

National Workshop on

"Water Conflicts in the North East: Issues, Cases and Way Forward"

10-11 December 2010| Guwahati

The Forum for Policy Dialogue on Water Conflicts in India (Forum to be brief) in association with Aaranyak, Gauhati organised a two day national workshop on, “Water Conflicts in the North East: Issues, Cases and Way Forward”, on 10-11 December 2010 at Gauhati. Dr. A. C. Bhagabati, Honorary Coordinator and Head of Division of North Eastern Regional Centre of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts and a well known academic, inaugurated the workshop. The workshop was attended by about 50 people including experts, practitioners, civil society researchers from the water sector and journalists. Some of the important names include Prof. Ramaswamy Iyer, Prof. Dulal Chandra Goswami, Prof. S. Janakarajan, Dr. Chandan Mahanta, Ravindranath, Dr. Nimmi Kurien and so on. Most of the case study writers who are involved in documenting various water related conflicts in the North-East as part of Forum and Aaranyak’s efforts to understand the different conflicts in the region also made presentations.



Dr. A. C. Bhagabati inaugurating the workshop



Participants of the Guwahati workshop

The North East has been witnessing different types of water related conflicts especially on issues like hydropower, water quality, bank erosion, floods and so on. There have been also apprehensions about China’s reported intent to divert Brahmaputra waters adding a trans-boundary dimension to the conflicts. There is also a sense of ‘isolation’ as the issues thrown up by these conflicts do not seem to enter into the ‘national’ water discourse – a lack of understanding of and sensitivity to these issues in the rest of India. It is in this context the Forum has recently embarked on a new initiative to document selected water related conflicts in the North East. The workshop provided an opportunity discuss the first drafts of these case studies. The workshop also helped in developing an understanding of the broader issues underpinning the water conflicts in the region.

A detailed report on the workshop would soon be uploaded on the site.