

## Assam journalist to speak at Asia Student Leadership Conference



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In a first of sorts, Guwahati-based writer and activist Aiyushman Dutta has been invited as a Guest Speaker to the prestigious Asia Student Leadership Conference in Singapore to be held from July 5-7, 2019. Dutta, a prolific author of a number of books on Northeast Indian culture and oral and folk traditions, has been invited to address representatives of 20 participating countries on 'Food Anthropology'. He had earlier authored the book, 'Food Trail: Discovering Food Culture of Northeast India', which also includes narratives from more than 15 prominent voices of the region.

The Asia Student Leadership Conference is organized by Smile Asia, a Asia-centric international children's medical charity that provides free surgery and treatment to children with facial deformities, forever changing their lives. Smile Asia Programme Executive Paige Low said, "Launched in 2012, ASLC is part of our initiative to inspire and instill a sense of volunteerism in students. This year's conference will be attended by some 60 participants, including over 30 students from 11 participating countries. We are happy to extend the invitation to Aiyushman Dutta from India to attend the Conference as our guest speaker."

Aiyushman Dutta's other major authored and edited works include a coffee table on Northeast India for NEZCC (Ministry of Culture, Govt of India), the first-ever encyclopedia of folk dances of India for the Ministry of Culture, Govt of India and the first coffee table on the Hornbill festival. An activist at heart, he had initiated the mega Guwahati International Music Festival from 2011. A resource person of the Ministry of Culture, he had earlier been invited to Bangladesh to talk on Northeast Indian culture to university students.

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