

The CSO Partnership is an open platform that unites CSO voices from around the world on the issue of development effectiveness.

# eBULLETIN



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## They were asking for food relief - they were given bullets instead

### PCFS Statement on the Kidapawan Farmers Massacre

We would like to express our utmost condemnation on the killing of unarmed farmers asking for food relief. The people of North Cotabato are suffering from severe drought. The inutile response of government to help them survive such crisis is inhuman enough. To hoard the food relief intended for them is simply criminal. To open fire at them when they were demanding what is due them is plain evil.

Thousands of farmers in Kidapawan, North Cotabato decided to temporarily leave their farms to protest the hoarding of the food relief by the local government and to demand the release of the calamity funds supposedly intended for those whose crops were destroyed by the El Niño phenomenon.

After four days of peacefully protesting in front of the provincial office of the National Food Authority, the police forces decided to open fire at the unarmed farmers, resulting to three dead and more than forty wounded.

Prior to the incident, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Center (NDRRMC) confirmed in its March 10, 2016 advisory that "five (5)

provinces were affected by dry spell while eighteen (18) provinces, mostly from Mindanao, are experiencing dry condition since the previous month.”

The said report also cited “the occurrence of grassfires in General Santos City and Cotabato City have been reported due to prolonged dry conditions and warmer than average temperatures attributed to the ongoing El Niño phenomenon.”

Even Malacañang was well aware of the calamity. In fact, as early as December, President Benigno Aquino III approved a P19 billion budget to combat the effects of El Niño, which may last until May 2016. North Cotabato was already identified as one of the 9 provinces experiencing dry spell as early as December.

Top politicians however are still debating the distribution of such budget. The Philippines is currently going through a highly contested national election. In earlier reports, opposition party spokesperson Toby Tiangco claimed that the administration party was using P581 billion from the national budget, supposedly to help in garnering votes for the administration’s candidates instead of helping the poor.

This is precisely the question being raised by the protesting farmers in Kidapawan before they were shot by the authorities: after three long months of severe drought, where are the calamity funds and food relief that were supposed to help them?

Up to now, even after the shooting of protesting farmers, the calamity funds are still not being distributed in North Cotabato, including the 15,000 sacks of rice subsidy to farmers severely affected by drought. People are being told that the food relief will only be distributed when the campaign sortie of the administration’s political party arrives in the province.

We call upon the international community to unite in supporting the people of Kidapawan and condemn the killings of innocent farmers and other victims of state repression in the Philippines.

We also call for the investigation and prosecution of government officials responsible for anomalies in managing the calamity funds and the violent dispersal of the protesting farmers especially for the killing of Rotello Daelto of Arakan town who was already wounded when fatally shot at close range by the police.

We also call for an independent body to investigate the massacre in Kidapawan, which will involve civil society organisations, International Humanitarian Institutions and UN Special Rapporteurs on the Right to Food and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

North Cotabato provincial governor Lala Talino-Mendoza, the Provincial Police Chief and the AFP’s provincial commander should be immediately suspended while the incident is being investigated.

Justice for the Farmers of Kidapawan and other victims of state repression in the Philippines!

Defend the people’s right to food and the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly!

Implement genuine agrarian reform and food sovereignty!

**#foodnotbullets**

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## CSO participation in the Second Monitoring Round Global Secretariat

CPDE members in the 60 out of 81 participating countries followed and engaged in the second monitoring round process. 60 of the 81 participating countries have been identified by CPDE to work closely with their governments in producing country reports due on March 31. In order to conduct this work, CPDE provided technical and financial support to the CSO focal points where outputs of the process shall also be furnished with the Global Secretariat for proper documentation.

### *Few updates from countries*

A number of CSO focal points have already worked with their respective governments to launch the monitoring process and contribute in developing the official reports. In particular, CSOs have worked on Indicator 2 which is on enabling environment for CSOs. In the **Philippines**, AidWatch Philippines gathered CSOs in a meeting and provided data for Indicator 2. They also participated in the national validation workshop organised by the National Government. CSOs from **Myanmar**, led by Local Resource Centre, participated in the GPEDC launch meeting with the government. Burmese CSOs have already finalised their positions on indicator 2 last 24 March. **Kyrgyzstan** CSO focal organisation, Civic Movement for Development Effectiveness, was part of the national working group of stakeholders (governmental, providers, private sector) by Decree of the Ministry of Economy (national coordinator) and started the monitoring work. As a key step, the organisation disseminated questionnaires for CSOs and conducted a multi-stakeholder meeting to discuss effective planning of data collection to ensure a credible monitoring process. **Cambodia** CSO focal point, Cooperation Committee in Cambodia, reported that they have already conducted several meetings, interviews, and online consultations on Indicator 2 with national CSOs and met with the government for a validation meeting. CSOs in **Tajikistan**, led by NGO Jahon, have also conducted roundtable meetings, focus-group discussions and consultation to gather evidences on Indicator 2.

Around 50 CSOs in **Mexico**, led by DECA, have worked on an online survey on Indicators 2, 3 and 8. The CSO focal point will prepare for a face-to-face meeting with other stakeholders including government representatives and researchers. CSOs in the **Dominican Republic**, led by Alianza ONG, have conducted a national CSO consultation participated in by 40 organisations. After the consultation, the organisation has already drafted their report on Indicator 2 which will be submitted to the government. CSOs in **Colombia, El Salvador** and **Paraguay** have all reported validation and consultation work.

Counterpart **Armenia**, CSO focal point for Armenia, has sent out the monitoring questionnaire to a number of CSOs to solicit feedback regarding indicator 2. In **Kosovo**, CSOs are working with their government on Indicators 2 and 3. In **Albania**, CSOs have worked on a country report on Indicator 2 which they have submitted to their government. Further validation meetings are underway.

Malawi Economic Justice Network (MEJN), CSO focal point for **Malawi**, represented CSOs at the Development Cooperation Group (DCG) Steering Committee, which is closely keeping an eye on overall progress of the exercise, along with the Private Sector and Development Partners' focal points. CSOs monitored Indicator 2 (and also gave input to Indicator 3) aside from the invitation extended to them to be a part of the Validation for the Overall Malawi submission. **Togo** CSO focal point GARED also facilitated CSOs to respond to the questionnaire on Indicator 2.

In the three provinces of **Sierra Leone** (North, East and South), ChildHelp was able to meet with CSOs, community groups including youth and women groups on building awareness - focusing on the Busan Global indicators and the 2nd Monitoring Round within the country. During this awareness creating mission, serious concerns were raised by most of the NGOs and CSOs as there has been little knowledge on these global processes in the aforementioned locales. Information leaflets were distributed to aid CSOs in raising their awareness of these important development policy processes at the global, regional, and country levels. As ways forward, ChildHelp aims to participate in a strategic meeting with Parliamentarians, development partners, UNDP, CSO representatives and other community-based groups next week and disseminate a detailed questionnaire to seek feedback on monitoring Indicator 2.

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## UPDATES FROM WORKING GROUPS

### *CPDE A2030 Working Group to focus on Goals 16 and 17*

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Building on the developments with regard to the Agenda 2030 and the relevant forums on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the CPDE Working Group on Post 2015 Development Agenda, now renamed Working Group on Agenda 2030, recognised the need to hold a Strategy Meeting in Brussels on 23 March to define its role and plans in relation to CPDE's overall thrust on effective development cooperation vis-a-vis Agenda 2030...

The CPDE A2030 Working Group Strategy meeting, with the presence of the Coordinating Committee members and Working Group members, took the important decision to engage Agenda 2030 in the implementation stage, recognising its added value doing it, which lies in the advocacy on Development Effectiveness and to promote HR - democratic ownership - and align partnerships with Human Rights and Development Effectiveness principles that bring the CPDE's focus on Goals 16 and 17.

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### *Updates from the CSO DE Working Group*

For more information, contact [mpamintuan@aprnet.org](mailto:mpamintuan@aprnet.org).

Members of the CSO DE Working group attending the EU CSO Forum 2016 and the CPDE's Coordination Committee Meeting in Brussels, Belgium took the opportunity to meet on March 22 to discuss its 2016 work plan. One of this year's highlight activities is the conduct of Action Researches on the State of CSO Development Effectiveness and Accountability which will document CSOs' progress in implementing the Istanbul Principles and CSO Accountability more than five (5) years after the Open Forum Global Assemblies in Turkey and Cambodia. Aside from that, the working group will continue its outreach work in coordination with regional and sectoral units.

The most exciting event that the working group looks forward to is the global conference marking the first five years of Istanbul Principles (IP+5) which is slated in Montreal, Canada in August 2016. Entitled CPDE Global Days on CSO Development

A2030

CSO DE

## SSC

Effectiveness, the conference will carry the theme Grounding the Global: Celebrating Successes, Learning Lessons, and Facing Challenges to Civil Society – the Istanbul Principles Five Years After. This event will be beyond celebrating CSOs' success five years since the formulation of the IP, but sharing and building common strategies and mobilizing core constituencies towards the Second High Level Meeting. Focus issues include enabling environment, multi-stakeholder dialogue and accountability.

### *SSC Working Group participates in International SSC Conference in New Delhi, holds meeting in Brussels*

The SSC Working Group, represented by Mr. Harsh Jaitli of Voluntary Action Network in India (VANI), participated in the International Conference on South-South Cooperation held on 10-11 March 2016 in New Delhi. Attending the meeting were representatives from the government, CSO, academia, and community representatives.

The conference aimed to discuss SSC with focus on the areas of financing and partnership, peace and security, environment, people centered development, and science, technology and innovation (STI). Jaitli emphasized the need to develop a multidimensional, participatory, multi-stakeholder approach towards SSC. He also mentioned the importance of CSO participation in global multi-stakeholder platforms, and that SSC providers and recipients should share success and failure stories to learn from them.

The International Conference on South - South Cooperation was organized by Forum for International Development Cooperation (FIDC), Research Information Systems (RIS), Ministry of External Welfare, United Nations and Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST).

*(Photos courtesy of RIS via <http://ris.org.in/>)*



### *SSC Working Group meets in Brussels*

An SSC Working Group meeting was held in Brussels, Belgium on 21 March 2016. Six members of the working group (Vitalice Meja, Joan Lanfranco, Anas Elhasnaoui, Laitia Tamata, Urna Gombosuren, and WG co-chair Erin Palomares) were present to provide their inputs. They discussed and came up with decisions on the group's next steps in completing an SSDC framework, activities for the upcoming High-Level Meeting in Nairobi, and the SSC WG work plan.

Tamata, Urna Gombosuren, and WG co-chair Erin Palomares) were present to provide their inputs. They discussed and came up with decisions on the group's next steps in completing an SSDC framework, activities for the upcoming High-Level Meeting in Nairobi, and the SSC WG work plan.

## UPDATES FROM SECTORS

### The relevance of social dialogue in development - New TUDCN/CPDE studies

<http://www.ituc-csi.org/social-dialogue-development>

In the framework of its work-stream on the relevance of social dialogue for development, the TUDCN has undertaken three national case studies: Indonesia, Ghana and Uruguay.

Social dialogue within these three countries is analysed in various forms, with particular focus on the formalisation of these dialogues at different administrative levels and its contribution to development. The studies are authored by national trade union specialists and include examples of good practice as well as of limitations of the different contexts. Conclusions and recommendations based on the analysis were also outlined. The studies are funded by the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness.

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### Testing the Waters ahead of the HLM2

The ICSO CPDE group is carrying out an assessment on the level of support for the effectiveness agenda from the international constituency. It is a survey focusing on a selected group of practitioners and organizations that have been involved in the CPDE information loop for the past three years. The study aims to gather expert views, from within the organizations rather than official positioning, on actual behaviors and practices rather than on formal knowledge of the DE agenda. Also, the scope reflects donor commitments to supporting the Busan principles as well as CSO effectiveness, namely the Istanbul principles.

The assessment is based on a questionnaire focusing on behavior change and aims to (1) address more substantive issues rather than process, (2) acknowledge the permeable character of the effectiveness principles despite lack of recognition, and (3) encourage people from entertaining questions on official global development processes. But aside from these objectives, the assessment presents an opportunity to generate interest among the members of the ICSO group given the HLM2 in November.

Initial consultations were conducted in early February through the deployment of an online questionnaire. As ways forward, individual, personal interviews will be carried out in April which may generate greater feedback to the exercise. A report should be ready by the end of April, and this may offer findings that may aid in shaping better mobilization strategies for the ICSOs both at the global and the local level.

Parallel to the research programme, the ICSO holds its regular information sharing through a dedicated mailing list and teleconferences. The preparatory process for the HLM2 meeting offers a good opportunity to rally the group members, which have declared interest in the HLM session on progress since Busan.

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Labour

ICSOs

## FEATURED STORIES

### CSA expresses concern about murder investigation of Berta Cáceres

The CSA expressed its strongest condemnation of the ruthless murder of the indigenous leader Berta Cáceres, representative of the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH), a recognized defender of human rights as well as social and environmental justice on 3 March. (See press release here).

Gustavo Castro was also injured during this attack. Castro is a Mexican and member of the Organization Otros Mundos Chiapas / Friends of the Earth Mexico, the Mexican Network of People Affected by Mining Industry (REMA) and the Mesoamerican Movement against the Extractive Model of Mining (M4).

The CSA sent a letter to the government of Honduras to express concern about eventual evidence of manipulation in the investigation of the murder of Berta Cáceres. Such manipulation is deemed a result of a motive to criminalize COPINH or link the death to a personal matter which hides the political context of this attack against one of the leaders in the resistance against the impunity of transnational corporations seeking to take over the lands and commons in Honduras. The resistance caused her to be persecuted, prosecuted and even threatened with death repeatedly to the point that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) had to issue precautionary measures for special protection by the government of Honduras.

The CSA has stated repeatedly its concern and protest against the general situation of violence and impunity that exists in Honduras by which specifically the human rights defenders, including trade union leaders and indigenous leaders are affected.

The members of COPINH as well as the family of Berta Cáceres and the leader Gustavo Castro are in a situation of gravity and urgency, to the extent that the CIDH decided on March 5th to request the adoption of precautionary measures to safeguard the life and physical integrity, and the need of taking the due steps to ensure the safety of Gustavo Castro in his process of leaving the country.



*Berta Cáceres  
(Photo courtesy of the Goldman Environmental Prize)*

The Honduran State is primarily responsible for stopping the situation of violence and widespread impunity that exists in the country, for the protection of the physical integrity and life of human rights defenders and has to ensure respect for the rights of indigenous peoples against the corporate interests of transnational companies.

The CSA requires the government of Honduras to investigate, identify and punish the perpetrators and masterminds of the murder of Berta Cáceres and all human rights defenders that have been victims of violence; to guarantee the life and physical integrity of comrade Gustavo Castro in while he is proceeding to leave the country; to guarantee the rights of indigenous peoples against corporate interests of transnational companies; and to put an end to the persecution and criminalization of those who defend human rights, as well as social and environmental justice.

## Justice, Recognition and Commitment to the Legacy of Berta Cáceres

### *Latin American Network of Women Transforming the Economy*

After the vile murder interrupted the fruitful life of Berta Cáceres, her figure projects in the region and the world in the multiple dimensions of her struggle and compromise, which united the defense of indigenous peoples, the rural world, the mother Earth, women, sovereignty and alternative integration, all bound by the broadest and most generous political sense. Her career was not restricted by any sectorial agenda, but was able to locate commitments and priorities as a part of integral processes, of the search and construction of a different society for our peoples.

We join our voice to the cry of pain and indignation, denouncing throughout the world this ruthless murder that shows the extreme contempt for life at which predatory capitalism arrives, the corporate interests in detriment of the rights of indigenous peoples and the ecosystems of our territories, supported by illegitimate and subservient governments in countries like Honduras, where the life of environmental activists and human rights are in severe danger. We remain at the side of the family of Berta Cáceres. We stand in solidarity with their colleagues from the COPINH, with the indigenous peoples and the women of the people of Honduras and America, that have condemned this crime demanding justice and not impunity, sharing solidarity and commitment on the path we will follow with the example given by Berta.

### **Dismantle Corporate Power and Stop Impunity Endorsed by CPDE Indigenous Peoples Sector-Latin America and the Caribbean**

4th March 2016, Planet Earth

Berta Cáceres, indigenous leader and spokesperson for more than 20 years of the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (Consejo Cívico de Organizaciones Populares e Indígenas de Honduras - Copinh), was murdered on 3rd March while she was resting in her home in La Esperanza, Intibucá, about 188 km from Tegucigalpa, by "unknown" gunmen.

Berta Cáceres was a firm defender of small farmers and indigenous peoples' rights and an inspiring social activist at the regional level advocating for social and environmental justice, particularly against mining megaprojects and hydropower plants.

She warned the international community about the impacts of Free Trade Agreements - i.e., being part of the machinery of impunity of transnational corporations and opposed US military bases on Lenca territory. Aside from this, Cáceres committed her life to raising the awareness of people on the issues of health, land, patriarchy and violence. She opposed the political golpe of 28th June 2009 which COPINH also denounced due to it being an instrument of violence serving transnational corporations, exploiting natural resources, and repressing the dissent of social movements.

In April 2015, Berta Cáceres was awarded with the Goldman Environmental Prize, one of the most prestigious awards for environmental defenders, for her hard work in defending the Lenca territory against the Agua Zarca Hydropower Project of the Chinese transnational SINOHYDRO and national company Desarrollo Energético Sociedad Anónima (DESA). Lenca people had been denouncing for years the violation of their right to water as source of life and culture by corporates, military and the government.

Aside from all these achievements, Berta Cáceres was also a mother of four and was assigned precautionary measures by the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (IACHR) which were not accomplished by the state. Cáceres was assassinated by a state which protected the interests of local capital, and transnational corporations which spoiled the territory. Her commitment and advocacies most especially for the marginalized and needy were a few reasons for several trials, investigations and threats against her.

The indigenous leader discredited death threats against her, and this was happening within a generally violent context. Among these cases was the murder of 111 environmental activists in Honduras between 2002 and 2014, as espoused in the 2014 report “¿Cuántos más?” of the ONG Global Witness. This regarded Honduras among the 17 countries with the high rates of violence. It also shows the architecture of impunity and violence of the large scale mining and hydroelectric business among other activities favoring private capital and complicit governments. According to the Honduras-based organization ACI-PARTICIPA (Asociación para la participación ciudadana en Honduras), more than 90% of assassinations and abuses in the country remain unpunished.

**We firmly demand the government of Honduras:**

- To put an end to impunity and conduct proper investigation on the murder of Berta Cáceres, as well as all other social and environmental justice activists.
- To ensure the integrity, freedom and respect of Human Rights by Gustavo Castro de Soto and Aureliano Molina.
- To suspend all projects that have been denounced by Human Rights defenders, among which the Hydropower plant Agua Zarca on Rio Blanco and the Blue Energy project on Rio Cangel.
- That corporations and finance institutions withdraw their support and investments from projects that have violated HHRR or where there has been no free prior and informed consultation, according to ILO Convention 169.
- To put an end to persecution and criminalization of Human Rights defenders and to accomplish with all precautionary measures for the integrity and safety of people.

**We express our solidarity and extend our condolences to the family and close friends of Berta Cáceres, to the Lenca people, and to the people of Honduras who suffer her irreparable loss.**

**Finally, we call for an international peoples mobilization and immediate denunciation of Cáceres' assassination to the embassies and consulates of Honduras in our respective countries, to express our repudiation of such crimes and firm demand of justice.**

## **Mega dams, IFIs and Resistance in Manipur**

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### *Dams and International Financial Institutions*

The North East (NE) region of India, including Manipur and its Brahmaputra Barak River Basin, have been classified as India's power house and subjected to aggressive mega dam constructions. More than 200 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for mega dams have been signed with several dam-building companies. On 28 August 2014, four MOUs were signed by the Government of Manipur with the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) for the construction of (a) 60 MW Irang HEP; (b) 51 MW Tuivai HEP; (c) 67 MW Khongnem Chakha; and (d) 190 MW Pabram HEP projects over Rivers of Manipur. The Manipur Hydroelectric Power Policy 2012 and the Manipur Industrial Investment Policy 2013 have been framed to provide a tacit conducive environment for private sector financing and corporate bodies' involvement in energy projects.

In recent decades, a substantial investment from International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and donor agencies in the energy sector in Manipur and in NE India is significantly visible, with clear, distinct and complementary roles among IFIs. For instance, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is involved in financing mega dams such as the Tuirial Dam in Mizoram, and also in the development of infrastructure for water supply from Mapithel dam for Imphal Town in Manipur.

The World Bank currently financed the development of high voltage transmission and distribution line in Manipur and other parts of India , intending to connect areas demarcated for power generations along key Rivers of Manipur with a total cost of Rs 9890.16 crore. The World Bank's financial support as loan for these transmission lines will be a key infrastructure to facilitate energy transmission and construction of the proposed 200 mega dams in the NE region. The cost component for Manipur will be Rs 727.67 crore. The scope of the scheme is stringent power transmission of 495 km of new 132 KV line, installation of 4 numbers of 132/33 KV new substations at Thoubal, Tipaimukh and Gamphajol, including augmentation of existing substation with capacity addition of 185 MVA, stringent of 2291 km of new 33 KV line and installation of 54 nos. of 33/11 KV sub-stations including augmentation of existing substations with capacity addition of 244 MVA .

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is extensively involved in power sector reforms towards corporatisation of institutions and privatisation of power services, as well as extensive road building. The Manipur Electricity Department has already been converted into Manipur Power Distribution Company Limited, and the power supply and distribution is already privatised despite the objections and concerns. The privatisation of power supply in Manipur is already associated with the increase of tariff hike, with the latest increase of 10 percent implemented on 19 February 2016. Road projects in Manipur, financed by the ADB pursued under the North East State Roads Investment Program through its South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Regional Road Connectivity project, will also facilitate the transport of all machineries and vehicles required for mega dam constructions. The ongoing construction of the Bishenpur Town to Khoupum road and to Tupul financed by the ADB will facilitate the construction of the 66 MW Loktak Downstream Project and the Nungleiband Dam over the Leimatak River in Manipur.

JICA is also preparing to finance the infrastructure development for water supply in Imphal Town from the controversial Mapithel dam built over the Barak River. The key components of the Integrated Water Supply Project (IWSP) will be co-financed by JICA and the Government of India. The project is under process for financing by JICA, expected for finalisation by the end of 2016. JICA has developed a preparatory survey for the Imphal Water Supply Improvement Project, a pre-feasibility report completed in March 2015. The report was prepared by three Japanese consultancy companies, the NJS Consultants Co. Ltd, Nippon Koei Co. Ltd, Sanyu Consultants Inc. with JICA for PHED, Government of Manipur.



The ultimate aim of the JICA-funded IWSP is to privatise and commercialise water supply in Imphal Town. There is clear suggestion for privatisation of water supply, as per the pre-feasibility report for Imphal Supply Project conducted. One of the significant impacts of JICA-financed IWSP is the loss of agricultural land in Leikoiching Village and communities depending on Lamphelpat Wetlands for livelihood. The 60 MW Tuirial Dam in Mizoram, financed by JICA, with 77 Metre high earthen dam across the River Tuirial, a tributary of Barak River, has been subject of controversy. The dam stopped construction on account of controversial rehabilitation and resettlement of affected communities. Communities affected by Mapithel dam and JICA's financed IWSP complained of lack of concern on impacts by the Government and the IFIs, with limited space to seek redressal and justice for violations.

#### *IFI involvement, concerns and resistance*

The IFIs facilitated in creating an enabling environment for the expropriation of indigenous peoples' land and resources, while undermining indigenous peoples' self-determination and in taking consent for introducing projects to their land. The IFIs are keen on financing projects where corporate bodies are certain to reap profits.

Another challenge of such financial support of these IFIs is that this monetary support come as loan support with obligatory interest payments. With the new development financing arrangements for Manipur of withdrawal of Special category status, and the mandatory need for Manipur to source its own revenue to meet its financial obligations for any development projects, it's apparent the State will be reduced to another highly indebted political entity to these IFIs. The financing, often coming as loan, does not have special provision to waive these on occasion of project failure, for instance, the JICA financed Manipur Sericulture Project and the French Government support Imphal Sewerage Project etc. The cumulative basin-wide impacts of ADB road projects, the World Bank's Transmission and Distribution network, the JICA's IWSP et.c, across the Brahmaputra –Barak River Basin in NER are still absent.

Mega dam-building in Manipur is also associated with increased militarisation and civil rights violations on affected communities. On 3 November 2008, around 40 women seeking justice for the violations by Mapithel dam were injured in police brutality. On 25 December 2005, three people were killed and 25 injured in another brutality unleashed on communities demanding just compensation to the effects of Khuga dam.

The push for mega dams in Manipur is already associated with a parallel process of increased resistance to decision-making process and subsequent impacts. The adverse experiences of commissioned mega dams in Manipur, such as the 105 MW Loktak Multipurpose Hydroelectric Project, the Mapithel dam, Khoupum dam, the Khuga dam, etc., compelled communities to reject new proposals for mega dams. Peoples' resistance against 105 MW Loktak Project revolves around continued violations of the project and lack of accountability of the project proponent, the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation. The resistance against 1500 MW Tipaimukh HEP is based on non-recognition of affected peoples' rights over their land. All MoUs signed among the Government, corporate bodies and international financial institutions need be revoked till the recognition and addressing of peoples' rights and concerns. There should be a review of the 105 Loktak HEP Project and the Mapithel dam construction for their multifaceted impacts and unaccountability of the corporate bodies. The Manipur Hydroelectric Policy of 2012 should be repealed as it aimed to serve the corporate interest to maximize profits from the exploitation of peoples land.

The IFIs should fully adhere to development effectiveness principles, especially in respecting the human rights and self-determined development of indigenous peoples in their land and territories. Although the IFIs have their own safeguard standards, the application of these safeguards is highly challenging in Manipur. The safeguard policy of IFIs and the environmental and land laws in India are very weak in delivering justice for affected communities. In fact, there have been further dilutions in these policies to facilitate corporatisation of peoples' land. The CSOs' enabling environment for Development Effectiveness is further weakened with more restrictions on functioning of community-based organisations. The Government should stop targeting human rights defenders and indigenous organisations involved in promoting sustainable development and in challenging destructive projects such as Mapithel dam, the Tipaimukh dam and other mega dams for inconsideration of alternatives and larger impacts. All projects financed by IFIs should take the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples, and fully adhere with the provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 2007.

Take part in the CPDE Global Council E-Bulletin, submit monthly updates to Reileen Joy Dulay at [secretariat@csopartnership.org](mailto:secretariat@csopartnership.org) and Jodel Dacara at [membership@csopartnership.org](mailto:membership@csopartnership.org).

Know more about the CSO Partnership, visit [www.csopartnership.org](http://www.csopartnership.org).