

**Dam project poses 'threat' to Penan, warns Survival
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THE habitats and traditional survival modes of tribal people are under "serious threat" as they face 211 hydropower projects worldwide.

A report, released by Survival International, an organisation advocating for tribal people's right, highlighted on the devastating impact of obtaining 'green' electricity from mega hydroelectric dams.

The report was to mark the United Nations'(UN) International Day of Indigenous People which was held on August 9 annually to protect and promote the rights of worldwide indigenous communities.

According to the Survival's Serious Damage report, the World Bank is funding US\$11bil for 211 hydropower and dam projects, a 50 per cent increment since 1997.

It was reported that China, as the world's biggest funder for dams, has been contracted to build a dam on the land of Sarawak's Penan tribe.

The Penan tribe will face the risk of getting evicted to make way for the dam project, Survival warned.

Penan_01The construction of Three Gorges Dam in China had caused displacement of some one million people around the Yangtze River.

At least 40 per cent of the India's tribal communities had been displaced while most of the large dams built and proposed in the Philippines were on the land of indigenous population.

The report also warned that creating dam reservoirs can create food insecurities to the tribal communities.

'Our land has become bad. They closed the water off tight and we now know hunger. Open the dam and let the water flow,' said one man from Omo Valley's Kwegu tribe in Ethiopia.

Hundreds of Brazillian tribespeople are expected to voice their concern about the controversial Belo Monte dam, which will cause huge devastation to the rainforest and threatens vital food supplies.

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