

ACTIONS ORGANIZED FOR MARCH 14, 2000

"Water for Life, not for Death!" is the cry as thousands of activists around the world speak out on March 14 for free-flowing rivers and the communities that depend on them. In 2000, nearly 70 actions took place in 26 countries to demand dam decommissioning, fight for reparations, stop dams, and promote sound river management.



***** For a complete list of events organized worldwide, click on one of the links on the left *****

From Australia to Uganda, groups worked to spread the word about the impacts of dams and the need for healthy rivers. This year marked the third anniversary of the event, which originated at the First International Meeting of People Affected by Dams held in Curitiba, Brazil in 1997.

A major focal point of this year's actions was dam-affected people's demand for reparations, which are measures taken to repair damages caused by existing dams. In Brazil, over 3,000 people occupied dam sites and launched protests across the country to demand reparations for people affected by the Tucuru•, It•, Castanh•o and Lageado Dams. In the Philippines, activists and affected people organized widespread protests to call attention to the intensifying struggle against San Roque Dam on the Agno River.

Groups also used the Day of Action to call for new strategies for river management and meeting energy, water and flood management needs. In Thailand and Australia, groups campaigned for river restoration and dam decommissioning. Members of the Inland Rivers Network in Australia organized a media campaign to advocate the decommissioning the 15-meter-high Wellington Dam, located 400 miles northwest of Sydney. The Australian group Pedder 2000 organized a ten-day Living Rivers Festival in Tasmania filled with workshops, videos and a blessing of Lake Pedder, whose beautiful pink quartz beaches were inundated by the Huon-Serpentine Impoundment. People celebrated the Franklin River through poetry and music. In Thailand, hundreds assembled on the banks of the Mun, Kok, Yom, Rubror, and Mekong Rivers to pray for their restoration and revival. Hundreds of Thai villagers and activists called for the decommissioning of the World Bank-funded Pak Mun Dam, which has harmed fisheries, and the Rasi Salai Dam, which has been plagued with salinization problems.

**"People have the freedom not to be persecuted
by dams.
People against dams, stand up!
Oppose dams for our dignity and survival.
Oppose dams for people's freedom.
Oppose dams for earth's justice.
Let the rivers run!" — Meinung Anti-dam
Declaration, March 14, 2000**

In India, hundreds of peasants, laborers and fish workers living on the banks of the Narmada River gathered to express their resolve to fight against the destruction of large dams and emphasize the need to develop sustainable and equitable ways of harnessing water and energy. The colorful rally and public meeting, organized by the Narmada Bachao Andolan and the National Alliance of People's Movements, was filled with slogans, songs and resolve.

In Japan, the Association of Fishermen to Preserve the Kuma and Kawabe Rivers planted trees in the watershed in an effort to promote alternative flood management strategies to the Kawabe River Dam. Children and elders planted 1,000 broad-leaved trees on the steep mountainsides lining the Kuma River. This dam would inundate four dams, resulting in a net loss of power.

Around the world, innovative protests were organized to demand healthy, free-flowing rivers.

North American Innu people took a snowshoe trip along a traditional travel route to show their determination to hold on to their homeland and to protect it from future threats. In Nicaragua, students, scientists and NGOs organized a public forum on the state of the nation's rivers and lakes and to discuss plans to build an industrial waterway on the San Juan River. And activists from different regions and ethnic communities in Taiwan gathered to protest the Meinung Dam. They released a large balloon in the air to visualize the height of the proposed dam, read a Meinung anti-dam manifesto, held a storytelling contest to "subvert the dam myth," and dropped an "International Day of Action Against Dams" banner over the Meinung River.

- **March 11 Press Release: Activists Rally For Removal Of Glen Canyon Dam:**
Thousands Protest Worldwide Against Dams On March 14.

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