



Literature Performance Technology

**The Listener: Nagaland** was held in Dimapur in Nagaland, in Northeast India, from November 4-6, 2023. An *Intangible Cultural Heritage Capacity Building Workshop* was organized by the Government of India and the Sangeet Natak Akademi.

The Festival Director was Sentila Yanger, INTACH Nagaland Convener. The keynote address was delivered by **Prof. Dr. Gilvan Müller De Oliveira**, of the Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil, and Head of the UNESCO Chair in Language Policies for Multilingualism.



Prof. Dr. Gilvan Müller De Oliveira, Ao Naga Elder Guru *Sangyusang* Pongener, and L. Somi Roy of Imasi Foundation

**THE LISTENER** is a festival of oral literature held in the North East Region {NER} of India. It is conceived as a festival of literature, performance, and technology, by Imasi: The Maharaj Kumari Binodini Devi Foundation of Manipur, one of the 8 states of NER. The inaugural festival of this annual roving festival was held in Imphal, Manipur in February 2023.

The NER is about the size of the United Kingdom, and is sandwiched between Bangladesh and Myanmar. It has a population of about 46 million and ~200 tribes. It is largely Tibeto-Burman ethnically and linguistically. The mountain region has a rich heritage of oral literature. *The Listener* is an initiative to validate and preserve the unwritten, tribal, literary legacy of the NER.



**The Listener: Nagaland** was produced by Imasi Foundation, Media Management Group for Literacy and Development of New Delhi and the Nagaland Chapter of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH). The Festival Director was **Sentila Yanger** of INTACH Nagaland.



Concurrently with *The Listener: Nagaland*, a workshop on *Intangible Culture Heritage* was organized by the Ministry of Culture, the Sangeet Natak Akademi, with the participation of UNESCO.



A two-day (3 and 4 November 2023) Intangible Cultural Heritage Capacity Building Workshop being organized by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi.



*The Listener Festival* and Imasi Foundation (UNESCO) served as the knowledge partners of the workshop. It was inaugurated in the gracious presence of **Ms. Lily Pandeya**, Joint Secretary **Shri Aneish P. Rajan**, Director (UNESCO), Ministry of Culture; **Ms. Sentila T. Yanger**, Festival Director, *Listener Festival*; and **Mr L. Somi Roy** of Imasi Foundation.



2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023  
DIMAPUR, NAGALAND

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Shri Govind Mohan, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, and Dr Sandhya Purecha, Chairman, Sangeet Natak Akademi conveyed their insights and support through video messages and this was followed by the vision statement on the ICH Capacity Building Workshop by Ms. Lily Pandeya. (Pictured: **Aneish Rajan**, Director UNESCO, Ministry of Culture)



The first day of the two-day workshop had an introductory session on 2003 UNESCO Convention by **Prof. Amareswar Galla**, and research scholars from Indian Institute of Heritage, NMI. **Mr. Tim Curtis**, Director, UNESCO Multi-sectoral office, New Delhi, and **Ms. Ritu Sethi**, ICH Expert addressed the session through virtual messages.



Tetso College of Dimapur, Nagaland, was the venue of The Listener: Nagaland and the Intangible Cultural Heritage Capacity Workshop.



**Prof. Dr. Gilvan Müller De Oliveira** receives a scarf from Ms. Lily Pandeya. Pictured with **Theba Devi** of SNA and Festival Director **Sentila Yanger**.



**Ms. Sentila Yanger**, Festival Director, and **Ms. Lily Pandeya** launch an INTACH publication. With **Theba Devi** of SNA.



The inauguration Concert featured singers from the Chakhesang, one of Nagaland's 17 tribes.



**Sentila Yanger**, Festival Director and textile expert, and **Guru Sangyusang Pongener** tell the stories woven into the headhunting shawl of the Ao Naga



The Listener Festival: Nagaland was held at Lorin Hall of Tetso College, Dimapur.





Festival attendees listen to folk fusion musician **Tiameren Aier** of Nagaland



**Colored Keys**, a folk-rock trio from Nagaland.



Festival attendees listen to folk fusion musician **Lenen Jamir** of Nagaland



On Digital Preservation and Archiving, with **Shubha Chowdhury**, AIIS, **Jeremdi Wati Longchar Ao** of the University of London, **Dr. Wachamdinbo Mataina** of Tetso College, and **L. Somi Roy** of Imasi Foundation



Keynote Address by **Prof. Dr. Gilvan Müller De Oliveira**, and discussion with **L. Somi Roy** of Imasi Foundation





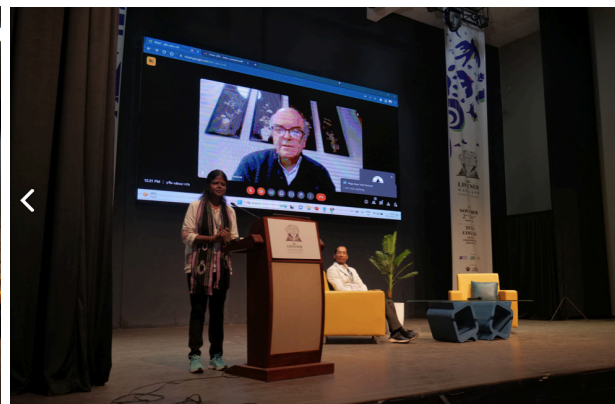
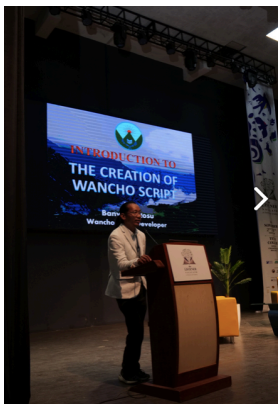
*Madeline Tham, Convener of INTACH Meghalaya, on Kongthong, the Whistling Village of the Khasi tribe of Meghalaya, a state in NER.*



*Heraka prayer ritual of the indigenous religion of the Zeliang tribe of Nagaland..*



*Ao Naga Invocation by Guru Sangyusang Pongener.*



*The creation of a script for his native Wancho tribe in Arunachal Pradesh, a state in NER by Banwang Losu. It was followed by discussion with Prof. Dr. Stephen Morey of La Trobe University in Melbourne, and Umarani Pappuswamy of the CIIL in Mysuru.*



*Dr. Dharamsing Teron on the traditional world view of his native Karbi-Anglong tribe of Assam, the largest of the NER states.*

*Festival Director Sentila Yanger and Kvalo Lorin, Director of Tetso College.*



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