Date: 03rd March 2011

To,
Mr. Vijay Krishna
ARGHYAM
Bangalore

Dear Sir
Greetings from Baitarani Initiative (www.baitarani.org), Shristi, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

We are pleased to invite you to the workshop on "Water Conflicts in Odisha: Issues and Way Forward"  being organized at Development Resource & Training Centre (DRTC) of Centre for Youth & Social Development (CYSD), **Bhubaneswar** on **28-29 March 2011** by the Odisha State Centre of 'Forum for Policy Dialogue on Water Conflicts in India' (Forum).

The State Centre of the Forum, hosted at Baitarani Initiative, SHRISTI is working on a project 'Engaging with Water Conflicts in Odisha' since February, 2009 as part of the work of the Forum. Objectives of this project are to document, to attempt resolution of active water conflicts and to work towards prevention of water conflicts in Odisha in association with other local Civil Society Organizations under the guidance of 'Forum for Policy Dialogue on Water Conflicts in India' (http://conflicts.indiawaterportal.org/), steered by 'Society for Promoting Participative Ecosystem Management' (SOPPECOM), Pune.

As part of the first objective of this project to map and document water conflicts in Odisha, we have organized four regional workshops at Sambalpur, Jajpur, Keonjhar and Koraput. Through the inputs from the participants and through a process of peer review, 27 water conflicts have been identified for documentation along with the resource persons to carry out the same drawn from local civil society.  The state center has assisted these resource persons to develop draft papers on these cases on a specific format (developed by Forum to document Indian case studies which were published in form of a Book) and in refining them through a process of peer review.

Another objective of the Odisha State center is to work towards developing methodology for conflict resolution. Towards this, the Center is carrying out an action research on the active water conflict around Hirakud between Industry Vs. Agriculture. A conflict analysis framework have been developed which was refined further through feedbacks from key stakeholders in Hirakud conflict and the Steering Committee Members of the Forum. We are conducting comprehensive review of secondary literature, intensive field investigations, consultation with key leaders and researchers and a process of stakeholder analysis towards this objective. Based on the information analyzed, we have also initiated a process of stakeholder dialogues among key stakeholders of Hirakud conflict.

This Workshop is being organised to present these water conflict case studies and also to share the findings of the action research on the Hirakud conflict before a larger audience comprising of researchers, farmer leaders, civil society institutions, Govt officials, media and others to get a critical feedback. The objective of the workshop is also to draw citizen-appreciation and policy attention towards the increasing number and types of 'water conflicts' occurring at different geographies in the state the core issues that they bring forward and explore collectively ways to engage with them. With confirmed participation of experts from national and state level, we look forward to contribute towards better understanding of water conflicts, with a larger goal of their resolution and prevention.

As a person having desirable expertise, experience and keen interest in this sector, we seek your kind consent to attend this workshop.

Kindly confirm your participation through email/phone (contact below) within 1 week/by return mail to help us organize the logistics. The agenda will be shared with you shortly. The workshop would begin at 10 am on 28th March and would end by 5 pm on 29th March. So kindly plan your travel accordingly.

With best wishes,


Pranab Ranjan Choudhury
Project Coordinator, Odisha State Centre, Forum for Policy Dialogue on Water Conflicts in India

**Contact Person:** Priyabrata (9438286393) Email: priyalife@gmail.com