An Invitation

Public Lecture

ANU-BD Students
Invite you to the public lecture

The data, the denial and the future?
Let there be light!

Tipaimukh dam: the Socio-economic and environmental impact

India's Tipaimukh Dam plan, built on the river Barak, which bifurcates into two streams as it enters Bangladesh as the rivers Surma and Kushiara, has been on the drawing board for nearly 40 years. According to the implementing agency, North Eastern Electric Power Corporation, this dam would have an installed capacity of 1,500MW of electricity. Efforts were made in the past to get the World Bank or JBIC to back the project, but their involvement is still elusive. It is costing India Rs 68 billion— an escalation from the earlier estimated expenditure of Rs 52 billion.

Negative impacts of large dams are very widely known around the world. A detailed study by the World Dam Commission published in 2000 says adverse impacts of any large dams are irreversible for the lower riparian region. The study after reviewing 1,000 dams from 79 countries concludes in its report: "The environmental impacts of dams are more negative than positive ones and in many cases dams have led to irreversible loss of species and ecosystems."

At this stage, what actions and programmes are meaningful for Bangladesh? Can India be persuaded to abandon dam projects on international rivers in favor of alternative options for energy need?

Friday 3rd July, 2009, 3.30 PM
Lecture Theatre
Manning Clark Centre T5
Union Court
The Australian National University

Enquiries: Shamaruh Mirza on 0433550699

Speaker panel

Mr. Jamie Pittock was trained in zoology and geography at Monash University, Australia. He was employed by a number of non-government groups in Australia during 1989-2001, to work on a range of issues for the conservation of nature. In particular, he led WWF advocacy for nature conservation programs, and also new Australian environmental laws, which were enacted in 1999. Jamie was Director of WWF's Global Freshwater Programme from 2001 to 2007, one of WWF's five global priorities. This work promoted establishment and management of freshwater protected areas, sustainable river basin management, and sustainable use of water by agriculture and industry globally. From July 2007 Jamie has been a WWF Research Associate, undertaking research on river management and climate change based at the Fenner School of Environment & Society at the Australian National University. His research is focused on the conflicts and synergies between water and climate change policies. Jamie is also the Principal of James Pittock Consulting.

Dr. Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt received her under and post graduate degree in Geography from India. Kuntala visited A.N.U. in 2000, and joined the Resource Management in Asia-Pacific Program as a Community Specialist in Natural Resource Management in 2002. She has been a coordinator and consultant to several international agencies and institutions, including Panos Institute, UK, and the International Atomic Energy Agency. Her current research focus is on community initiatives and development in mining and water sectors.

Dr Nargis Akhter Banu obtained her PhD from University of Sydney in Environmental Soil Chemistry. She is currently employed in Sydney Waters. Her present role requires her to undertake environmental planning, design, assessment and management of capital and major projects and implement environmental policies, procedures and guidelines during environmental research, investigation and audit. She has worked for Energy Australia, Roads and Traffic Authority RTA), Railway and Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) as an environmental scientist.

Mr. Ekram Chowdhury is a Sydney based I.T. specialist and human right activist. He is noted in Bangladeshi media for his focus on environmental and social issues.