



YouthNet

Nagaland, India

<http://www.youthnet.org.in>

Under the global launch of the Youth Employment Summit (YES) campaign in Egypt (2002), YouthNet was designated as the YES Nagaland Chapter and made serious commitments to engage youth productively and improve the livelihood of the current and future generations. Since its inception in 2006, it continues to be one of the premier youth organizations in North-East India.

YouthNet's key milestones includes the recent completion of the 5-Year flagship program "Impact 5000 by 18" with the Government of Nagaland with an aim to reach and impact 5000 local youths by the year 2018 with the goal of building a healthier and stronger private sector. It successfully reached out to 17, 236 people where over 300 youths were successfully trained and provided jobs and 25 start-ups were mentored to further enhance their enterprise. YouthNet's operations continue to grow through its following four key establishment infrastructure: Centre of Excellence for Entrepreneurship (CEE), YouthNet Resource Centre (YRC) in collaboration with Godrej Good and Green to incubate women entrepreneurs in Nagaland, YouthNet's Nagaland Career and Development Centre (NCDC) to empower young Nagas with the necessary skills required by the public and private sectors. Since its inception in 2012, NCDC has trained over 30,000 students, 3500 job seekers, and more than 1000 professionals. YouthNet's Nagaland Job Centre (NJC) to bridge the gap between job seekers and employers in the private sector. Since its inception in 2012, NJC has assisted over 1200 candidates. And finally YouthNet's "Made in Nagaland Centre" a three storied establishment hosting over 100 Naga entrepreneurs who's locally produced goods and services are displayed and retailed.



The Founding Director, Hekani Jakhlu and her team with the Chief Minister of Nagaland and his council of Ministers, Member of Parliament, The Chief Secretary, Addl. Chief Secretary and well wishers



**Founding Director Hekani jakhlu with the President of India:** Recipient of the Nari Shakti Puraskar (2018) the highest civilian honour for women in India in 2019 for her work on "skill development and promotion of livelihood activities among the unemployed youth".

# KEY MILESTONES

- 2006** **YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT- REGISTERED UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF SOCIETIES ACT 1860.**  
Under the global launch of the Youth Employment Summit (YES) campaign in Egypt (2002), YouthNet designated as YES Nagaland Chapter commits to take engage youth productively and improve the livelihood of the current and future generations.
- 2007** **STATE WIDE YOUTH CONSULTATION LAUNCHED UNDER THE YES CAMPAIGN**  
under the Chair of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Nagaland (GON), led by youth leaders in respective districts deliberated on three thematic topics: Natural Resources and Livelihood; Building an Entrepreneurial culture and Information and Communication Technology and livelihood.
- 2008** **RESULTS OF THE STATE WIDE YOUTH CONSULTATION PUBLISHED IN A FORM OF POLICY REPORT: "THE VOICES – UNCENSORED:**  
Nagaland State Youth Consultation on Employment', documenting aspiration and plans for the youth. It serves as an important reference document for government-led programs and policies on youth employment and livelihood. Study on Pre-election watch and Post election watch conducted for 2008 Assembly election in Nagaland. YouthNet's work on Right to Information featured as a case study in Nagaland Board of School Education Text book.
- 2009** **THE UNDP HUMAN DEVELOPMENT "LIVELIHOOD AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN NAGALAND" PUBLISHED BY GOVERNMENT OF NAGALAND:** Co- authored by Founder Director Hekani Jakhalu Silkworm Technology training for Youths in the entire 11 districts in partnership with Dept. of Sericulture, (GON) Right to Information awareness program in the entire State and conducted social auditing and public hearing.
- 2010** **TRAINING AND JOB PLACEMENT OF 200 YOUTH IN WELLNESS AND BEAUTY SECTOR IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GOVERNMENT OF NAGALAND**
- 2011** **YOUTHNET'S 1ST EDITION "YOUNG LEADERS CONNECT" CONCLAVE, KOHIMA NAGALAND WITH THE THEME "CONNECT, EXCHANGE, STRENGTHEN":**  
Under the Chief Patron of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Nagaland.  
The conclave seeks to establish a powerful network of like-minded young leaders across the north eastern states, to contribute towards building a vibrant economy, strong government and common cultural identity.  
Publication of 'YouthNet Handbook on Career Guidance' launched, featuring various professions for students and young people to choose from.
- 2012** **2ND EDITION "YOUNG LEADERS CONNECT" CONCLAVE, KOHIMA NAGALAND, UNDER THE THEME: "CONNECT, EXCHANGE, STRENGTHEN"** Chief Patron: Hon'ble Chief Minister of Nagaland.  
**YOUTHNET'S NAGALAND CAREER AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (NCDC) LAUNCHED.**  
It is aims to empower young Nagas with the necessary skills required by the public and private sectors. Since its inception in 2012, NCDC has trained over 30,000 students, 3500 job seekers, and more than 1000 professionals.  
**YOUTHNET'S NAGALAND JOB CENTRE (NJC) LAUNCHED**  
to bridge the gap between job seekers and employers in the private sector serving over 200 clients (retail, hospitality, insurance, education, banking, construction, music, IT, automobile and social sector). Since its inception in 2012, NJC has assisted over 1200 candidates.
- 2013** **3RD EDITION "YOUNG LEADERS CONNECT" CONCLAVE, GUWAHATI, ASSAM WITH THE THEME: "BRANDING NORTHEAST: SPEAKING FOR OURSELVES"**  
under the chairmanship of Chair FLAGSHIP PROGRAM 'Impact 5000 by 18' launched in partnership with the Government of Nagaland. The project aims to reach and impact 5000 local youths by 2018 with the goal of building a healthier and stronger private sector.  
**JOB MELA ORGANISED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE GOVT. OF NAGALAND, CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRIES AND YOUTHNET.**  
7000 candidates registered and 86 Vocational Training Providers (VTPs) and companies registered and set up stalls.
- 2014** **4RD EDITION "YOUNG LEADERS CONNECT" CONCLAVE, NEW DELHI UNDER THE THEME: A STRONG NORTHEAST IS INDIA'S ASSET.**  
**SOCIAL MEDIA EMPOWERMENT AWARDS 2014**  
YouthNet declared as one of the 16 winners which was organised by the Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) in partnership with the American Centre.  
**YOUTHNET'S YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME** launched in partnership with Pravah, a leading NGO to help YouthNet incorporate a youth development approach towards the Right to Information (RTI) program.

#### YOUTHNET'S DIAL NAGALAND LAUNCHED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DEPT. OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (GON).

Since its launch, it has a classified directory of 655 local skilled workers with a central number (70850-50006) for services (eg. plumbers, carpenters, electricians, masons and painters).

2015

**THE SEAGRAM'S 100 PIPERS TRUE LEGENDS AWARDS 2015** in association with The Telegraph to Founder Director, Hekani Jakhalu The award recognizes "12 unsung heroes from the Northeast who have worked towards upholding Northeast on the social front and have contributed to the betterment of humanity and livelihood of the people of the region".

#### THE NORTHEAST SOCIAL IMPACT AWARDS 2015

YouthNet's 'Impact 5000 by 18' received a special mention and a citation under the 'Social Innovations in Youth Development'. It is organised by the National Foundation of India (NFI) in partnership with the North East Development Foundation (NEDF).

#### 5TH EDITION "YOUNG LEADERS CONNECT" CONCLAVE, ITANAGAR, ARUNACHAL PRADESH UNDER THE THEME: START-UP NORTH-EAST, STAND-UP NORTH-EAST.

Chief Guest: Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Chief Patron: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kiren Rijiju and Chief host: Hon'ble Chief Minister Arunachal Pradesh Pema Khandu.

2016

#### ACCENTURE'S 'SKILLS TO SUCCEED' GLOBAL INITIATIVE

launched in partnership with Quest Alliance to address and train job seekers on Life Skills, Retail and Hospitality Management, Digital Literacy and Work Skills. Since its launch, it has facilitated employment to over 800 youths in Nagaland and beyond. Nagaland Youth Summit held commemorating 10 years of YouthNet with the theme "Role of young legislators in state building" under the aegis of YouthNet in association with the Government of Nagaland.

**NAGALAND BEAUTYPRENEUR:** in partnership with Godrej Good & Green launched to incubate women entrepreneurs in beauty and wellness. Since its inception, it has worked with over 200 women and 12 beauty centres across the state.

#### YEAR OF CONSTRUCTION WORKER (YoCW)

launched at Directorate of Employment, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (GON) in collaboration with YouthNet and Zynorique Initiatives Society. Aims to train 550 youths.

**UNDER YOUTHNET'S YOUNG LEADERS PLATFORM; NORTH EAST ENTREPRENEURSHIP FELLOWSHIP (NEEF) PROGRAM** launched in partnership with IEF-Entrepreneurship Foundation. Designed to groom top 25 young entrepreneurs from the North East region with support on networking, connecting for access to financial institutions and venture capitalists.

2017

#### YOUTHNET'S CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP (CEE)

launched with the following programs:

**A. The Entrepreneur** in partnership with Jupiter capitals **B. North East Entrepreneurship Fellowship (NEEF)**  
**C. Master class** in partnership with the Indian Entrepreneurs foundation **D. The Inter-collegiate Entrepreneurship Competition.**

#### YOUTHNET RESOURCE CENTRE (YRC)

launched in collaboration with Godrej Good and Green: To provide a platform and guidance to youth in areas of education, employment and entrepreneurship, under which YouthNet Resource Centre Fellowship program was launched. It aims to support women entrepreneurs.

YouthNet's Skill Development Department launched at the Head Office, Kohima.

#### 6TH EDITION "YOUNG LEADERS CONNECT" CONCLAVE, SHILLONG MEGHALAYA, UNDER THE THEME: MADE IN NORTH-EAST

Chief host: Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Mr. Conrad Sangma.

#### YOUTHNET'S MADE IN NAGALAND CENTRE

launched by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Nagaland in Kohima. The three storied establishment hosts 120 Naga entrepreneurs whose locally produced goods and services are displayed and retailed.

2018

#### "IMPACT 5000 BY 18" FORMALLY CONCLUDED:

It successfully reached out to 17, 236 people (students, schools and college dropout, unemployed and entrepreneurs). Over 300 youths were successfully trained and provided jobs and 25 start-ups were mentored to further enhance their enterprise.

#### YOUTHNET'S DIMAPUR OFFICE LAUNCHED IN DIMAPUR, NAGALAND:

owing to outreach and the growing demand of its services across the state. The other three offices are located in Kohima.

2019

YouthNet's Founding Director Hekani Jakhalu awarded the Nari Shakti Puruskar (2019) the highest civilian honour for Women in India.

#### YOUTHNET'S PRADHAN MANTRI KAUSHAL VIKAS YOJANA (PMKVY) HOSPITALITY PROGRAM LAUNCHED:

A 100% Job Guaranteed Training and Employment Program under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Govt. of India.

# CORE TEAM

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**HEKANI JAKHALU**  
FOUNDING DIRECTOR

Chair of the Governing Council

Recipient of the Nari Shakti Puruskar (2019) the highest civilian honour for Women in India in 2019, Hekani Jakhalu is a lawyer by profession. She is an Alumnus of Lady Sri Ram College, with an LLB Delhi University and LLM University of San Francisco, USA and also an Alumnus of Harvard Kennedy School Executive Education. She also has a wide spectrum of training and experience at the American University in Washington D.C., Amnesty International, USA and the United Nations Head Quarters in New York, USA. Hekani worked both at the Supreme Court of India and Delhi High Court. After quitting as a Partner of a New Delhi law firm in 2005, she returned home to Nagaland to start YouthNet with group of friends of young professionals, believing in the power of ordinary people to make extraordinary Change. After nearly a decade of tireless effort towards youth development, livelihood and entrepreneurship, she won the 2015 'Telegraph-100 Pipers True Legends Award' which termed her as 'Lawyer. Change Agent. Hope of Millions- Powering Dreams of the Youth' and recently featured as "12 Most Powerful Women Entrepreneurs of NorthEast India"



**LEZO PUTSURE**  
DIRECTOR

Lezo is instrumental in leading YouthNet's vision towards building an entrepreneurial ecosystem and encourage the private job sector in Nagaland. Prior to YouthNet, Lezo was a corporate manager with Accenture. He has 10 years of corporate experience and 7 years in the social entrepreneurship space. Lezo has an MBA from London South Bank University and an Alumnus of Harvard Kennedy School Executive Education, USA. He is also amongst one of the 500 Acumen fellows globally.



**ATOHO JAKHALU Ph.D**  
Member, Advisory Board

**Research Director, Head of the Climate Studies and Knowledge Solutions Centre, (Department of Science and Technology, Government of Nagaland, India).**

With over 12 years experience in research, policy and practice in the areas of agriculture, climate change and natural resource management, gained in academia, govt. and non-governmental sectors in India, United Kingdom and Germany, he is also currently a 'Returning Expert' of the German Government's Centre for international Migration and Development to push the sustainable development agenda in India. He completed his Ph.D. (Resource Economics), as a DAAD Scholar at Humboldt University-Berlin, supported by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. He has an M.Phil (Environment and Development), at Cambridge University, UK as a Cambridge Commonwealth Scholar. Atoho advises YouthNet's Green Entrepreneurship portfolio, on how livelihood and rural enterprises can be integrated into the climate, conservation and development agenda into the policy and practice realms of the state. He is also a Fellow of the Cambridge Commonwealth Society.

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## CONTACT DETAILS

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