

19th November: World Toilet Day

The UN reported that about 2.5 billion people across the globe do not have access to proper sanitation, including toilets or latrines, with dramatic consequences on human health, dignity and security, the environment, and social and economic development. Keeping the importance of proper sanitation, the UN initiated with strong commitment on “Sanitation for All” amongst the Member States. The 19th day of November was designated as World Toilet Day at the United Nations General Assembly in July 2013.

The **World Toilet Day** theme for year 2014 is “*Equality, Dignity and the Link Between Gender-Based Violence and Sanitation*”, which seeks to put a spotlight on the threat of sexual violence that women and girls face due to lack of privacy as well as the inequalities availability in



usability. Toilets generally remain inadequate for populations with special needs, such as the disabled and elderly, and women and girls requiring facilities to manage their special needs. On this auspicious occasion, Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon, said that “*We have a moral imperative to end open defecation and a duty to ensure women and girls are not at risk of assault and rape simply because they lack a sanitation facility*”.



Therefore, the Day is an opportunity to inspire action and underscore the urgency needed to end open defecation, especially for the women and girls who are particularly vulnerable. Though the sanitation campaign is the most lacking target of the **Millennium Development Goals**, the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson, on behalf of the Secretary-General, launched a campaign earlier this year to break the silence on open defecation and spur dialogue as part of the UN Call to Action on Sanitation.

NERCORMP, though in small ways, initiated construction about 7,580 units of low cost latrines across the six project districts (i.e. Dima Hasao and Karbi Anglong in Assam; Senapati and Ukhrul in Manipur and West Garo Hills and West Khasi Hills in Meghalaya) and view sanitation as utmost important for societal development and women empowerment. On this very auspicious day Shri L. Baite, Managing Director, NERCORMP reiterates that we should ensure to achieve the target of hundred percent sanitation to all the 20,826 targeted household either through the Project or by convergence with the Government of India programme. Further, the NERCORMP under its 3rd phase, is covering two districts in Arunachal Pradesh (Changlang and Tirap including Longding) and two more districts in Manipur (Churachandpur and Chandel) with a targeted household of about 58,850. Therefore, the contribution of NERCORMP towards sanitation will go a long way for the betterment of the poor and marginalised upland communities of North Eastern region of India, in restoration of privacy and dignity of the rural womenfolk.

