

Meet on Tipaimukh Dam held



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The Citizens Concern for Dams and [Development](#), [North East](#) Dialogue Forum and Centre for Research and Advocacy, Manipurco-organized a public meet on “Tipaimukh Dam and Indigenous Peoples Rights” at [Manipur](#) Press Club, [Imphal](#) on 3 May [2016](#). The consultation is also organized to discuss visit of the representatives of the [National](#) Human Rights Commission in [Imphal](#) on Tipaimukh dam from 3-6 May, [2016](#) and deliberate on the longstanding concerns of Tipaimukh dam. Mr. Jiten Yumnam, Secretary, Centre for Research and Advocacy, [Manipur](#) presented key note in the consultation. Ashen, People Action for [Development](#), Joseph [Hmar](#), [ATSUM](#), Majabung Gangmei, Speaker, Zeliangrong Baudi, U. Nobokishore, NEDF, Phulindro Konsam, Chairman, and Committee on Human Rights spoke [as](#) resource persons.

Mr. Joseph [Hmar](#), [President](#), [ATSUM](#) shared how Land is life and crucial for [indigenous](#) peoples livelihood and survival. The loss incurred by Tipaimukh dam in terms of submergence of peoples land, forest and resources is simply disproportionate to the projected benefits. The aggressive move for Tipaimukh dam construction despite peoples’ objection exposes the ulterior motive of the Government. [Development](#) process should be sustainable and people friendly and be pursued with their consent.

Majabung Gangmei, Speaker, Zeliangrong Baudi expressed concern that the aggressive move of the Government of [India](#) to build Tipaimukh dam is meant to destroy peoples land and their survival sources. There is underestimation of impacts, especially forest and [agriculture](#) land by project proponents. Mr. Ashen, Peoples Action for [Development](#) shared how the Tipaimukh dam will involve submergence of huge trace of [agriculture](#) land and forest in Tamenglong and [Churachandpur](#) District. The Tipaimukh dam will involve felling of [7.8](#) million trees and 27,000 [bamboo](#) columns in [Manipur](#).

Mr. Phulindro Konsam of COHR shared how the Tipaimukh dam is anti-people, anti-environment project. Mr. Nobokishore of NEDF stressed the need to promote alternative energies, Solar, Wind, mini hydel etc, instead of large scale and unsustainable development projects such [as](#) Tipaimukh dam.

The participants of the consultation on Tipaimukh dam adopted several resolutions, first to appraise the NHRC officials visiting [Manipur](#) to meet all communities affected by the Tipaimukh dam project and their representatives. The second resolution affirmed that the 1500 MW Tipaimukh dam should not be built [over](#) the [Barak](#) River due to its enormous scale of impacts on the flora and fauna, natural heritages of [Manipur](#) and the threats to the livelihood, survival and human [rights](#) of [indigenous](#) peoples depending on [Barak](#) River. The Ministry of [Environment](#) and Forest should revoke the [Environment](#) Clearance for Tipaimukh Dam on 24 October 2008 despite [community](#) objections in all the five public hearings.

The resolutions further urged the Government to revoke all MoUs signed on Tipaimukh Dam by the Government of [Manipur](#) with NEEPCO, NHPC and SJVNL etc and that the dam Tipaimukh HEP should not be constructed without the Free, Prior and Informed Consent of [indigenous](#) peoples, [as](#) also recommended by [UN](#) CERD committee and [UN](#) DRIP, 2007. Further affirms [indigenous](#) peoples self-determined [rights over](#) our land, forest and resources and to develop and define all development priorities in [Manipur as](#) also outlined in the [UN](#) Declaration on the [rights](#) of Indigenous Peoples, 2007.

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RESOLUTION OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON “TIPAIMUKH DAM AND FOREST CLEARANCE”, ORGANIZED BY THE CITIZENS’ CONCERN FOR DAMS AND DEVELOPMENT, COMMITTEE ON LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, COMMITTEE ON THE PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN MANIPUR AND THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST TIPAIMUKH DAM PROJECT HELD AT MANIPUR PRESS CLUB, IMPHAL ON 9 JULY 2013.

The participants of the one day public consultation on “Tipaimukh dam and Forest Clearance” organized by the Citizens Concern for Dams and [Development](#), Committee on Land and [Natural Resources](#), Committee on the Protection of [Natural Resources](#) in [Manipur](#) and the Action Committee Against Tipaimukh Dam Project, held at [Manipur](#) Press Club on 9 July 2013 hereby:

Affirm that the forest, land, rivers and other natural resources of [Manipur](#) are crucial for the sustenance of endemic flora and fauna and the survival of several [indigenous](#) communities.

Further affirms [indigenous](#) peoples self determined [rights over](#) our land, forest and resources and to develop and define all development priorities in [Manipur as](#) also outlined in the [UN](#) Declaration on the [rights](#) of Indigenous Peoples, 2007.

Express concern that the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) of the Ministry of [Environment](#) and Forest (MoEF) is meeting on 11-12 July 2013 to consider the proposed 1500 MW Tipaimukh Multipurpose Hydroelectric Project for “Forest Clearance”

Further express concern that for the possible “Forest Clearance”, the FAC of MoEF is relying for reports of a one day aerial survey of officials of Government of [India](#), and also the request from the Government of [Manipur](#) and the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation, all of which recommended for felling [7.8](#) million trees and 27,000 [bamboo](#) in [Manipur](#) without proper and comprehensive impact assessment due to proposed Tipaimukh dam construction.

Recall that the Ministry of [Environment](#) and Forest of the Government of [India](#) conceded “[Environment](#) Clearance” in October 2008 for the proposed Tipaimukh Dam project despite peoples’ objections in all the five public hearings held from the year 2004 till 2008.

Also recall that an MoU was signed with the Government of [Manipur](#), the [National](#) Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) and Sutlej Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVN) on 28th April 2010, reaffirmed on 22nd October 2011, without obtaining the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of all affected communities in [Manipur](#), Mizoram and Assam.

Remind of the recommendations of the [UN](#) Committee on the Elimination of All forms of Racial Discrimination in 2011 on Tipaimukh Dam not to construct the dam without the free prior and informed consent of all affected [indigenous](#) peoples.

The participants further resolved that:

1. The Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) of the Ministry of [Environment](#) and Forest (MoEF), Government of [India](#) should desist from granting [Environment](#) Clearance for the proposed Tipaimukh Multipurpose Hydroelectric Project [as](#) this would amount to clear cut violation of the [rights](#) of [indigenous](#) peoples in [Manipur](#). The FAC of the MoEF should also take cognizance that all [Indigenous](#) Peoples of [Manipur](#) have full [rights over](#) their lands and resources, [as](#) also recognized by the [UN](#) Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 2007.
2. The FAC of the MoEF should refrain from making recommendations for Compensatory Afforestation [as](#) [Manipur](#) is such a small State with huge pressure on land and forest already and the forest to be submerged by Tipaimukh HEP is so huge that it is irrational to

compensate similar areas in other parts of [Manipur](#) with afforestation. The Government of [India](#) should ensure that the proposed 1500 MW Tipaimukh HEP is not constructed without the Free, Prior and Informed Consent of [indigenous](#) peoples.

3. The MoEF should revoke the [Environment](#) Clearance Granted for Tipaimukh Dam in October 2008 based on the stern objections by the affected communities in all the five public hearings from 2004 till 2008.
4. The MoEF should recommend that the proposed Tipaimukh dam should adhere to the recommendations of the World Commission on Dams, the [UN](#) Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples and the recommendations from the [UN](#) CERD Committee in 2007.
5. The MoEF should recommend revoking all MoUs signed on Tipaimukh Dam by the Government of [Manipur](#) with NEEPCO, NHPC and SJVNL etc.

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