

Invitation to the **Launch of the Report**

“Mountains of Concrete: Dam Building in the Himalayas”

on Monday, January 12, 2009 from 2.30 pm to 4 pm

at the India International Centre (Annex), Conference Hall-3

40 Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi 110003, India

Shripad Dharmadhikary of **Manthan Adhyayan Kendra** will present his study on dam building in the Himalayas: **“Mountains of Concrete: Dam Building in the Himalayas”**. It discusses the linkages between climate change and dam-building in the Himalayas, and comprehensively analyses the impacts of the dam building spree on the region's people, ecosystems, and economy.

The meeting will be chaired by **Shri Ramaswamy Iyer**, former Secretary, Union Ministry of Water Resources, Govt of India. **Ratan Bhandari** from **Water & Energy Users' Federation Nepal** will present the impacts of the India-driven hydropower program in Nepal.

Key Speakers: **Shri Surya P Sethi** (Principle Advisor (Energy), Planning Commission) and **Shri Mahesh Rangrajan** (Delhi University).

“Mountains of Concrete” is published by **International Rivers** and can be downloaded from <http://www.internationalrivers.org/node/3601>. Hard copies will be available at the launch.

After the launch meeting and tea break, please do stay back for the first ever screening of a 33 minute documentary film **“Rhymes and Reasons of Confrontation”** on the people affected by the proposed 3000 MW **Dibang Hydropower project** in Arunachal Pradesh.

Selected key findings and questions from the report:

Global warming is changing the Himalayas faster than any other region of the world. The mountains' mighty glaciers, the source of most large Asian rivers, are melting.

Against these dramatic changes, the governments of India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bhutan are planning to transform the Himalayan Rivers into the powerhouse of South Asia. They want to build hundreds of mega dams to generate electricity from the wild waters of the Himalayas. Most of the large hydropower projects planned for Nepal and Bhutan will be financed and constructed by Indian companies, for export of electricity to India.

The dams' reservoirs, tunnels, transmission lines and related works will destroy thousands of houses, rivers, forests, fragile hills, towns, villages, fields, ecology, spiritual sites and even parts of the highest highway of the world, the Karakoram highway. But who will reap their benefits? Will they be able to generate as much electricity as promised? At what cost? For whom? How long? What will happen to the people, ecosystems and rivers of the Himalayas if the dams are built and climate change takes its toll?

You are requested to join us for tea/ coffee and film screening after the launch.

Please RSVP to Swarup Bhattacharyya swarup.bhattacharyya@gmail.com.

South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers & People
www.sandrp.in

International Rivers
www.internationalrivers.org