

International Rivers Day observed in Ukhrl



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Jiten Yumnam 14 March 2016 5829 views

International Rivers Day was organised at Chadong Village, Ukhrl District, [Manipur](#) March 14 along the Thoubal River by Mapithel Dam Affected Villagers Organization (MDAVO), the Centre for Research and Advocacy, [Manipur](#) and the Human Rights Initiative. The Thoubal River is now converted into a reservoir of the Thoubal Multipurpose Hydroelectric Project. The observation at Chadong village is part of the three day observation of the International Rivers day, organized with the theme, “Protection of River, Agriculture Land and [Natural Resources](#) of [Manipur](#)”.

The programme was marked with protest meet and sharing from key representatives of Mapithel Dam Affected Villagers Organization, Chadong Village Authority and several other environmental and human [rights](#) organization. Dominic, Chairman, MDAVO highlighted how the project proponents of Mapithel dam submerged thousands of hectares of [agriculture](#) land, forest areas and grazing grounds from January 2015 onwards, leading to untold hardship on villagers. The Government has failed to conduct holistic impact assessments, which led to controversial and divisive rehabilitation of affected communities. Dominic stressed the need for addressing the rightful [demands](#) for justice and fair rehabilitation of all communities affected by Mapithel dam.

Jiten Yumnam, Secretary, CRAM, shared how the key objectives of the observation of international Rivers day worldwide is rendered meaningless in [Manipur](#) with [Barak](#) River, Thoubal River and others already subjected to mega dams constructions, destroying the dependence of [indigenous](#) communities and high [level](#) of pollution and contamination, such [as](#) the Nambul River. He said the human [rights](#) of [indigenous](#) communities and the impacts on environment; rich flora fauna and other cultural and natural heritage of [Manipur](#) are undermined and neglected. He express concerns that Rivers, forest and other natural heritages of [Manipur](#) are destroyed to serve the profit and business interest of corporate bodies.

Phulindro, Chairman, Committee on Human Rights explained the need to rejuvenate the health of Thoubal River and other rivers of [Manipur](#) and to promote the intrinsic relationship of [indigenous](#) communities with Thoubal River, which requires a full respect of the human [rights](#).

A Brief protest meet was held urging the Government to address the multifaceted impacts of Mapithel dam, to review the Mapithel dam and to let the Thoubal River Flow Free.

A [community](#) meet will be held to protect the [Barak](#) River at L.Pabram Village, Tamenglong on March 15-16.

Jiten Yumnam

BY JITEN YUMNAM

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