

# INTERNATIONAL RIVERS NETWORK

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## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
23 MAY 1990

CONTACT: OWEN LAMMERS, JULIETTE MAJOT

### **JAPAN TO ANNOUNCE END TO FUNDS FOR INDIA'S NARMADA DAM: PRESSURE MOUNTS ON WORLD BANK TO PULL OUT**

Japan's Ministry of Finance has decided to commit no further funds to the controversial Sardar Sarovar Dam now under construction in India's Narmada Valley. The decision, made after weeks of increased public pressure in Japan to pull out of the project, leaves the World Bank as the only major public funder. Japan had been expected to increase its existing 2.85 billion yen loan package as the costs of the project are now expected to exceed \$7.7 billion.

"Yesterday, Japan took the first steps toward responsible foreign aid. It realized it could no longer channel money into a project which will be disastrous for the environment, for human rights, and for sustainable agriculture. Now it is up to the World Bank to follow suit", said Owen Lammers of International Rivers Network.

The decision to discontinue funding after construction has already begun is highly unusual, and comes following Japan's review of the World Bank's limited assessment of the impacts of the giant Narmada Dam scheme. In March, Japan's Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund conducted its own study at the site, and concluded that the Indian government's plans for resettlement of more than 70,000 people are inadequate.

Public opposition to the Narmada Dam projects has risen significantly since construction began on the Sardar Sarovar Dam in the state of Gujarat. In September, 1989, 60,000 people gathered at Harsud, in Madhya Pradesh to demonstrate, and in March, 1990, 10,000 people blocked the main highway for 35 hours at the Khalghat Bridge in protest of continued construction. Last week opponents to the project met with Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh for 2 1/2 hours. In response to Mr. Singh's promise that the government would meet genuine demands, citizens of the Narmada Valley have pledged to remain on their land.

Printed on Recycled Paper

The Narmada Dam scheme calls for the construction of more than 3000 dams in India's Narmada River basin, and the uprooting of more than 1.5 million people. The largest of the dams, the Sardar Sarovar Dam, has received \$450 million from the World Bank, and 2.85 billion yen from Japan's official overseas development assistance. Besides forcing the relocation of 245 villages, it will submerge large tracts of remnant forests and prime agricultural land in the Narmada Basin.

Though the World Bank has, on three separate occasions threatened to halt funding the project, its conditions have not yet been met. On July 2, the Bank's Executive Directors will again meet to discuss the future funding of the project. The World Bank has come under increasing pressure from the US Treasury to reconsider the validity of the project.

In April, Japanese environmentalists, led by Friends of the Earth, Japan (Chikyu no Tomo) launched a campaign to appeal directly to the Japanese Diet, and to influential ministries and agencies responsible for Japan's Official Overseas Development Assistance (ODA). Fellow environment and development activists around the world supported the move, holding demonstrations and appealing directly to Japanese corporations. International Rivers Network called for a halt of Japan's funding of the Sardar Sarovar Dam at a demonstration held in San Francisco on April 18.

Japan is expected to officially announce its decision to commit no further funds to the Sardar Sarovar dam on June 18, at the Paris conference of World Bank representatives and representatives from 15 countries which provide funds to India. It is unclear how Japan's private commercial banks and corporations, who have to date invested 29 billion yen in the Sardar Sarovar Dam will respond to the government decision.

**International Rivers Network (IRN)** is a San Francisco-based organization dedicated to protecting fresh water resources and the communities who depend on them. IRN is the publisher of the bimonthly newsletter, *World Rivers Review*.

Attached:

Background

The Challenge for Japan, *World Rivers Review*, May, June, 1990

Japan's Foreign Aid: How it Works, *World Rivers Review*, May, June, 1990

地球の友  
田中様

外務省有償資金協力課  
朝比奈

3580-3311 (内2580)

面談の件

次のとおり お願いいたします。

日時： 28日(火) 16:30 - 17:30

場所： 外務省 8階 834会議室

応待者(予定)

： 石橋

粗

朝比奈

(3)

Headquarters: Washington, D.C. 20433 U.S.A.  
Tel No. (202) 477-1234 • Fax Tel No. (202) 477-6391 • Telex No. RCA 248423

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET AND MESSAGE

DATE: May 24, 1991 NO. OF PAGES: 1 MESSAGE NO.:  
(Including this sheet)

TO: Mr. Yukio Tanaka  
Title: Coordinator Aid Impact  
Organization: Friends of the Earth Japan FAX TEL . NO.: 81-3-3476-5040  
City/Country: Tokyo, Japan

FROM: William Partridge DIVISION'S FAX TEL NO.: (202) 4777335  
Title: Anthropologist Dept/Division: ASTEN  
Environment Division, Asia Dept./Div. No.: 268/60  
Room No.: F-5031 Telephone: (202) 458-2753

SUBJECT/  
REFERENCE: Symposium

MESSAGE:

Dear Mr. Yukio:

Thanks again for your invitation, but the decision was taken that the Bank will not send a representative. In the future we could avoid this unfortunate outcome by make plans several weeks if not months before the actual event. All best wishes for a successful symposium.

Sincerely,

William Partridge

Transmission authorized by: *WP* Partridge



**KYODO NEWS SERVICE  
JAKARTA BUREAU**

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Sheet .....of.....

Date : May 23, 1991

TO : FRIEND OF THE EARTH  
TOKYO, JAPAN

ATTN : Mr. Yukio TANAKA

FAX NO : \_\_\_\_\_

FROM : KYODO NEWS SERVICE  
JAKARTA BUREAU  
INDONESIA

FAX NO : (021) 3802810

NAME : Mr. Kenichi ASANO

**POL. ASA:Indonesia-Human Rights:  
Indonesian Ambassador Willing To Discuss Human Rights Issues**  
+

JAKARTA, May 23 Kyodo - New Indonesian Ambassador to Japan, Puji Kuntarso, is ready to discuss human rights and environment issues with Japanese Non Government Organizations (NGO).

"I believe that consultation is a good way to develop better relationship between the Japanese and the Indonesian people," he said to Japanese correspondents in Jakarta Friday.

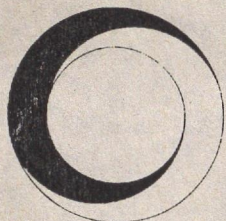
Kuntarso, 59, is the first civilian assigned to Tokyo in the Suharto regime started from 1968. He was formerly the Director General for Foreign Economic Relation in the Foreign Affair Ministry.

"Through consultation I can accumulate information in any issues and I will try to explain my view on those issues and if there are not enough information I will ask my home government to send the information so that we can improve better understanding," he said upon the question of how to explain about human rights issues in Indonesian. Former Indonesian Ambassadors to Japan have not been willing to communicate with Japanese NGO's working on human rights.

"I think we have our own view on human rights, and we are in the process of human rights improvement," he commented on Indonesian human rights implementation.

"Human rights is only one aspect in determining assistance, but you should take many other aspects into account in determining foreign assistance to third countries," he commented further on link between human right and foreign assistance.

Japan decided last month to implement four guidelines for its official development assistance to the recipient country, including that country human rights standard.



# 地球の友

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## Chikyu no Tomo / Friends of the Earth Japan

Tokyo, May 26, 1991

### OPEN LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF THAILAND

We are writing to you as representatives of citizens' groups in Japan, Germany, the United States and India congregating on this day, May 26, 1991, for the second public International Symposium on the Narmada Valley Development Project in India. Together with distinguished Japanese and Indian scholars we are raising concerns in a public form about the World Bank-financed Narmada dams which are strongly opposed by thousands of communities in the Narmada River Valley who face forcible displacement to make way for the dams.

We were therefore shocked to receive news reports from Thailand regarding construction of the Pak Mun River hydropower dam - another project with World Bank involvement - where the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) hired a foreign contractor to bulldoze the site and destroy the local people's sacred spirit shrine by the banks of the Mun River.

We feel this is a deplorable incident adding insult to injury for the people of the Mun River who have consistently opposed the project because they do not want their homes, their land and their mother river destroyed.

As well, we understand that neither EGAT nor the World Bank have adequately responded to the people's concerns about the impact of the dam on the fisheries of the Mun River, about the exact number of people who will be affected by the project and about the details of the resettlement plans. With the governments' continued imposition of martial law in the Pak Mun districts, we are very worried that the peaceful protests of the villagers against the dam will become confrontational. We sincerely hope this can be avoided.

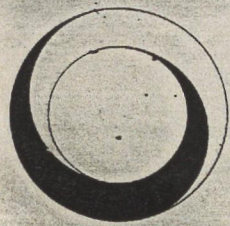
Moreover, as representatives of citizens' groups concerned with the fate of rivers and the people who depend on them, we wish to express our solidarity and support for the people of the Mun River in their efforts to protect their environment. We do not expect to agree with the position of the World Bank with regard to the Pak Mun project and vice versa, nevertheless, we do feel that citizens of every country deserve, at the very least, to have their questions openly answered when the environment upon which their future depends is in jeopardy.

We therefore respectfully urge you, as Prime Minister of a peace-loving nation, to halt all further construction until such time as a committee including village representatives can conduct a thorough and open review of the people's legitimate social and environmental concerns about the Pak Mun River dam.

Yours respectfully,

Yukio Tanaka, Friends of the Earth Japan, JAPAN  
Lori Udall, Environment Defence Fund, USA  
Bruni Weissen, Action for World Solidarity, GERMANY  
Shripad Dharmadhikary and Smitu Kothari, Save Narmada Movement, INDIA

Contact person: Yukio Tanaka, FOE-Japan  
801 Shibuya Mansions, 7-1 Uguisudani-cho  
Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150  
Japan



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Chikyu no Tomo / Friends of the Earth Japan

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*My Dear Colleagues,*

*We've gained a good supportive announcement at least for this time of 2nd Narmada Sympo. - Yukio*

*May 27, 1991.*

There is a "global conspiracy" involving the World Bank, the Japanese and Indian governments and Japanese corporations that are in-

However, Yukio Tanaka, a member of Friends of the Earth Japan, said Tokyo is still pouring money into the project through the World Bank.

Japan suspended additional official development aid for the Narmada Sarovar dam in May last year.

The government is providing indirect funding to a controversial dam construction project in India, despite its decision to suspend direct payments to the scheme, citizens' groups said at a Tokyo symposium Sunday.

*★ The above comes maybe through Kyodo (Service) News on J.T. itself.  
★ Reuters (Tokyo) also ~~dis~~ released monitor to the world yesterday evening.*

*Japan Times 27/5/91*

*JAPAN TIMES 27/5/91*

There were no officials from the World Bank or the Finance Ministry at the symposium.

D.S. Rajan, vice secretary of the Indian Embassy in Japan, defended the project at the symposium, saying it is legitimate because it was decided on by India, which is a democratic country, and it has been backed by the World Bank.

ple will be affected by the project, he estimates that about 400,000 residents will be affected by the relocation plan associated with the dam.

"It is a systematic violation of (local people's) human rights," he said.

Another speaker from India, Shripad Dharmadhikary, said the project will destroy the traditional modes of existence of eight tribes whose lives are deeply rooted in the area's forests.

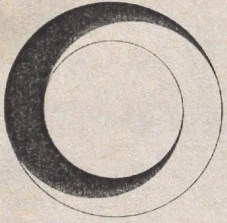
Although the Indian government says some 100,000 peo-

involved in the dam project, according to Sumitu Kothari, a member of the India-based Association to Save the Narmada.

## Tokyo slammed for Indian dam funding

*Japan Times 27/5/91*

*Urgent !!*



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## Chikyu no Tomo / Friends of the Earth Japan

fax to 3217-5178

June 5, 1991

Mr. Hideyasu Nasu,  
Director,  
Public Relations,  
Sumitomo Corporation,  
Tokyo.

Subject : Regarding the Supply of Reversible Turbines to the Government of Gujarat, India for the Sardar Sarovar Project on River Narmada

Dear Mr. Nasu,

I am an engineer working with the people affected by the Sardar Sarovar Project in India in the Narmada Bachao Andolan (Save the Narmada Movement). I was here in Japan for two weeks for a symposium on the Narmada Valley Project organised by the Friends of the Earth (Chikyu no Tomo), Japan.

I was keen to meet the persons responsible for this project in Sumitomo Corporation but was given to understand that they were engaged in other matters and were not available till Friday this week. I am quite disappointed to go back without meeting these officers. However, I have certain questions to which you may be able to send me the answers.

I would like to have the following information from your esteemed organisation.

1. The supply schedule for the turbines, the mode of supply, and the current status of the construction, shipping and assembly.
2. The performance characteristics for these turbines, specifically,
  - a) the Head vs Flow curve (H vs Q)
  - b) the Efficiency vs Flow curve
3. The minimum operating Head for
  - a) Prevention of cavitation
  - b) Any other design or operational condition

4. The visit of Mr. N Ramaswamy for negotiation in May last year and this week this year.

I would be highly obliged if you could provide me with the above information. You may kindly send the information to me care of Mr. Yukio Tanaka, at the Chikyu no Tomo office address.

Thanking you,

Yours Sincerely

*Shripad Dharmadhikary*

(SHRIPAD DHARMADHIKARY)

c.c.

Mr. Yukio Tanaka, Friends of the Earth, Japan  
Ms. Lori Udall, Environment Defence Fund, USA  
Ms. Bruni Weissen, ASW, Germany  
Ms. Grainne Ryder, Probe International, Canada

Tel 3461-6527, Fax 3476-5040.

乙字号于12, 北海道の視察の。以下。

地球の友

on Nibudani, Hokkaido

田中幸夫様

Well done!

# 「二風谷」影響調査を

## インド住民、道に申し入れ

日本の政府開発援助（ODA）などでインドに建設中のダムを、「流域の少数民族の生活、文化を奪うもの」として反対している現地の運動家らがこのほど道庁を訪れ、日高支庁平取町の二風谷で建設中のダムに

6/4 朝日夕刊（道内版）

ついで、建設が周辺のアイヌ民族の文化に与える影響などを調査するよう、道に申し入れた。

インドのナルマタ川に建設中のサルダール・サロバル・ダムに反対している住民団体「ナルマタを救う会」のシリパッド・タルマデイ

カリさんと、環境保護団体

「地球の友」事務局長田中幸夫さんら。「平取町のダム開発は、ナルマタ川流域の開発と同様、少数民族の人権問題だ」として、一日から同町を視察に訪れていた。

シリパッドさんらは「アイヌ民族との連携を深めたい」と話している。

6/4 朝日新報



マダ川に建設中のサルダール・サロバルダムに反対する現地の運動家シリパッド

ら、として建設の中止を訴えた。

同氏は日本の環境保護団体「地球の友」（本部・東京、田中幸夫代表）の招きで先月下旬来日。東京、大阪、京都などでシンポジウムや講演会に出席した後、

退かざるを得ず、アイヌ民族から反対の声が上がっている二風谷ダムの建設と共通の問題があるという。シリパッド氏はこの日、道にダム建設の中止を

求めた後の会見で、「二風谷の問題については、ダムがアイヌ民族の生活にどのような影響を及ぼすかを調べるべきだ」と述べた。

先日はお疲れ様でした。

残念ながらこの紙しか記事も

掲載しませんでした。

デスク段階でボツになったりしたようです。

岩橋 通信 事務

地球の友

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☞ 3476-5040 ☞

TO: Lori Udall, EDF

FAX #: 0061-1-202-234-6049

FROM: Yukio Tanaka

DATE: June 6, 1991. 7:50 AM

No. of pages including cover sheet 5 ページ数      (カバーページをふくむ)

Lori, Did you confirm the news of public announcement on the Independent Mission of the World Bank?

• Kindly requested to send me the newest legislation of MIB's regulation at the US Congress for the FY 1991, please.

• Some to be followed.

• Your report to trip to Japan is also requested for ~~the~~ our planned English news letter/periodical: "Narmada and the World Bank, Today" (tentative title).

• I'll be in Amsterdam from 9-12 (of FOC Netherlands) 13-17 (Vienna (Dam Conference)), 18-19 London (FOT UK) 20-21 Washington DC (or USA) ... planned tentatively back to Tokyo on 21.

• Please contact Barbara Pyle of CMN in Atlanta and show her the Narmada Cong March Video as a sample.

Yukio.

URGENT

## M E M O R A N D U M

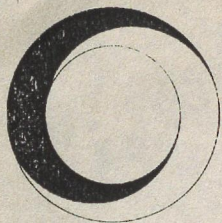
To: Yukio Tanaka, Shripad Dharmadhikary, Grainne Ryder, Smitu Kothari  
(in Delhi)

From: Lori Udall, EDF *LU*

Date: June 3, 1991

Subject: Independent Mission

Hi! How was the visit to Hokkaido? I have spent the morning on the phone with various offices in the World Bank trying to get the story on why the announcement of the independent mission was once again delayed. External relations office (Alexander Shakow--the ones who gave me the date of May 28th) said it was delayed because of the "situation in India". They said they expected to announce it within a week and were waiting word from Conable's office. The Dutch EDs office (Eveline Herfkins) said they also thought it was Conable office that was holding it up. Herfkins has been in Africa for two weeks so she has not been working on it. Her office is also are very frustrated about the delay; they agreed that outside pressure would speed it up when I told them that we were writing a letter to Conable to protest the delay. No returned call from Conable's office yet. I also called Qureshi's office but they don't know anything. I think we should proceed with the letter. I will draft something tomorrow and fax it to you. I Miss you all!!!! I also regret that we did not spend more time discussing strategy among ourselves, especially long term and for other projects in India. Lori



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## Chikyu no Tomo / Friends of the Earth Japan

May 29, 1991

Mr. Satoru Miyamura,  
Development Institution Division,  
International Finance Bureau,  
Ministry of Finance,  
Tokyo, Japan.

Dear Mr. Miyamura,

We wish to express our extreme disappointment that you were unable to attend yesterday's scheduled meeting with our international NGO delegation concerned with the World Bank-financed Sardar Sarovar project in India.

At the invitation of the Friends of the Earth, Japan, we have travelled from Canada, Germany, India and the U.S.A to engage in a dialogue with you and other senior government decision-makers about the World Bank's continued involvement and support for the project. The Indian delegates, in particular, wish to convey the dreadful social conditions in the Narmada Valley as a result of the project to date, in the hope that the government of Japan, as a major shareholder in the World Bank, would take a leadership role consistent with its suspension of the Yen Loan last year.

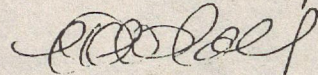
It was, therefore, particularly discouraging to meet with Mr. Kawakami, who, apparently was neither briefed nor familiar with any of the recent documents we have sent to the Ministry. To make matters worse, Mr. Kawakami obfuscated discussion of the facts at hand by continually referring to events of some eight years ago. Such a response, coming from the Ministry responsible for Japan's role in the World Bank further undermines public confidence in the Bank's willingness or

capacity to avert further social and environmental disruption in the Narmada Valley.

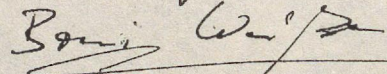
Should you wish to reschedule a meeting for a constructive dialogue on the Sardar Sarovar Project, one or more of our delegates would be pleased to meet with you between June 3<sup>rd</sup> and June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1991.

Thanking you,

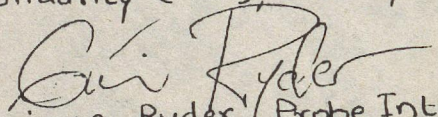
Sincerely yours,



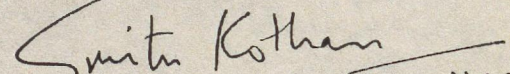
Lori Udall, Environment Defence Fund, Washington D.C., USA



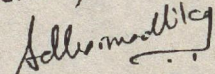
Bruni Weissen, Action for World Solidarity (ASW), Berlin, Germany



Grainne Ryder, Probe International Toronto, Canada



Smitu Kothari, Save Narmada Movement, India



Shripad Dharmadhikary, Save Narmada Movement, India.

C.C. Mr. Kawakami  
Asst. to Director.

Mr. Yukio Tanaka,  
Friends of Earth, Japan.

Programme of the International Symposium

Destruction in the Name of Development

The World Bank and the Narmada Valley Development Project in India

Sunday, 26 May 1991  
Tokyo, Japan

1.00 pm

1. Introduction and overview of the Narmada Valley Development Project in India  
Yukio Tanaka  
Friends of the Earth Japan
- D.S. Rajan  
Second Secretary of the Embassy of India
2. Narmada - The Long March  
December 1990 - January 1991  
Video of the Yatra (Long March) in India

2.10 pm

3. Foreign Assistance and Ecological Stability in India  
Smitu Kothari  
Lokayan and Narmada Bachao Andolan (Save Narmada Movement), India
3. Rehabilitation and resettlement under the Narmada Valley Development Project  
Shripad Dharmadhikary  
Narmada Bachao Andolan, India
- Narmada campaign European Tour  
Bruni Weissen  
Aktionsgemeinschaft Solidarische Welt

BREAK

3.00 pm

4. Patterns of World Bank Lending  
Lori Udall  
Environmental Defense Fund, USA
- The World Bank and Japanese ODA - Directions in China and Indo-China  
Grainne Ryder  
Probe International, Canada
5. A Critique of ODA and World Bank assistance  
Yoshinori Murai  
Sophia University  
Hisashi Nakamura  
Ryukoku University  
Kazuo Sumi  
Yokohama City University
- European opposition to the Narmada project  
Bruni Weissen
- World Bank Independent Mission the project  
Lori Udall
- The future of the Narmada project - Where do we go from here?  
Panel discussion

4.30 pm

6. Open Discussion

6.00 Closing