

**National Symposium**  
**On**  
**Intellectual Property Rights in the context of Traditional Knowledge and Biodiversity**



The Light of Truth

**Martin Luther Christian University, Shillong**

**December 6 – 7, 2018**

**Venue: MLCU Hall, Nongrah**

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## *CONCEPT NOTE*

In the present context, Intellectual Property Rights has become a great concern in all disciplines and even in relation to traditional knowledge.

The various forms of traditional knowledge has also been conceptualized as traditional cultural expressions (TCEs). The TCEs includes products of creative intellectual activity, have been handed down from one generation to another, either orally or by imitation, reflect a community's cultural and social identity, consist of characteristic elements of a community's heritage, often make use of natural resources in their creation and reproduction and a few others

Today, it is seen that the concerns to protect the intellectual property has extended to spheres of Traditional Knowledge (TK). There is an increased awareness of the need for the legal protection of TK at the international and national level. Examining the benefits of such legal protection for traditional knowledge is essential as TK plays an important role in the economic and social life of the people of these communities. Placing value on such knowledge helps strengthen cultural identity and the enhanced use of such knowledge to achieve social and development goals, such as sustainable agriculture, affordable and appropriate public health, and conservation of biodiversity. One of the challenges in today's context is to find ways of strengthening and nurturing the roots of TK, even in times of social dislocation and change and also how traditional knowledge can be protected from unscrupulous commercial institutions. The concern on IPR has also extended to the academic circles where IPR has been given due thrust even by regulatory bodies like the UGC.

Therefore, through this symposium, the University hopes to be able understand the nuances of the practical implementation of IPR in protecting biodiversity and other forms of traditional knowledge. It is also hoped that the tangible outcome of the seminar would be a book or a Manual on Protection of IPR.

## About the Symposium

### **Objectives:**

1. To sensitize about IPR in general among professional, community and stakeholders
2. To be familiar with different forms of protection for biodiversity and traditional knowledge
3. To gain knowledge on practical steps / processes for protecting biodiversity and traditional knowledge
4. To identify and discuss issues and dilemma over community ownership

### **Theme and sub themes**

Day 1: Theme I- IPR issues in India

Sub theme – IPR and traditional knowledge system in NE India

Sub theme- IPR and Oral/Folk tale, Folklore as knowledge system

Day 1: Theme II- Conservation of Biodiversity

Sub theme- Community conserve ecosystem (forest, sacred groves, caves) etc

Sub theme – Agro-biodiversity and Food system

Day 2: Theme III- IPR and Traditional systems

Sub theme- Legislation and Registration process for IPR

Sub theme –1. Traditional system with focus on musical instrument, dance( attire, material used)

2. Traditional Medicine

Day 2: Theme IV- Dilemma over community ownership

Sub theme- Access and benefits sharing

Sub theme- Gender and Biodiversity

### **Keynote Speakers**

**Dr. Brahma N. Singh** and **Dr. Vivek Srivastava**, Scientist

Herbal Nanobiotechnology Lab, Pharmacology Division, CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow

