

**SUMMARY OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SANITARY
LANDFILL SITE FOR AIZAWL CITY UNDER THE NORTH EASTERN REGION
CAPITAL CITIES DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAMME (NERCCDIP)**

VENUE: Y.M.A HALL, ZEMABAWK, AIZAWL, MIZORAM
TIME : 17th June 2011; 1:00 P.M

Introduction:

The Government of India (GoI) has made initiative to encourage economic development in the North Eastern Region (the Region). The GoI requested the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to provide assistance for a North Eastern Region Urban Development Project. In response, ADB provided an advisory technical assistance (ADTA) for the North Eastern Region Urban Sector Profile Study (the Sector Study), which was completed in December 2003. The Sector Study assessed the socio-economic situation in all eight capital cities of the North Eastern States, outlined infrastructure development programs and identified institutional, environmental and social issues. ADB then provided the Project Preparatory Technical Assistance (PPTA) assess the feasibility of and prepare an investment program North Eastern Region Capital Cities Development Investment Program (henceforth called as NERCCIP or the Investment Program) to upgrade urban infrastructure and services and improve urban management in the five capital cities of the five states in the North Eastern region, namely Agartala (Tripura), Aizawl (Mizoram), Shillong (Meghalaya), Kohima (Nagaland), and Gangtok (Sikkim).

Under the NERCCIP, the project of Municipal Solid Waste Management facility for Aizawl city is proposed by SIPMUI. The Executing Agency is the Urban Development Department (UDD) of the Government of Mizoram and the Implementing Agency is the Investment Program Coordination cell. The Project Management and Implementation Unit of the NERCCDIP is the State-level Investment Program Management and Implementation Units (SIPMIU).

The proposed plant is a 125 MTPD municipal solid waste processing plant in which composting (50MTPD) and landfilling operations (60MTPD) are proposed to process the Municipal solid waste of Aizawl City at Tuirial which is approximately 20 km away from Aizawl City.

The public hearing is convened to obtain views, comments & suggestions on the project ‘Development of Sanitary landfill sites for Aizawl City’ from the people of affected areas.

The lists of participants are listed at annexure.

The Hearing was presided over by Shri J. Hmingthanmawia, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Aizawl District, Mizoram. The public participants include all sections of life. At the outset, the chairman after welcoming all the participants briefly explained the reason

for holding the Public Hearing. He also introduced the names of the landowners within the proposed project area with the area of land possessed by them. He also said that such project requires public participation. He then introduced the following officials.

1. Er. Dunglena, Chairman, MPCB & Team Leader, Gherzi Eastern Ltd.
2. Mr. Jay Devgan Singh, Environmentalist, Ministry of Urban Development, GoI,
3. Mr. Manoj Kumar, Env. Specialist, Gherzi Eastern Ltd
4. Er. P.C.Lalmuanpuii, AEE, MPCB.
5. Er.Lalzuimawii, EE, SIPMIU,
6. Er.Helen Rohminglani, EE, SIPMIU.

He then invited Smt. P.C. Lalmuanpuii, Asst. Environmental Engineer, Mizoram Pollution Control Board for presenting brief overview of Public Hearing. Smt. P.C.Lalmuanpuii explained the need and objectives of holding Public Meeting saying that some developmental projects require Environmental Clearance from the Ministry of Environment & Forests for which Public Consultation is mandatory, hence today's Public Hearing Meeting. She also highlighted the Public Hearing Procedures and roles of various stakeholders in the Public Hearing. This was followed by presentation on the proposed project by Er. Lalzuimawii, E.E., SIPMIU. She explained about the origin of the project; As part of the initiatives of the Government of India to encourage economic development in the North Eastern Region (the Region), under the programme, North Eastern Region Capital Cities Development Investment Program (*NERCCIP*), funded by ADB, the project was proposed by SIPMIU. She highlighted about the present status of solid waste management in Aizawl city which is violating MSW Rules. She also explained in details about the project; the site, the proposed plan of actions for implementing the project, environmental impact assessment studies conducted and the environmental management plan and the expected beneficial outcome.

The chairman invited comments, views and suggestions from the participants of the affected areas. The main issues raised and clarifications from the project proponent were as summarized below:

1. Land Acquisition. Whether land is acquired or not and if so, has the VCP of Zemabawk signed the NOC?

Response: It is not officially procured, but agreements with the owners of Land have been signed.

2. Several waste management facilities like oxidation pond for treating septic wastes has been installed. All these facilities have failed bringing tremendous health problems to the residents. As a VCP, he objected all the wastes to come to their locality.

Response: To improve the present undesirable mode of MSW management. Sanitary landfill is proposed, hence this will ensure better environment, improving all the existing improper practices, and will be beneficial for all the people in Aizawl

3. Time for Public Hearing is too early? Proper awareness about the project should be conducted first? Will Wet rice cultivation near Damte stream be affected?

Response: “It is obligatory from MoEF. It is the first step for obtaining EC from the Ministry since the State government is not a competent authority to give EC. Though awareness appears to be first step, we cannot do anything before obtaining EC. Even without this, the procedure for obtaining EC is a long procedure, we may try to understand”.

“Nevertheless, Awareness campaigns for the public is most welcomed and it is requested that public meeting for the same may be initiated by the local authorities at the earliest and all the expenditures be borne by the project proponent. Such campaigns have been held in three wards out of the 19 wards. All the implementations of the project will be through public as part of empowerment”.

4. Awareness about proposed mode of segregation of waste at houses will take time. The plan looks good, but whether guaranteed that it will be properly implemented. Is there hidden monetary agenda behind the project or is it really for the benefits of the people? Is the site really appropriate or is it too close to the residential area? Soon the site will be contaminated again. Is the site big enough for the project?

Response: The site is big enough for the project. The wastes will be segregated later that will minimize the total quantity. The prevailing air pollution will be much reduced and the waste will be utilized for other purposes and the pollutants from the proposed project will be greatly minimized. No comments/complaints were received during display of EIA reports. The project after completion will be handed over to the Municipal Council. The transporting vehicles will be covered to avoid spillage. It will be ensured that the present system is improved greatly.

5. Lots of issues and sufferings involved with the present system. Whether Septic waste disposal is proposed and included in the project. Is it too close to residential area and highway? Will the residences be shifted?

The present system also attracts flies. Whether control of flies is taken into consideration in the proposed action plan of the project or not?

Response: All the sufferings with the present system are acknowledged. To stop and change the present mode of disposal, the proven technology, the details of which have been explained, is now proposed. All the public comments and issues raised by the public

will be recorded and viewed by the Ministry seriously and necessary changes will be made in the draft EIA Report according to the issues raised in the hearing.

Regarding Septic treatment plant, it will be set up separately at Chite and a plot of land has been procured.

6. Whether MSW Rules be strictly implemented in respect of Bio-medical waste and industrial waste collection and disposal system as proposed. Has any other site like Sihphir village been considered for the project. What is the lifespan of the proposed landfill site?

= The proposed site is ideal for the project and the accumulated waste in the existing dumping site will be properly disposed off before shifting to the new one. No suitable project site is found available in Sihphir or other areas.

Biomedical wastes shall not be disposed off in the landfill except the inerts and incineration ashes.

Expected life span is 25 years

6. Concerns of the public regarding the Employments benefits in the affected localities

In response to the concerns raised by several participants about the employment benefits of the local people, the project proponent stated that employment opportunities will be given to the locals.

The Meeting ended with the vote of thanks from the Chairman

(J.HMINGTHANMAWIA),
Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC),
Aizawl District
Govt. of Mizoram