

## CALL FOR PAPERS

# International Conference

On

## **Oral Tradition of the Karbis: Memorizing Kajir Ronghangpi -The 'RhincerosLady**

(As part of the annual commemoration of the 'The Rhinceros Lady' on the 5<sup>th</sup> December)

**(27-29 July, 2023)**

### *Organized by*

The Art & Culture Department, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) in association with the Assam University (Central University), Diphu Campus (AUDC)&Diphu Government College (DGC), Assam

**Venue:** Arboretum cum Craft Centre, Diphu, Karbi Anglong, Assam

### **Shri Surjya Rongphar**

Hon'ble Executive Member, i/c Art & Culture, KAAC, Diphu & Chairman, Preparatory Committee for Commemoration of Kajir Ronghangpi Day 2023

### Contact persons for queries regarding the Conference

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2. **Shri Si-im Taro**, Member Secretary, KAAC, Diphu, Contact No: 86386 58834
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### **IMPORTANT DATES**

Abstract Submission(250-300 words)	25 <sup>th</sup> May 2023
Last Date for Full Paper Submission	30 <sup>th</sup> May, 2023
Email ID for Submission of Abstract	terondspost@gmail.com or vullidhanarajaudc@gmail.com

## CONCEPT NOTE

Karbis have a rich oral tradition and literature. Oral sources are the 'main available resource' to reconstruct a society that thrives on orality (Vansina, 1961). Kajir Ronghangpi is honored, deified, and kept alive in Karbi social memory through songs, rituals, and oral discourses. She inspired the designation of the world-famous Kaziranga National Park, which was once in the heart of huge Karbi settlements. Though the oral tradition of Kajir Ronghangpi is frequently visualized in local memories, it has not been systematically recorded, resulting in a shift in the political narrative of the current 'territory of the Kaziranga National Park'. The Karbi cultural domains have been built with their 'cognitive' or 'relational space' notions, which always indicate their values, feelings, beliefs, and perceptions. It is important to remember that stories are always told by people, about people, and for people, and thus the derivations of the great legend Kajir Ronghangpi are not only about the territory of the Kaziranga National Park, but also about the oral tradition and ritual of the people who have lived there for centuries. As a result, the stories and attributions of these people must be researched and documented using orality. Unfortunately, the local territories have not been constructed with 'interactive ideas' of the community rather they are constructed by 'meta-historical ideas' which are often contested in the making of 'local history'. Hitherto, the argument is, the tradition of Kaziranga National Park is not merely a passive ground upon which events unfold, cultures amalgamate, and social processes take shape. It is part of the entire process that produces oral traditions and oral discourses of the community.

Kaziranga National Park is the centre of biodiversity where the local people and their ecological systems have highly been influenced by Kajir Ronghangpi's cultural traditions. She also played a vital role in the conservation of the flora and fauna, especially the local rhinos. Such cultural tradition can be seen in the oral narratives of the Karbis. Recently biodiversity has been transformed due to changes in the relationship between people and animals, the government's perceptions towards flora & fauna, deforestation, sacred groves (*angry gods*), climate change, growing demand for natural resources, etc. In this context, this seminar tries to explore the local ecosystems that have been produced by the tradition of Kajir Ronghangpi and her people who struggle to continue the tradition for making their history. Another important aspect of this seminar is to explore the cultural heritage of the Kaziranga National Park. Heritage is often constructed by the local ecological or cultural values which cannot be separated from space and time that has been carved by the locals. But, such heritage can be altered when the claims or attributions of the people are forcibly changed (changes in space and time) due to 'hegemonic ideas' perpetuated by the so-called state with modern 'territorial ideas'. Yet, Kajir Ronghangpi's heritage is a vibrant process in the construction of the identity of the Karbis and their history.

In this context, this seminar is an attempt to reiterate the ecological, cultural, and spatial ideas of Kajir Ronghangpi which can be constructed through studying oral narratives (myths, folktales, legends, folk poetry, proverbs, riddles, etc., and any other epistemologies) of the Karbis. One of the unique facets of this seminar is to comprehend the contribution, ritual, and tradition of Kajir Ronghangpi from a cross-disciplinary approach. This approach is integrative and assumes a cross-disciplinary

(science, arts & social sciences) study but remains connected with the core conceptual ideas of the seminar mentioned above.

### **CORE OBJECTIVE OF THE CONFERENCE**

The Three-Day conference, the first of its kind, is organized by the Art & Culture Department of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), Diphu, in association with the Department of History, Assam University, Diphu Campus (AUDC) & Diphu Government College (DGC), Diphu, Assam and aims to promote researches into the iconic figure of Kajir Ronghangpi as part of the annual commemoration of the 'The Rhinoceros Lady' on the 5th December.

### **SUBTHEMES OF THE CONFERENCE**

- **Category-1:** Specific Papers on Kajir Ronghangpi and Kazirang National Park
- **Category-2:** General Papers on Oral Tradition, Oral History and Folklore of the Karbis

### **CATEGORY-1**

1. Myth and Folktales of Kajir Ronghangpi
2. Memories of the Local People and Kajir Ronghangpi
3. Myth, Legend and Folktales & Kajir Ronghangpi
4. Oral Tradition of Kajir Ronghangpi
5. Memories of Migration and Kajir Ronghangpi
6. Eco-Feminism and Kajir Ronghangpi
7. Oral Narratives of Kaziranga National Park
8. History and Culture of Kaziranga National Park
9. Colonial Construction of Kaziranga National Park
10. Conservation Rhinoceros and Kaziranga National Park
11. Flora and Fauna of the Kaziranga National Park
12. Cultural Ecology of the Kaziranga National Park
13. Forest Resources and Biodiversity of Kaziranga National Park

### **CATEGORY-2**

1. Oral History and Oral Traditions of the Karbis
2. Indigenous Knowledge Systems of the Karbis
3. Material Culture of the Karbis
4. Folklore of the Karbis
5. Constructing Karbi Identity through Oral Narratives
6. Linguistic and Territorial Identities of the Karbis
7. Cultural Ecology of the Karbis
8. Karbi Relation with the other Communities

### **CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION**

The abstracts and full papers must be prepared on the above-mentioned subthemes and touch upon the objectives of the conference. Therefore, paper presenters are requested to prepare the abstracts to meet the criteria.

## **PUBLICATION OF PAPERS**

Books will be published by reputed publishers prior to the conference and the same books will be released on the first day of the conference at the conference venue. Those who submitted the full papers by the deadline may be considered for publication. However, the quality of the paper shall be the main criterion for publication.

## **REGISTRATION FEE FOR THE PAPER PRESENTERS**

<b>Teachers/Faculty/Academicians/NGO</b>	<b>Rs.750</b>
<b>Students/Research Scholars</b>	<b>Rs.500</b>
<b>General Participants</b>	<b>Rs.400</b>
<b>The mode of the registration will be intimated later to the paper presenters</b>	

## **MODE OF PAPER PRESENTATIONS (Both the Modes)**

- Opportunity to do Physical Mode Presentation at the Conference Venue
- Opportunity to do Virtual Mode Presentation on Online Mode via joining online link

## **GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACT**

- The abstract should not exceed 250-300 words.
- It should include the title of the abstract, the author's name, designation, institutional affiliation, mailing address, E-mail ID, and contact number
- Authors are requested to send the abstract through E-mail **terondspost@gmail.com** or **vullidhanarajuadc@gmail.com** latest by **25<sup>th</sup> May, 2023**.

## **GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF FULL PAPER**

- The presented papers shall be published by reputed publishers in collaboration with the organizers and therefore, write the paper keeping in view of the publication.
- The length of the full paper including tables, diagrams, illustrations, references, etc. should be between 4000 to 8000 words.
- The full paper should be in English and typed in MS Word in Times New Roman with font size 12 and 1.5 spaced.
- References and Notes should be arranged as Footnote in APA Style (7th edition).
- The selected full version of the papers should be submitted in soft copy latest by **30<sup>th</sup> May, 2023**.
- A Committee will review the full papers and information regarding acceptance, modification, and presentation shall be communicated to the authors subsequently.

## **HOSPITALITY AND TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE**

The organizing committee will make modest arrangements for boarding and lodging for the outstation paper presenters and resource persons in local guest houses/hotels in Diphu. The organizing committee of the conference will take care of travel allowances for the resource persons. The paper presenters are requested to make their own traveling arrangements.