. Employees of Government and Public Undertaking may submit their application through their respective controlling authorities. Recommending authorities or bodies should satisfy themselves that the individuals or entities proposed or recommended, enjoy good reputation, integrity and responsibility in their field of activities and have not come in for adverse notice or public criticism for any conduct in their social and professional life.

Sd/-

(D.P.Wahlang, IAS)

Principal Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya
Forests & Environment Department,

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Memo. No. FOR.12/2019/49-A, **Dated Shillong, the 24th August, 2020.**

Copy to :

1. The P.S Chief Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, for kind information of Chief Secretary.
2. The P.S to Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Political Department for information of Additional Chief Secretary
3. The P.S to Principal Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Education Department for information of Principal Secretary.
4. The P.A to Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Social Welfare Department for information of Commissioner & Secretary.
5. Tha P.A to Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Sports & Youth Affairs Department for information of Commissioner & Secretary.
6. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & HOFF,Meghalaya, Shillong.
7. All Administrative Departments.
8. All Heads of Departments.
9. The Director of Information & Public Relations, Meghalaya, Shillong, for information and necessary action.
10. Director of Printing & Stationery for Printing the above Notification in the Official Gazette.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FOREST & HOFF
36642-46
27 AUG 2020
MEGHALAYA, SHILLONG

By order etc.,

Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya,
Forests & Environment Department

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ANNEXURE – I

APPLICATION FOR MEGHALAYA EXCELLENCE AWARD ON ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

[See para 5]

1. Full Name :

2. Date of Birth or age :
(in case of individual)

Date of Registration/Establishment :
(for applicant other than individual)

3. Profession or occupation of the :
Applicant (designation of office
held to be given in the case of
person in Govt. employ, etc.)

4. Full Address with telephone :
Number and other contact details

5. Self declaration on year of experience :
in the field of environment protection
and detailsof such activity and
achievement.

6. Name of Award/Awards received :
In the past with year.

7. Details of activity and achievement :
on environment protection with
supporting documents, etc

8. Award recommended :

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