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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 29, 2011 AT 1430 HRS
BETWEEN AN.S.I, A&N ADMINISTRATION AND AAJVS AT THE
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR REGIONAL CENTRE OF AN.S.I, PORT BLAIR**

Members Present:

1. Prof. K.K.Misra, Director, AnSI
2. Shri Ajai Saxena, Secretary, Tribal Welfare, A&N Administration
3. Shri Som Naidu, Director (TW), A&N Administration
4. Shri Govind Ram, Executive Secretary, AAJVS
5. Dr. B.N.Sarkar, Anthropologist (Phy), AnSI
6. Dr.N.C.Sarkar, Anthropologist (Phy), AnSI
7. Shri S. S. Barik, Asstt. Anthropologist (Phy), AnSI
8. A. Justin, Suptdg Anthropologist (Cul) & Head of Office, AnSI

Initiating the discussion, Prof. Misra broached the subject how the AnSI could contribute to reviewing the Policy on Ang (Jarawa) Tribe of Andaman, 2004, provided an opportunity is given to its research personnel to undertake fieldwork. He also suggested that the AnSI has enough expertise to conduct field investigation among other vulnerable tribal communities, such as the Great Andamanese, Onge and Shompen. He apprised the members that the strength of anthropology lies in conducting fieldwork with a focus on the *emic* perspective. He expressed his desire to know the sort of assistance, which the civil authorities of the Andaman & Nicobar Administration (A&N Admn) were expecting from the AnSI as a scientific premier organization in advising in matters relating to tribal development.

Prof. Misra also underlined the expertise available with the AnSI in training personnel, engaged in the tribal welfare sector, both from the A&N Administration and AAJVS. He emphasized the need for such training in sensitizing the field personnel about specific needs of the tribals, in tune with their cultural values and priorities. Further, he added that those engaged in research could be given training in social survey methods to collect authentic and reliable data that would be used for policy making for the tribes. Besides, Prof. Misra emphasized that the AnSI could monitor the research projects of the A&N Admn in dealing with many sensitive issues relating to the tribes, if the Administration so desired, and offer its views for consideration of the implementing agencies.

Justin outlined the kind of harmonious relationship that existed between the AnSI, the Directorate of Tribal Welfare and the AAJVS since the inception of its Regional Centre in Port Blair in 1951. In the past, no stringent restriction was ever imposed nor was permission asked for by the AnSI researchers to conduct fieldwork among the tribal communities in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands (A&NI), as it is done these days. He urged to revive the healthy relations between these organizations in the interest of the tribal communities and their welfare.

Dwelling on the issue of integrating AnSI with the A&N Administration, Shri Saxena stated categorically that no restriction of any kind should be imposed on the scientific personnel of the AnSI in conducting fieldwork in tribal pockets of the A&NI. He