Statement of Save the Salween Network

July 7, 2015 Yangon

The Salween/Thanlwin River is the second longest river in Southeast Asia, invaluable for the survival of the ethnic people who live along it. It not only has great historical significance but is also a vital lifeline nourishing a wide range of biodiversity.

We strongly believe that the efforts of the Myanmar government and some foreign companies to carry out the Salween/Thanlwin dam projects will further fuel armed conflict, as they are causing increased militarization, thereby threatening the prospects for sustainable peace desired by the ethnic peoples.

Not only will the Salween/Thanlwin dam projects destroy the livelihoods of the ethnic people living along the river, they could also lead to the extinction of entire ethnic peoples, such as the Yintalei, who are already very few in number.

The majority of the electricity obtained from the Salween/Thanlwin hydropower projects will be exported, showing that the power produced is not intended to meet national or local needs. The plans to divert the Salween/Thanlwin river water to other regions will also have serious environmental consequences.

According to studies made by meteorological and seismic experts, the Salween/Thanlwin river is located along a large earthquake fault line. The dams could therefore be destroyed by earthquakes at any time, which would lead to devastation downstream.

As the Salween/Thanlwin River is an international river, passing through China, Myanmar, and Thailand, unless there is a transboundary water resource management agreement, the implementation of the dam projects could also fuel hostility between these three countries.

We therefore totally oppose the dam construction projects along the Salween/Thanlwin River and request assistance from all in keeping the Salween/Thanlwin River flowing freely forever.

Save the Salween Network

To contact for further questions:

1. Dr. AungNaingOo 0949803154 (Myanmar, Mon, English)
2. Saw ThaPhoe 09791607890 (Myanmar, Karen, English)
3. OattrAung 09252171819 (Myanmar, Karenni)
4. Nang Kham Naung 09428367849 (Myanmar, Shan)
5. U KyarPhet 0861984832 (Myanmar, Lahu)
6. SaiKhurHseng 0808476538 (Thai)
Supporting Organizations:

1. Save the Salween Network
2. Burma Rivers Network
3. Burma Environment Working Group
4. Ethnic Community Development Forum
5. Karen Environment and Social Action Network
6. Shan Sapawa Environmental Organization
7. Mon Youth Progressive Organization
8. Lahu National Development Organization
9. Thousand Island Foundation
10. Karen Rivers Watch
11. Salween Watch
12. Burma Campaign UK
13. MATA working group
14. Green Network စိမး့ေရာငးစို
15. Mee-Net (Myanmar)
16. MATA Working Group
17. Our Future Initiative
19. Youth Doctor Network of Myeik District
20. Karen Women Empowerment Group
21. မြေကြေးအတွက် ကြိုးစားမှုပုံစံပြောင်းလဲများနှင့် ဆက်စပ်သောလေ့အကျင့်များ(အသင်)
(22) Green Network Sustainable Environment Group, Magway
(23) Magway EITI Watch Group
(24) Hands of Unity Group, Magway
(25) M E Community Education Center, Magway
(26) Organic Agro & Farmer Affair Development Group, PwintByu
(27) Natural Sever Community, PwintByu
(29) Farmer Right & Development Organization, Magway
(30) Myaing Youth Development Organization, Myaing
(31) Ayar West Development Organization, Minbu
(32) Social Care Volunteer Group, Magway
(33) Magway Youth Network
(34) Shan Human Rights Foundation
(35) Shan Youth Power
(36) Shan Farmers’ Network
(37) Shan University Students (Thailand)
(38) Shan Women’s Action Network
(39) Shan State Development Foundation
(40) Shan State Organization
(41) Shan Youth Organization
(42) Shan Youth Network Group
(43) Mong Ton-Na Kawng Moo-Pong Pa Kham River Protection Group
(44) Mong Pan River Protection Group
(45) ToomToan Tai
(46) Worker Solidarity Association
(47) Shan Refugee Committee
(48) Thuriya Sandra
(49) Karen Environment Network
(50) Peace and Justice
(51) Kachin Peace Network
(52) Kachin Women Peace Network
(53) Saw Moe Myint (Environmentalist)
(54) Myanmar Green Network
(55) SHANAH
(56) REAN
(57) UKSY (Union of Karenni State Youth)
(58) AASYC (All Arakan Student’s and Youth’s Congress)
(59) ARN (Arakan River Network)
(60) Sa Shine (Youth Development Activits)
(61) April KyuKyu (Environmentalist)
(62) POINT (Promoting of Indigenous and Nature Together)
(63) ZinYawgyi@gmail.com
(64) The Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM)
(65) ကျမး့ၿခဵကုနး့-ကျနးယကး
(66)စိမး့ေ ႐ ာငးစို ( တဵတာ့ဦ့)
(67) ကဗ္ာခ္စူ့မ္ာ့အသငး့
(68) Born After 88
(69) Women and Peace Action Network (Shan State)
(70) မ်မိဳ ႕ တာငးသူလယးသမာ့ႏြငးံေ်မယာလုပးသာ့မ္ာ့သမဂၢ
(71) Human Rights Foundation of Mon Land
(72) Women Initiative Network for Peace
(73) ရေပါငး့ၿလူငယးအဖျဲ႔႔ နတးတလငး့
(74) ဥေပကၡာ လူမြဳေ ႕ အဖျဲ႔ ႕ ေပါငး့တညး
(75) ထာ့ဝယးခ ႐ ိုငးေတာငးသူလယးသမာ့သမဂၢ သဘာဝပတးဝနး့က္ငး ထိမး့သိမး့ေ ႐ ကာကျယးေစာငးံေ ႐ ြာကးေ ႐ ပငးေလာငး့
(76) ေပါငး့ေလာငး့ လူငယးကျနး ကး
(77) ေတာငးသူလယးသမာ့ႏြငးံေ်မယာလုပးသာ့မ္ာ့သမဂၢ ပငးေလာငး့
(78) ေတာငးသူလယးသမာ့ႏြငးံေ်မယာလုပးသာ့မ္ာ့သမဂၢ(်မနးမာႏိုငးငဵ)
(79) ဗောခံ ြာမိဳ ႕ တာငးသူကျနး ကး
(80) Rights and Peace ကေလ့်မိဳ ႕
(81) COMREG Community Response Group
(88) KSNG (Karen Student Network Group)
(89) KHRG (Karen Human Rights Group)
(90) KWO (Karen Women Organization)
(91) KYO
(92) KORD (Karen Office of Relief and Development)
(93) KPSN (Karen Peace Network)
(94) Youth Circle
(95) TSYU (Ta Aung Student and Youth Union)
(96) Triangle Women Group
(97) Myit Tar A Yape Non-profit Clinic
(98) Colors Rainbow
(99) Equality Myanmar
(100) United ACT
(101) Mae Tao Clinic
(102) KDNG (Kachin Development Networking Group)
Green Life
Freeland Organization
Karen Student's Center