

Multi-millioner entrepreneur vows to promote tourism



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A college dropout from Assam's Hojai who went on to become the owner of 500 million dollar [group](#) of companies in Laos, Habib Mohammad Chowdhury, has vowed to promote tourism and culture of northeast region in South [East](#) Asia.

"I have been trying my best for cultural exchange between the northeast [India](#) and Laos. I have already led some delegates from both the sides. I see a plenty of opportunities in tourism in the region. It will be great if we can send Bihu and Satriya troupes to Laos and vice versa. And that's how we can better the relationship between the two regions," Chowdhury said addressing an entrepreneurs' conclave 'Parivatan' in Guwahati on Thursday.

Chowdury was felicitated for his achievements in the field of entrepreneurship on the occasion.

Chowdhury, who was born and brought up in Hojai in Nagaon district, has struggled hard to set up HSMM Group of Companies in Laos which has emerged to be the largest Agarwood and Agar based product's company in South East Asia. Besides, they [deal](#) in perfume and mining. Now, his company has more than four lakh Agar plantations.

In 2010, at the [India](#)-Laos Business Forum, Chowdhury founded the Indian Chamber of Commerce (INCHAM) in Lao PDR.

He looked beyond the borders of Lao PDR and [India](#) and initiated implementation of the 'Look East Policy' now called [Act East](#) Policy for northeast [India](#). He set his sights at Southeast Asia, which is an emerging economic dragon.

"Northeast of [India](#) has a very important and strategic location. Nestled between [Bangladesh](#), China, Bhutan, and [Myanmar](#), it is ideally positioned for trans-border [trade](#). Moreover, the neighbouring [ASEAN](#) region is one of the most dynamic economic regions of the world today. The '[Act East](#) Policy' of our government offers a huge opportunity to transform the whole economic landscape of this region," added Chowdhury.

Sharing his experience of early days in Assam and Dubai, Chowdhury said that his determination has placed him at the position where he is now.

"Due to financial [crisis](#) in the family, I had to drop out from my college. Leaving everything in Hojai I had to go to Dubai in early 1990s to bear the responsibility of looking after my whole family. I wanted to make my

family comfortable, to get what they needed. I wanted them to enjoy life. I was resolved never to [stop](#) until I have provided well for them,” he said.

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