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From the desk of the Chief Editor

Welcome to Volume 1, Issue 2 : December 2015 of *Mizoram University Journal of Humanities & Social Sciences, (MZUJHSS)*, a National Referred Bi-Annual Journal. The response from the readers and contributors to the first issue of the Journal has been overwhelming and most encouraging.

This issue contains 14 research papers and a book review, on relevant topics of contemporary interests in Humanities and the Social Sciences. In the lead paper Prof. Kailash C. Baral focuses on the legitimacy and authority of critical theory despite continued suspicions and allegations from some quarters, that it has created a "cult of irrationalist perceptions." The paper concludes by proposing a new pragmatism that will help academia move beyond disputes towards what not only works, but works to our advantage.

In the paper contributed by Prof. Sarangadhar Baral on English poetry of Mizo writers, the gong and guitar are used by him as the core tropes to signify the "metaphoric and metonymic orders to meet across the imagined wall that divides them into two separate worlds". In her paper, Ms Chingbiakmawi has observed that the rich trove of folktales, myths, legends and songs that reflect traditional social structures are the main sources from where researchers can glean the social reality of traditional Mizo society. The different genres of folklore indeed embody the cultural heritage inherited from their forefathers which help to restructure their history as well.

To help run the country all states are assigned substantial responsibilities in respect of social and economic development. Since the revenue sources are weak in the case of the North East states in India, they depend heavily on central financial transfers to meet these responsibilities for development and maintenance works. In his paper, Prof. Vanlalchhawna examines the revenue generating efforts of Mizoram and makes an assessment of the contribution of state-owned taxes and non-tax revenues in the overall revenue receipts.

In respect of capital markets, through mutual funds, investors get the benefit of diversification, professional management of their money and convenient administration at low cost. In their paper Prof. Noor Basha Abdul and Ms. K Sarvani make an attempt to find out the level of dependency of macroeconomic factors on the performance of select mutual funds in India. In the case of commodity future market, the relationship between volume and return has been the fascinating area of research for financial economists and analysts. In their empirical study, Prof. Rajesh C. Jampalal et al examine the relationship between return, volume and volatility dynamics of Indian commodity market by using daily data of selected commodities of MCX and NCDEX during the period from July 2009 to June 2013.

The public sector enterprises are considered major instruments of state intervention in economic activities, especially in developing countries. In his paper Mr. Pranesh Debnath makes a comparative analysis of the liquidity position of the selected public sector petroleum companies in India during the period of 15 years by using Mootilal's ultimate rank test.

The teaching of accounting subject is facing significant challenges nowadays. The teaching pedagogy and evaluation practices can influence the development of student ability viz decision making, self-confidence, leadership and communication skills. In this context, Dr. Shilpa Vardia and Prof. G. Soral in their paper, attempt to learn the resources and teaching aids used by accounting teachers and the students' opinion towards teaching and evaluation practices in accounting course in Udaipur, Rajasthan.

Dr. Lalhunthara in his paper identifies the marketing problems faced by micro entrepreneurs in Aizawl district, Mizoram. The paper emphasizes the need for coordinated efforts of entrepreneurs, supporting institutions and government agencies without red-tapism and bureaucratic attitude.

Intelligence, creativity, academic self-concept and academic performance have been a topic of interest for scholars belonging to psychology and education. In their paper, Ms. Alice Lalchhandami Fanai and Prof. C. Lalfamkima Varte explore the influence of intelligence, creativity and academic self-concept on the academic performance of early school age children in Mizoram by using

psychological measures. Prof. Zokaitluangi and Dr. C. Lalfakzuali make a study of the gender differences and relationships between personality and gratitude in respect of higher secondary school students in Mizoram by using well-designed psychological tools. In another paper, Dr. Nagaraju Battu and Ms. S. Kahmeera in their paper explore the effect of emotional intelligence on occupational stress among the nurses working in private hospitals of Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh. The study found that employees with higher emotional intelligence are more aware of the coping strategies to deal with stress.

Human rights issues have become an important discourse in Mizo society. Mr. Lallian Chhunga in his paper discusses the relationship between the protection of human rights and maintenance of social harmony in the context of traditional Mizo society. *Laiphô* was a traditional Mara social institution in which young bachelors selected the house of a particular unmarried girl, for resting and sleeping at night. It was here that the young men learnt social traits and moral values, as argued by Dr. K. Robin in his paper which is essentially analytical and ethno-historical in nature. Finally, this issue concludes with a book review pertaining to the area of management of hospitals.

I on behalf of the Editorial Board of *MZUJHSS* express my gratitude to all contributors for their valued input towards this Journal and in particular, to Prof. K.C. Baral, Director of EFLU Northeast Campus, Shillong, for his scholarly invited paper. A number of experts have helped in assessing the papers, giving critical comments and valuable suggestions for improvements. We are obliged to all of them for their support and cooperation. Our thanks too, to Ms. Lalropuii, Mr. Michael Lalrinmawia and Mr. Jyoti Bikash Chakma, research scholars from the department of Commerce, Mizoram University, for extending their help in the compilation of this current issue. We wish to thank our Patron Prof. R. Lalthantluanga, Vice Chancellor, and the two Advisors Mr. C. Zothankhuma, IDAS, Registrar, and Prof. Lianzela, Finance Officer, Mizoram University, for their continued encouragement and support.

Margaret Ch. Zama
Chief Editor