

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY AND JUDICIAL ACADEMY, ASSAM

DPIIT-IPR CHAIR

Report on IPR Activities involving NLUJAA Students

1. **World IPR Day: “IP AND YOUTH: INNOVATING FOR A BETTER FUTURE” held on April 26, 2022 in collaboration with ENHANSE Foundation at Madeligaon, Udalguri District**

On the occasion of **WORLD IPR DAY**, April 26, 2022, the DPIIT-IPR Chair of NLUJA, Assam alongwith the 05 student volunteers from BALLB VI semester of the University organised an awareness programme on the theme of World IP Day 2022 “**IP AND YOUTH: INNOVATING FOR A BETTER FUTURE**” among the young women weavers associated with ENHANSE Foundation at Madeligaon LP School, Udalguri District. The Research Assistants of the DPIIT-IPR Chair of NLUJA, Assam, Ms. Sharmistha Baruah and Ms. Dolly Kumar deliberated on the concept of Intellectual Property Rights and the significant role played by the people at the grassroot level such as artisans, weavers etc., in creation of intellectual properties. The student volunteers of VI semester actively participated in disseminating IPR knowledge among the women weavers of Madeligaon village. The Programme was attended by 36 women weavers of Madeligaon Village. The Programme was an endeavour towards orienting the young women weavers of Madeligaon village on protection of their IPs by means of various IP components such as, Geographical Indications, Industrial Designs, etc.

The women weavers of Madeligaon are mostly engaged in the art of weaving traditional Assamese garments like Mekhela Sador, Gamosa, Single Sador, etc. They generally sell their produce within the local areas or to their relative at a very nominal price. Hence, this initiative has been towards supporting the young women weavers of the region in enhancing the market potential and credibility of their produce.

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Problems encountered and Resources Required:

The women weavers of Madeligaon displayed before the DPIIT-IPR Chair team their handwoven Mekhela-Sadors displaying various kinds of splendid designs and the team advised them to approach the IPR Facilitation Centre at National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam for free legal assistance in IP related matters. Thereafter, an interactive session was held wherein the team was informed about the constraints faced by the weavers in marketing and promoting their produce. The weavers stated that some of them weave Assamese traditional garments for livelihood but the earning is meagre as they are unable to access the market and moreover the area lacks a weaving centre despite being a hub of weavers. The interactive session was followed by singing of traditional songs by the weavers. The event ended with a vote of thanks and on a positive note.

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2. March 22, 2023 -Educational Tour cum Awareness Camp on Geographical Indication (GI), Traditional Knowledge (TK) and other Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

The DPIIT-IPR Chair and Centre for Research on Intellectual Property Rights (CERIP) of National Law University and Judicial Academy (NLUJA), Assam organised an **Educational Tour cum Awareness Programme on Geographical**



Indication (GI), Traditional Knowledge (TK) and other Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) on **March 22nd 2023** at Sualkuchi in collaboration with Rural and Tribal Development Foundation (NGO), Sualkuchi and Mazbat College, Udalguri BTR Assam.

An educational tour for around 27 nos. of students having IPR specialization from BA.LL.B. X semester and LLM II semester of NLUJA, Assam has been also undertaken in the programme wherein the students visited Muga Silk two (02) nos. of weaving centres at Sualkuchi. They were acquainted with the reeling and weaving process of Muga Silk items apart from understanding the IP potential of the region in the awareness programme. An exploration of the Hajo Brass Metal workshops on the way back was also undertaken wherein the students and the DPIIT-IPR Chair team discussed the challenges and issues of the local brass metal artisans.

The aim of the awareness camp was to sensitize the local people who are involved in various stages of Muga Silk production to commercialization, to realize their Intellectual Property (IP) potential vis-à-vis Geographical Indications (GI) as well as how to protect it by means of legal tools. The programme was attended by the local producers of Muga Silk of Assam. The DPIIT-IPR Chair Professor Dr. Pankaj Kumar discussed about Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs), GI as well as Traditional Knowledge (TK) and the need to preserve their rights by means of legal mechanism. He then apprised the people about the Muga Silk authorised user registration and in what way can the DPIIT-IPR Chair facilitate it. Additionally, Ms. Kaberi Talukdar, Assistant Professor, Mazbat College, Udalguri also explained the people in Assamese language about TK and knowledge-sharing as well as protecting the rights of the local Muga Silk producers. She

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also informed the people about the authorised user registration process to be facilitated by the DPITT-IPR Chair of NLUJA, Assam which is the need of the hour in order to protect their rights. The programme successfully ended with an interactive session wherein Ms. Sharmistha Baruah and Ms. Dolly Kumar, Research Assistants of DPIIT-IPR Chair apprised the people about the requirements and eligibility criteria for authorised user registration. The student of NLUJA, Assam also actively assisted the DPIIT-IPR Chair team in disseminating IPR knowledge among the grassroots. The programme was attended by around 79 participants including 27 students of NLUJA.



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3. Awareness Program cum Facilitation Camp on Registration of ‘Authorised Users’ for GI Muga Silk of Assam at Muga Nursery, Turukpara, Boko, Assam on May 29, 2023

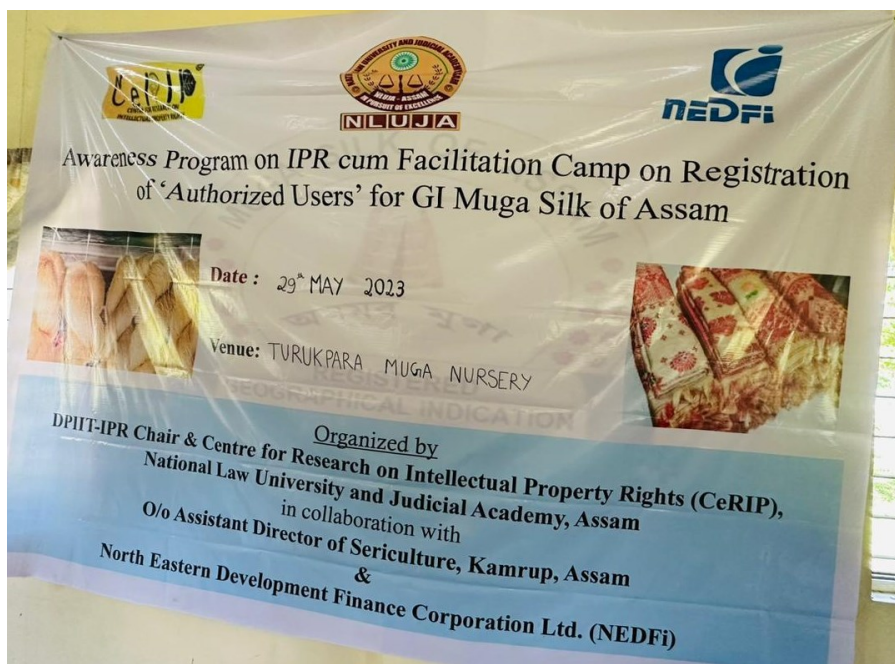
The DPIIT-IPR Chair of National Law University and Judicial Academy (NLUJA), Assam in collaboration with Office of the Assistant Director of Sericulture, Kamrup, Assam and North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFi) organised an Awareness Program cum Facilitation Camp on Registration of ‘Authorised Users’ for GI Muga Silk of Assam at Muga Nursery, Turukpara, Boko, Assam on May 29, 2023. The Awareness Program cum Facilitation Camp on Registration of ‘Authorised Users’ for GI Muga Silk of Assam has been organised in furtherance of the Awareness Programme on Geographical Indications, Registration Process of GI

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and Authorised Users of the GI & Case Study of GI Muga Silk on held on May 18, 2023 at the Directorate of Sericulture, Khanapara, Guwahati.

The DPIIT-IPR Chair comprising of the Chair Professor (Dr. Pankaj Kumar), Research Assistant (Ms.



Sharmistha Baruah), Office Assistant cum Data Entry Operator (Mr. Priyanko Mahanta) alongwith two (02) Students Volunteers of NLUJA, Assam (Bomkesh Mandal and Siddhant Das, 10th semester students) conducted the Awareness Program cum Facilitation Camp on Registration of 'Authorised Users' for GI Muga Silk of Assam with a view to sensitise the Muga Silk producers about the Muga Silk of Assam GI and to enroll them under the umbrella of Authorised Users of the same. The locals of Turukpara of the Boko region are mostly engaged in Muga Cocoon cultivation. Dr. Pankaj Kumar provided an easy understanding of GI and the need to accord protection to the producers of GI products, particularly Muga Silk in this case. Ms. Sharmistha Baruah discussed in brief the objective of the facilitation camp for Muga Silk GI Authorised Users and the requirements for such registration.

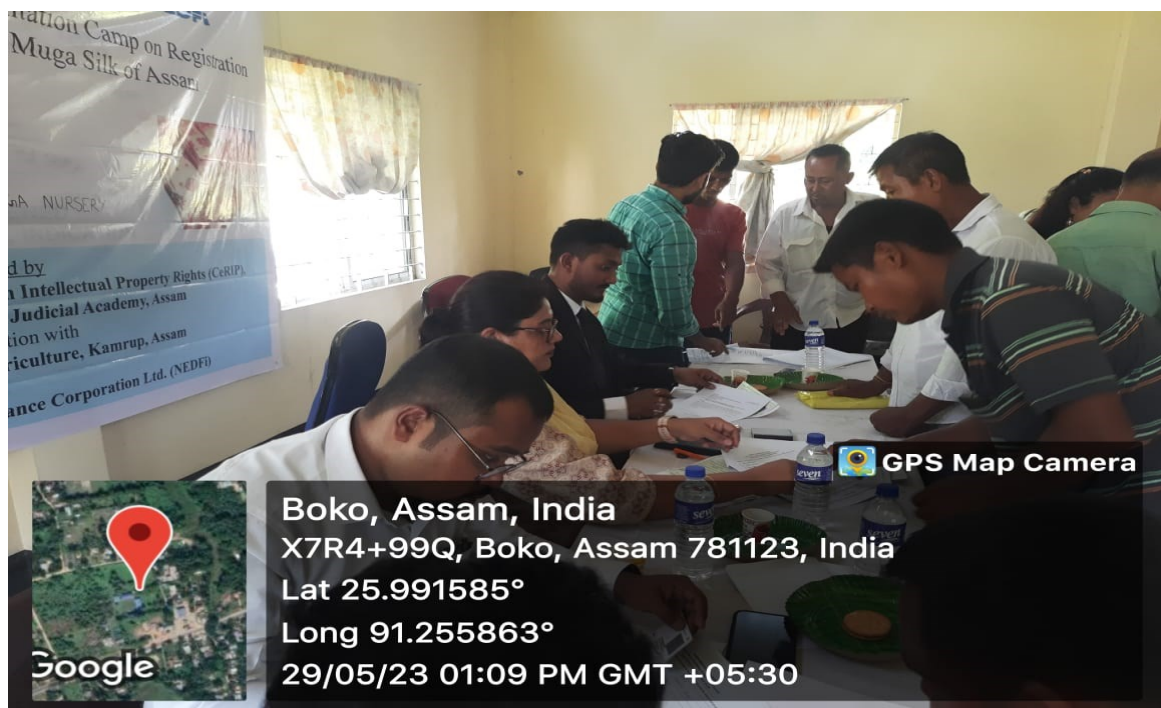
The Awareness Program was attended by an overall **159 participants** including local Muga farmers, Sericulture Officers, Sericulture Field Staff and potential applicants for Muga Silk of Assam GI. The Registration Camp provided on-site assistance for the Muga farmers of Turukpara area to enroll as Authorised Users of Muga Silk of Assam GI. Several local Muga Silk farmers took advantage of the on-site registration facilitation. The Authorised Users Registration facilitation was provided by the DPIIT-IPR Chair staff (Ms. Sharmistha Baruah, Research Assistant and Mr. Priyanko Mahanta, Office Assistant cum Data Entry Operator) alongwith the two (02) Students Volunteers of NLUJA, Assam. They were also assisted by the Field officials of Sericulture Department of Kamrup district in filling up the application forms. **107 applications** have been

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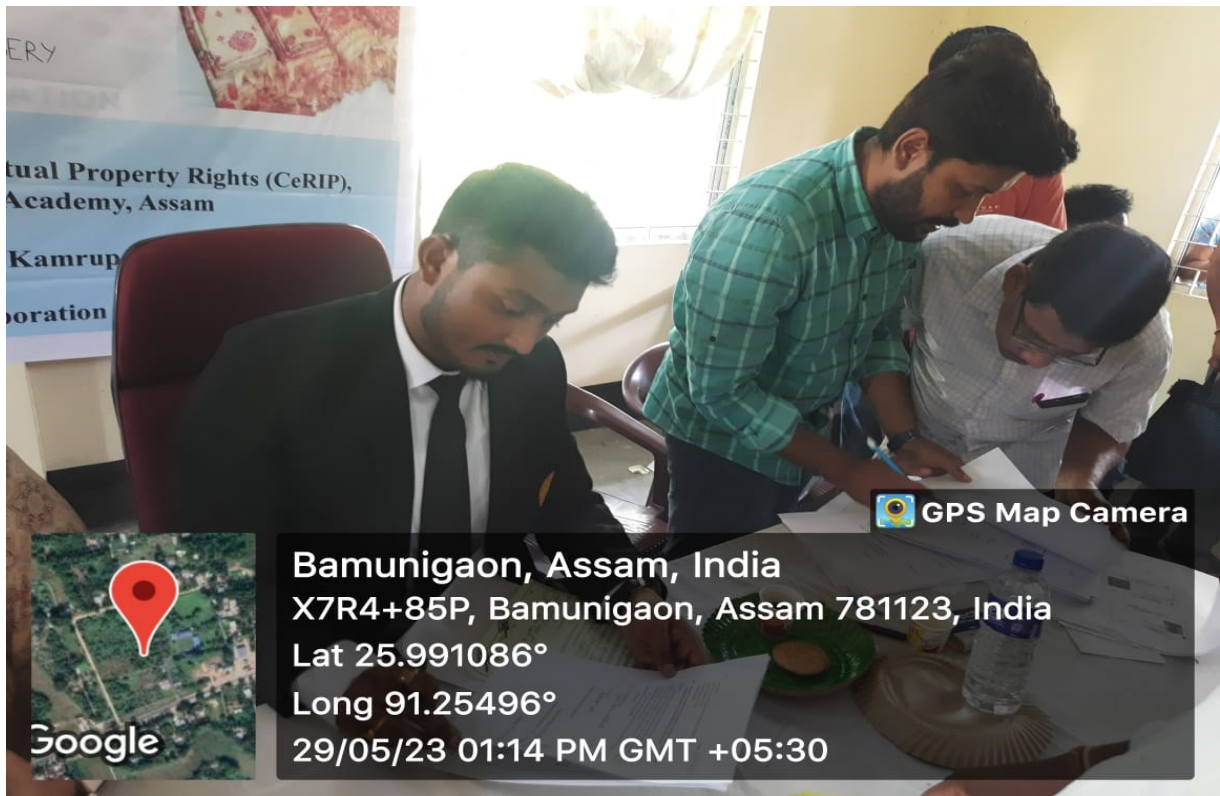
received by the DPIIT-IPR Chair from the camp and further applications are yet to be received from the Field Officials of Turukpara in due course.

The Awareness Programme cum Facilitation Camp at Turukpara, Boko proved to be a successful event in terms of creating awareness and facilitating registrations for the Muga Silk producer community. The active participation of stakeholders and the positive outcomes achieved have laid a strong foundation for the sustainable growth of the Muga Silk Industry in Assam.



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