

Unofficial Translation from Burmese version

To

Your Excellency General Than Shwe

Chairperson of the State Peace and Development Council

Naypyidaw,

Union of Myanmar

Myitkyina, Kachin state

Date: 21 May 2007

Subject: Appealing to stop the hydroelectric power dam project at Myitsone, the confluence of N'Mai Hka and Mayli Hka Rivers, Myitkyina, Kachin State

1. We, the signatories below are making an urgent request with respect to Chairman on the above said matter on behalf of the local villagers and the people of Kachin State.
2. According to the state press, New Light of Myanmar newspaper, on the 5th of May 2007, the government is planning to implement the seven hydroelectric power projects in the east and the north east of Kachin state, based on the Irrawaddy River. The two of those projects, Myitsone, the confluence of Nmai Hka and Mali Hka Rivers, and Jehpwe, have been already started.
3. The Myitsone hydroelectric power dam project site is located in Tanghpri village, 26 miles away from Myitkyina of Myitkyina Township. To measure from Tanghpri village to Irrawaddy River, which becomes the confluence of N'Mai Hka and Mali Hka Rivers, it would be half mile from the village.
4. Tanghpri village is situated in very narrow area of the west of Myitsone, the confluence of N'Mai Hka and Mali Hka Rivers between Nhkai Bum mountain range. To reach the Triangle areas or N'Mai Hka and Mali Hka Rivers, one needs to cross Tanghpri village to pass Irrawaddy River. From Myitsone village other nine villages are located in the same levels which reach to Njang Yang Township. The land levels of Njang Yang Township and Tanghpri village are the same.
5. There are 187 the permanent residential households and the total 1046 population living in Tanghpri village. Furthermore, many people used to come during the high season to sell goods. Tanghpri village has a full range of infrastructure such as a Primary School, one affiliated (local & government) High School, one Healthcare Centre, one Police Station, one Transportation Department, one Weather Forecasting Department, and a State Guest House, three Christian Churches, one Catholic Sister Convent, one Buddhist Monastery and one Buddhist Temple. The only highway to Sumpra Bum Township and Putao Township pass through Tanghpri village. Generally, the villagers who reside at the triangle areas, banks of N'Mai Hka and Mali Hka Rivers, depend their living on Tanghpri village, which infrastructure is equivalent to a small town, for education, health services and businesses. The only High school, which located in Tanghpri, is available for further education of children from its village and surrounding villages. For living, some villagers working for farming and gardening and the rest depend on income from tourism.
6. All the streams and small rivers from the high land of the far north of Kachin State flow to N'Mai Hka and Mali Hka Rivers. Since this area is situated over the high land, there are heavy rains over the year especially in the rainy season. Every year due to heavy rains, the upper lands of Myitsone are flooded and landslides in several areas. Since current of the streams and rivers flow strongly, the forestry products such as woods and bamboos flow along Irrawaddy River. Annually, these woods and bamboos are enough source of firewood for local villagers those living close to the river and

people living in the cities without needing to find firewood in local forest. There were some evidences that during the raining season, due to heavy rains, small streams and rivers caused flooding and caused landslides and destroyed government's projects. For example, the "Wa Shawng" dam from Wai Maw Township has been damaged as a result of flooding the mountain streams. Similarly, the flood in 30th of May 2006 destroyed Chyinghkrang hydroelectric power, constructed with the labour of the local people during 1993 in 22 miles far from Myitkyina. Upriver of Chyinghkrang hydropower was flooded, consequently landslides followed and the flood washed away Transformers and Dynamos of hydropower.

7. Having experienced from the past, if the Myitsone dam project, storing the vast Irrawaddy River, will continue, the local people who reside those areas could face several foreseeable problems such as not only losing many people's life and their properties but also local forestry resources and nature resources. In addition to that there will disappear the accessible roads for the people who live in the Triangle Areas, bank of N'mai Hka and Mali Hka rivers. Moreover, it will be necessary to construct new highway to access the far north remote areas.
8. Furthermore, the invaluable and non-renewable natural heritage will be lost forever. The confluence of the two rivers, N'mai Hka and Mali Hka formed the Irrawaddy River, then the Irrawaddy River flows north to south of Burma and is serving the people of Burma. We, therefore, strongly believe that to safeguard our natural heritage, Myitsone, is the duty of all citizens of Burma. Regardless of situation in Burma, all citizens of Burma have a duty to protect Cultural and Natural heritages of our country for next new generation.
9. Based on popular Burmese proverb, "*All things which made by human's hands have limitation of life as well as human*". Similarly, the hydroelectric power dam, which will be constructed at Tanghphe village, does the same; of course it has a restrictive life. The local residences living from Myitsone Dam site to Myitkyina and Waimaw, a huge population of said areas and our new generation will be living in fear of life depending on lifespan of Myitsone Dam.
10. For local development, there are many streams and rivers to construct for the hydroelectric power for a local use, and we also understand that the hydroelectric power is definitely required for the development of Kachin State; however, in our opinion it will not be necessary to construct such as a tremendous huge hydroelectric power dam. It is very difficult for us to accept that the purpose of this project is for local and national development.
11. Myitsone hydroelectric power dam project will be build in collaboration with Myanmar Government and the Power Investment Corporation of the People's Republic of China. For safety and protection of its business investment, if the People's Republic of China arranges the security in the future, we believe that on the other hand, the government should consider the security treat impose to our nation.
12. Asia World Company, a local company which gained a contract for business consultation services to the foreign companies, has also involved in this project. There had been undertaken data collections and survey for dam sites over a period of time. If the Foreign Company, Power Investment Corporation of Republic of China, could have consulted the realistic negative impacts as we mentioned above, we believe that the foreign company would consider for the foreseeable threats and problems of the local people.
13. As a responsible citizen and duty of our nation, we will continue to show our demand to relevant government department for protection of our invaluable national symbols and nature heritages from destruction and treats of disappearing.

14. Therefore, construction of Myitsone hydroelectric power dam project will affect negative impacts to the local people, such as lost of life, destruction of the properties, natural resources, national heritage, and losing our non-renewable natural heritage, we are demanding and strongly urging you to abandon the Myitsone dam project.

Yours faithfully,

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3. Signature :
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