With the withdrawal of the Restricted Area Permit for foreign nationals from the states of Assam and Meghalaya, NEHU is welcoming institutional and individual international collaboration in the disciplines of Anthropology, Geography, History, Linguistics, Philosophy, and Sociology. Within NEHU’s general policy to transmit, sustain, promote, and enhance traditions of academic practice, the School of Human & Environmental Sciences (SHES) supports and promotes research, teaching, and training programmes with the dual aim of enhancing pure scientific knowledge as well as its links with applications for the development of the region. The School encourages interdisciplinary and multi-dimensional research within the School at NEHU. The various departments of the University offer MA, MSc, MPhil, and PhD courses in various traditional fields as well as newly emerging ones in respective disciplines.

The Department of Anthropology within the SHES is now a full-fledged department with specialized courses in both Social/Cultural and Physical Anthropology. The Department imparts fieldwork training in northeastern and southern India to MA students and offers laboratory research projects to MSc students. The Venter Elwin Memorial Museum is also being set up at this department. The advanced research programmes in Physical Anthropology include DNA research in collaboration with the Social Anthropology stream. Advanced research in the Cultural Anthropology stream includes interdisciplinary research programmes with a strong Indigenous Knowledge component.

The northeastern region of India not only offers a virtual goldmine for research on various communities but also provides unique opportunities for comparison, both within and outside of India. The cultural and linguistic variation in the region is simply amazing and unparalleled anywhere else in the world. The tribal communities of the region are undergoing rapid changes as a result of Information Technology, and the resulting infrastructural and educational developments throw challenges to anthropologists to study how these cultures are facilitating and/or coping with the changes. In about half a century, various food-gathering and hunting communities in the region have produced a well-informed and confident elite. This is simply an commonplace; and yet, the region still has almost half of its cultivable land under ‘shifting cultivation’. The region is one of the richest in the world in terms of biodiversity, and the environmental richness is matched by the ethnic diversity and accompanying problems of political identity.

NEHU maintains an extensive network of connections for both teaching and research with the best universities and research institutes in India and abroad. In the thirtieth year of its existence, it now plans to extend this network to European universities and research organizations through its Schools and their departments. The University, with its dynamic faculty members, computer, Internet, laboratory facilities, and advanced programmes at MPhil, PhD, and post-doctoral levels, offers trained manpower, including anthropologists, who can collaborate with scholars from any university in the world. Such collaborations will be fit to the participatory scholars and institutions.

Dr T.B. Subba is professor of Social Anthropology.
Dr Jan Brouwer is professor of Cultural Anthropology.

They both work at the NEHU Department of Anthropology and may be contacted at:
C/o North-Eastern Hill University, Department of Anthropology, Mayurbhanj Complex, Nongthymmai, Shillong 793014 India.
E-mail: tbsubba@sanchamhet.in

The conference concluded with an appealing session on the importance of for experimenting and evolving the theoretical and conceptual bases of the work of connections for both teaching and research with the best universities and research institutes in India and abroad. In the thirtieth year of its existence, it now plans to extend this network to European universities and research organizations through its Schools and their departments. The University, with its dynamic faculty members, computer, Internet, laboratory facilities, and advanced programmes at MPhil, PhD, and post-doctoral levels, offers trained manpower, including anthropologists, who can collaborate with scholars from any university in the world. Such collaborations will be fit to the participatory scholars and institutions.

Dr T.B. Subba is professor of Social Anthropology.
Dr Jan Brouwer is professor of Cultural Anthropology.

They both work at the NEHU Department of Anthropology and may be contacted at:
C/o North-Eastern Hill University, Department of Anthropology, Mayurbhanj Complex, Nongthymmai, Shillong 793014 India.
E-mail: tbsubba@sanchamhet.in

By T.B. Subba and Jan Brouwer

India-Sri Lanka Relations

The asymmetry between India and Sri Lanka in terms of size, strength, and resources makes their relationship sometimes problematic, particularly during the periods of internal crisis in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka’s internal power politics and its ethnic orientation have generated problematic, particularly in the 1990s, when due to the positive impact of the globalization process, it was possible to discuss and analyze the issue of integration. Sri Lanka is a country that has inherited and challenges emerging during the twenty-first Century and concluded with the understanding that the legacies are ambiguous and reality is complex but the challenges are clear and obvious. However, the legacies and challenges implicate certain cracks and wounds, which are to be cemented and healed through innovative research inspired by a deep and abiding interest of the international and domestic scholars of Sri Lanka studies. Only when using the appropriate methods and techniques of social science research, will we be able to underline and identify the challenges for the island in the twenty-first century. With such an understanding of Sri Lanka’s legacies and reality, the policies for empowerment, entitlement, equity, inclusion, and environmental need reorientation in the twenty-first century.

Karon Singh was the Coordinator for the above-described conference and is affiliated to the South Asia Studies Centre at the University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, India.
E-mail: karsingh_jr@sanchamhet.in

During the conference, a committee of seven scholars was formed to coordinate the activities of Sri Lanka Studies during the two years till the ninth ICSLS. The committee kindly invites organizations and institutions interested in holding the ninth edition of this important conference to send in their proposals.
E-mail: karsingh_jr@sanchamhet.in

No information regarding the social development has been stated that despite the hiccups, the island society is performing well comparing with other South Asian Countries. Moreover, despite the social turmoil and violence in recent decades, poverty reduction has been sustained better than previously during the 1990s, which was due to the positive impact of the globalization process, thus suggesting that spending up liberalization and results remained to be compared. However, these positive developments may well prove to slide down the scale and the future may well hold stagnation and mediocre results. These predictions are based on the acknowledgement of certain imbalances and inherent problems in both the socio-economic realities and the political changes that characterize the island society.