

**ONE-DAY CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP ON FRAMING OF LEGISLATION FOR
ASSAM INLAND WATER TRANSPORT, ON 21ST AUGUST 2017.**



National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam in association with the Assam Inland Water Transport Development Society organized a one-day Consultative Workshop on Framing of Legislation for Assam Inland Water Transport, on 21st August, 2017. The objective of the workshop was to deliberate upon the various aspects of inland water transport in the State of Assam, and to invite suggestions from government officials, resource persons and academicians with regard to the formulation of legislations for the regulation of inland water transport in the state.

The workshop was graced with the presence of Shri Vinod Kumar Pipersenia, Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam, Shri Ashutosh Agnihotri, Commissioner and Secretary to the Transport Department, Government of Assam, Shri Bharat Bhushan Dev Choudhury, Director, Inland Water Transport, Dr. Srinivas Chokkakula, Fellow, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi and Prof. Dr. J.S. Patil, Vice Chancellor, National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam. It was also extremely fortunate to have Mr. Biju Oommen and Mr. Honey Gupta,

officials with the World Bank, Prof. Dr. Chandan Mahanta from the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati and other key officials of IWT, Assam.

The workshop had three technical sessions which included presentations by in-house team of researchers lead by Mr Chiradeep Basak, Assistant Professor of Law of National Law University- Assam and an open-house discussion at the end of each presentations.

The three technical sessions covered the economic paradigms relating to inland waterways and transport in Assam, the environmental and safety concerns which need to be taken into consideration along with discussions on the drafting of a memorandum of association and an article of association for the companies to be incorporated to regulate ports and vessels for inland water transport. The sessions focused on the costs associated with inland waterways, the various existing legislations dealing with the regulation of ports, vessels and inland water transport in India as well as the guidelines on boat safety designed by the National Disaster Management Authority. Reference was also made to the good practices adopted by other countries with flourishing inland water transport systems, such as Germany, China, Brazil and Bangladesh.

The researchers emphasized on the importance of including in the draft legislation, measures for the protection and preservation of endangered species inhabiting the river Brahmaputra. The researchers further drew attention to the fact that for the formulation of a legislation which takes into consideration the interests of all the stakeholders, coordination among the various departments of the Government of Assam is the prerequisite along with capacity-building and awareness programmes for training and skill-development of stakeholders.

The session ended with valuable suggestions from the officials of the Inland Water Transport Department as regards the training of the crewmembers and the regulation of vessels for personal use. Suggestions also flew in with respect to technical aspects related to the river Brahmaputra, such as the nutrient content, frequent flood situation as well as the concerns as regards dredging activities.