

National Evaluation Workshop for ENVIS Centres on 17th to 20th, February, 2016 at New Delhi organised by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Report submitted by Sherap Namgyal Bhutia who attended the workshop representing ENVIS centre Sikkim on Ecotourism, SSCST, Vigyan Bhawan, Gangtok.



Pic - Launch of ENVIS portal by Minister Shri. PrakashJavadekar

17th February, 2016

- The workshop was participated by representatives of all ENVIS centres in the nation.
- An exhibition for ENVIS centres was organised at Hotel Asokha, New Delhi and all ENVIS centres had individual stalls.
- The Minister of MoEF, Shri.PrakashJavadekar, inaugurated the meet and exhibition and officially released the new ENVIS portal, www.envis.nic.in. He also visited the stalls at the exhibition on display.

The other senior officials in the dais were,

- Smt. Anandi Subramanian – Economic Advisor, ENVIS, MoEF
- Shri. Ashok Lavasa – Secretary, MoEF
- Shri. Ravi Singh – CEO, WWF, India

- An introduction to Bharat Maps and its usability with ENVIS was also presented by NIC.



Pics- Exhibition of ENVIS centres for the Minister MoEF. ENVIS centre Sikkim State centre receiving award for Best ENVIS centre 2016, state based.

The Best Thematic centre was awarded to ENVIS centre IISC Bangalore (Centre for Ecological Sciences)

Cont...

18th February, 2016

The presentation for our centre was scheduled at 11 am. It was a successful and interactive presentation by me, Sr. Programme Officer, ENVIS Ecotourism and following are the main points suggested for improvement and credibility by the experts evaluating our centre.



1. A method should be formulated such that we can differentiate and identify between Eco-tourists and pleasure tourists. A statistic should be developed and maintained whereby we record the number of eco-tourists in the country.
2. The centre being a theme based centre is now expected to be more Pan India rather than gathering information only at the state.
3. Data gathered is to be synthesised into valuable information and simplified for consumption to the lay public.
4. The personnel at the centre are to be more proactive and dynamic such that they are more imaginative and creative about ways to collate this Pan India information on ecotourism.
5. Ecotourism data and articles can also be gathered from students pursuing Ecotourism as their main subjects in colleges in and around the country as the ENVIS newsletter has ISSN number and this is motivating for college students as their citations in our newsletter would carry points, thus contributing points during final assessment in their final grades.
6. It was stressed that GBPant Institute in Sikkim has valuable data on ecotourism in their centre. It was noticed that our centre have not work towards building rapport and procuring data from them or other organisations and institutes in the state. Pan India valuable data can be

procured from these centres and it is expected that necessary linkages are maintained and data shared with these centres this year.

7. Logos of the ministry, the centre and host organisation along with GoI logo is encouraged in letters to other departments as this increases value and the data sought after is responded to efficiently.
8. Newsletter design was heavily criticised, as the centre being on ecotourism is expected to produce illustrated, colourful designs to improve the readability value with informative content for the stakeholders and to make it attractive.
9. The new database Homestays in Sikkim is an example of synthesis of data, data is made valuable as it is informative and helpful is contributing directly to improve the livelihood of these homestay owners. The centre is encouraged to bring out more original and valuable information such as this.
10. The source of the data should always be mentioned, even for photos.

The experts in the panel were Dr. Shesavni, Professor Vasani, Dr. Ravi Kumar and Dr. Tamil Server

19th February, 2016.



Exhibition of the centres at MoEF building (Paryavaran Bhawan)

- The venue for the presentation was in the MoEF building (Paryavaran Bhawan) which is the first net Zero Green building in India

- It was informed that the ENVIS portal on its 2 day release had already garnered 5000 hits.
- Concluding session was chaired by all 12 experts in presence of the Economic Advisor, Dr. Anandi Subramanian, the experts, officers of NIC, ENVIS secretariat along with the participants.

Following are the suggestion and points spelled out by the experts in order for the centre to improve and develop an individual identity.



Pic: The panel of esteemed experts during the evaluation

(Venue III, experts, evaluator)

1. Newsletters should be attractive and with more illustrations
2. Improve on data analysis for value addition, too many tables, numbers, the information gets lost.
3. The high number of foreign hits in some centres is baffling, why?, what is it that needs probing (NIC)
4. There should be accommodation for local vernacular language (Nepali)
5. ENVIS centre needs to acquire independent identity from the host organisation, (should not be in the host's shadow and needs to grow out)
6. Focus on what the centre needs to do such that there is no overlapping of other centre's (MoEF)
7. Primary data collection, collation- synthesising (MoEF)
8. Data collation from other primary organisations is not enough and to increase hits you need to get value addition to the data.

Thematic centre specific suggestions

- Objectives should be mentioned in their home page
- Login module needs to be improved

- Visualisation of data is important (always include relevant pictures in your content)

Venue II experts suggestions

- Value added products at least once in 5 years. E.g. a new book was published by ENVIS Assam
- Collection of data is not sufficient, outcome should be important and useful

Professor Babu:

- There should be synthesis of information, such that it is useful to anyone
- Take the essential asset of the information and change it to the useful/valued information for the end users. For example if we use a part of a certain article in a magazine we can develop that into an informative article. You can then give the reference of the book or magazine with the author name.
- Grouping of information is necessary
- A good design is necessary in presenting the information.
- You should have a clear bent of mind if the certain information is for the local level, national level or international level.

Professor Barrick (NEHU, Shillong)

1. Synthesis of Data, for policymakers and stakeholders, like charts, graphs which show data gaps
2. There should not only be output of the work but its outcome as well should be kept in mind. Also improve the utilisation of data.
3. Involve the ENVIS centres and support by MoEF for primary data by supplying grants (small)
4. A joint coordinator in the centre was suggested
5. Add one more professional for ENVIS thematic centre
6. The presence of ENVIS coordinator in National Evaluation should not be taken lightly.
7. Knowledge gaps has to be filled by Data Analysis
8. Videos are missing in the website
9. Mobile apps developed enhances the reach for the websites
10. Downloading and login problem to be solved by NIC

Professor Chandra (IIT Guwahati)

- Digital India ahead to take Digital Green India forward, e-governance
- Professionalism in ENVIS centers. Staff at the centre should have mindfulness, purposefulness and passion in their work.

- Ask oneself, who are the stakeholders? Identify if the information is going to the end users.

ENVIS family representative Miss Uma from FRLHT deliberated suggestions on behalf of ENVIS.

1. Link up with Doordarshan and Government channels for ENVIS dissemination.
2. Have videos or trailer flashed for ENVIS network.
3. Connect to all museums.
4. Have citations for our network.
5. Integrate good practices from each other.
6. Style of writing should be oriented to the ENVIS staff.
7. Enhance budget, have additional staff and retain staff.
8. There should be further restructuring of websites to keep up with the current modern times.

ENVIS websites to check for examples:

a. FRLHT, Bangalore, b. ISM Dhanbad, c. CAZRI, d. SPA, e. IOM ENVIS, f. IISC Bangalore (award winner 2016 for thematic centre.

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The Economic Advisor on the concluding interaction advised the ENVIS centres

- The concept of adopting a village by each ENVIS centre should be implemented
- Aim to be a regional hub.
- SMART city concept with ENVIS