

No to Mega dams, Let the Rivers flow free



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The Centre for Research and Advocacy, [Manipur](#) in association with the Citizens Concern for Dams and [Development](#), Sibilong Village Authority and Toubam Village Authority [celebrated](#) a Two day International Rivers Day at Sibilong Village and Toubam Village, Tamenglong District, [Manipur](#) on 13th and 14th March 2017 with the theme “Let our Rivers Flow Free”. The celebration is aimed at revitalizing the relationship of [indigenous](#) communities with their rivers and land and to strengthen their solidarity to defend their rivers and land from all unsustainable and destructive forms of development, such [as](#) mega dams, oil exploration etc impacting rivers.

A [community](#) protest meet at Sibilong Village along the Banks of [Barak](#) River on 13th March marks the first day of the celebration, where the possible impacts of proposed 1500 MW Tipaimukh dam, 190 MW Pabram dam, 67 MW Khongnem Chakha dam [over](#) the [Barak](#) River and the proposed oil exploration, Trans Asian Railway works in [Manipur](#) has been deliberated. Mr. Gailungpao Gonmei, Member, VA, Sibilong Village performed a folksong, representing the Rongmei people's relationship with the Ahu ([Barak](#)) River. Mr. Jiten Yumnam, Secretary, CRA, [Manipur](#) shared on the possible impacts of 190 MW Pabram Dam and 1500 MW Tipaimukh dam. Ms. Akhonliu Gangmei, [President](#), Women Society, Nungba shared on the potential impacts of proposed oil exploration on rivers and land. Mr. Maharabi Kangjam, Child [rights](#) activist and Mr. Phulindro Konsam, Chairman, Committee on Human [Rights](#) also shared on defending [community rights over](#) land and resources in [Manipur](#).

Another [community](#) protest meet was also organized at Toubam Village along the Irang River on 14th March, where the impacts of proposed 60 MW Irang Hydroelectric Project [over](#) Irang River was deliberated. Mr. Rangthieu Kamei, Chairman of Toubam Village Authority shared on the livelihood dependence of Irang River to [indigenous](#) communities. Ms. Rumi Gonmei, [President](#), Women Society, Toubam Village and Mr. Dinthourei Gonmei, former Village Secretary expressed concern with the proposed 60 Irang Dam for its multifaceted and intergenerational impacts. Mr. Homen Thangjam shared on social and environment impacts of dams in [Manipur](#).

The Participants of the International Rivers Day Celebration at Sibilong Village and Irang Village organized a brief protest and resolved that the [Barak](#) River, Irang River and all other Rivers in [Manipur](#) should be allowed to flow free. The participants also resolved [against](#) proposed 1500 MW Tipaimukh Hydroelectric Project, 190 MW Pabram dam, 67 MW Khongnem Chakha dam, 60 MW Irang Dam proposed [over Barak](#) and Irang Rivers. The Khuga Dam, Khoupum Dam and other non-performing dams should be decommissioned. The participants re-affirmed that the land, river, forest and all resources is their life and urged the Government to implement the [UN](#) Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 2007 and recommendations of World Commission on Dams, 2000.

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