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Awareness on South Lhonak Lake mitigation at Singtam

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SINGTAM, 21 FEB:

A team of officers from Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority conducted an awareness program on Threat of Glacial Lake Outburst at the South Lhonak Lake which could have serious impact on those living below the glacier.

The program was conducted under the guidelines of SDC-UNDP project on "Strengthening State Strategies to Climate Action - Mitigation of South Lhonak Lake."

The program was or-

ganized in collaboration with Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department Government of Sikkim, at the community hall of Singtam Nagar Panchayat today.

The program was attended by Municipal Executive Officer Singtam Nagar Panchayat, Himmat Rai, SDM Rangpo, Mahesh Sharma, members of Civil Defense, officer from NHPC, Panchayat representatives, Health department Singtam, Forest department, NGOs, police personnel and local residents.

During the program, Additional Director (Disaster Management), GC Khanal with the help of Power Point Presentation highlighted the process and progress report of the project at the South Lhonak Lake taken up by the department.

In his address, the Additional Director informed that an avalanche or a flood can occur if the water level at South Lhonak lake rises due to melting of snow or glacier. He talked about the process of 'siphoning' to

control rising water level, a process through which excess water is drained from the lake with the help of pipe lines.

The program was also addressed by the technical officer, Keshav Koirala who talked about the progress in the pilot project taken up in South Lhonak lake.

"We will be providing capacity building training to the community for early response in case of disasters," he said.

During the program an interaction session was also conducted.