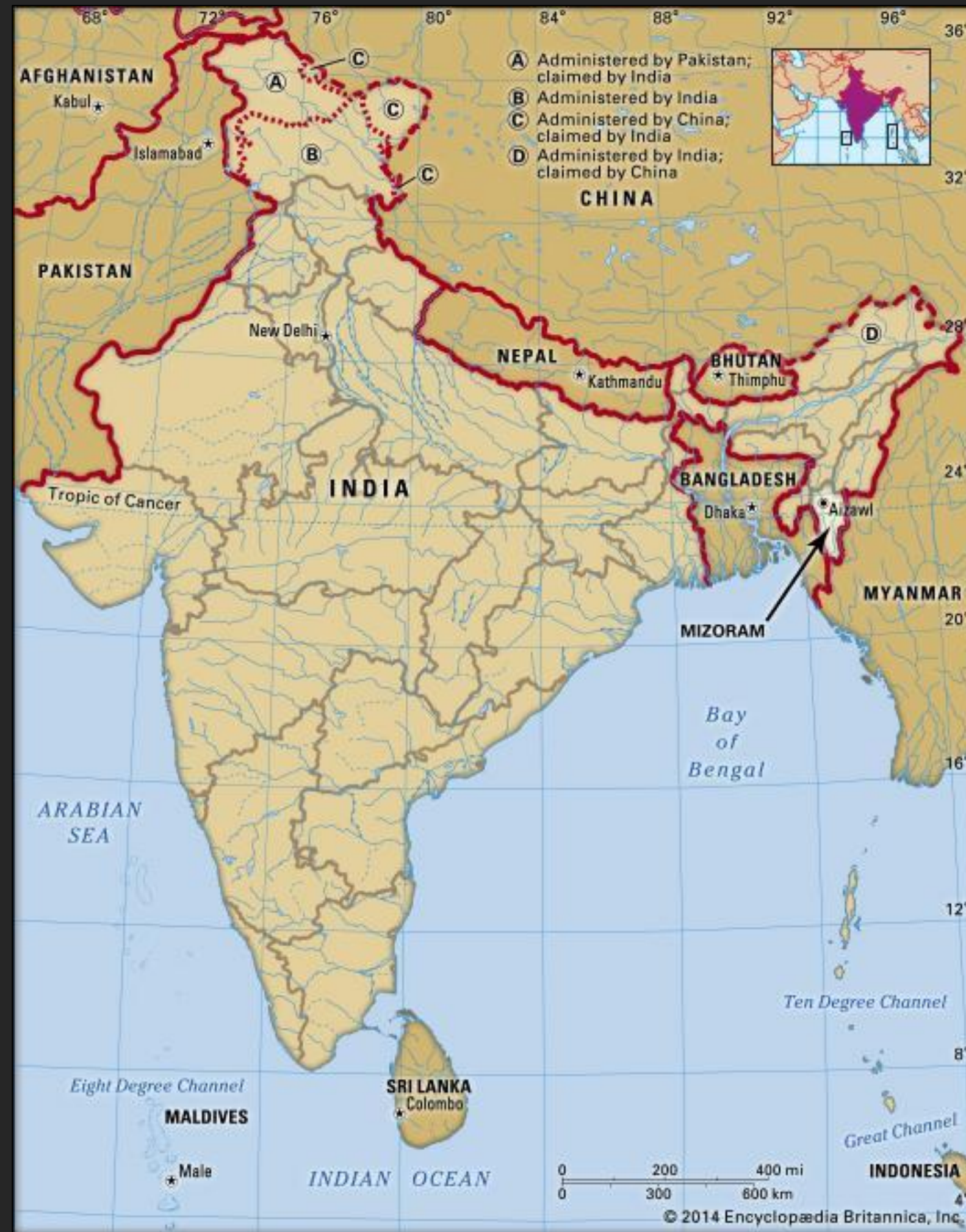
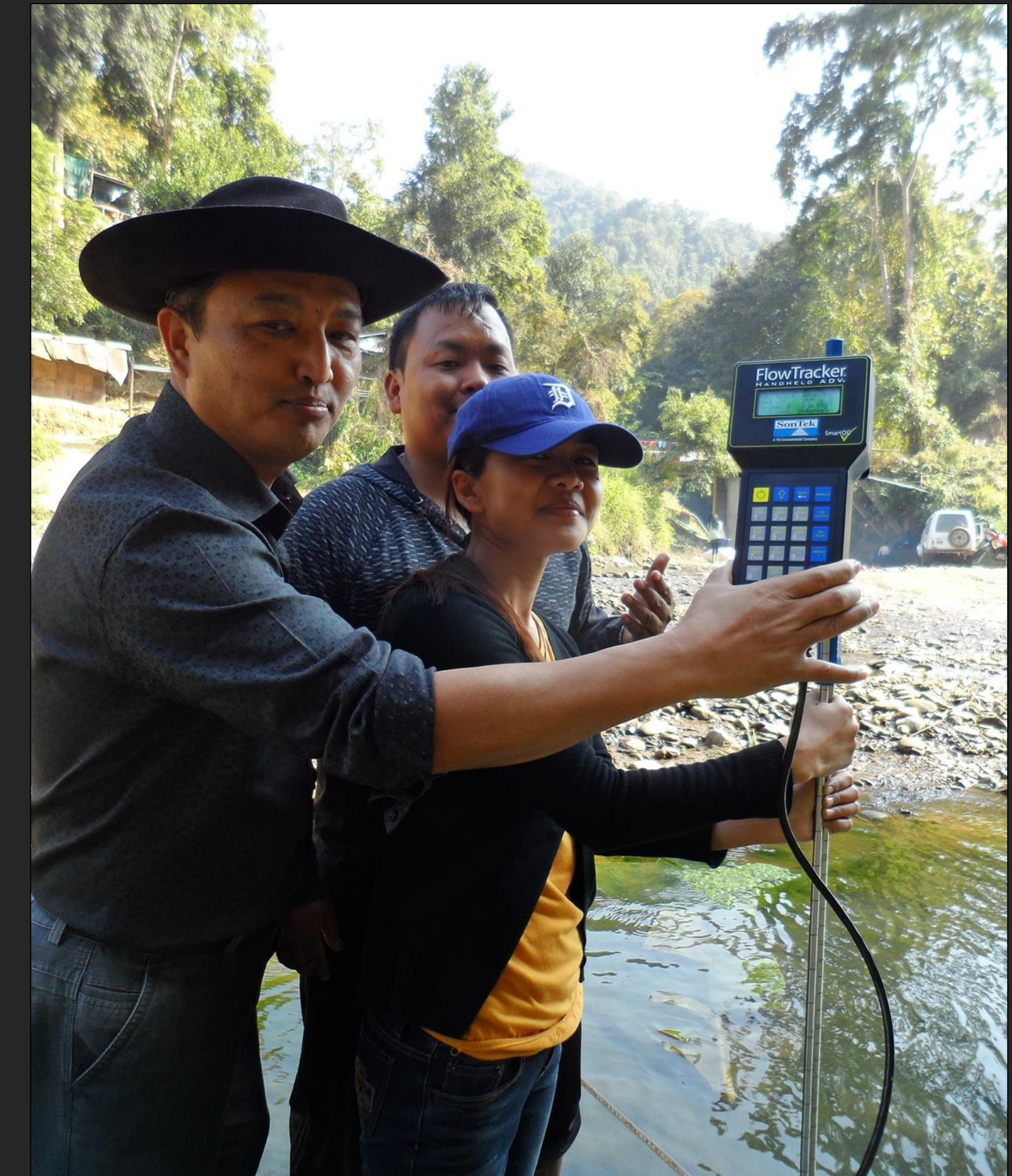


# Aizawl: Water Management Challenges in an Eastern Himalayan City



The eastern Himalayan city of Aizawl is in a position where unique water management challenges must be addressed quickly in order to meet rapidly rising water demands. The city has a population of over one million, with an approximately 23% growth rate in one decade. There is currently no sufficient baseline water quality or quantity data to advise management. The geographic and geologic position of the state, where monsoon rains are followed by 5 months of drought each year and groundwater storage is unavailable or unreliable, adds pressure to identify new water storage and use practices, sustainable for a growing population. The agricultural practices currently common in the state result in sediment pollution and threaten water quality.

This winter, an international water management conference was held in Aizawl to discuss water policy and water monitoring development in the region. Members of governments agencies, along with Mizoram University faculty and scholars, were trained about site selection and to use a flow tracker for discharge measurements. The first monitoring effort to quantify water movement on the landscape will soon be put into effect. These new practices can serve as a model for Eastern Himalayan cities with similar water management needs and challenges.



- Aizawl, Mizoram, Northeast India
- Population: ~1 Million
- Growth Rate: 23% between 2001-2011 (IN census 2011)

- Training members of the Minor Irrigation Department and Mizoram University faculty and scholars to use a flow tracker for discharge measurements



- Catastrophic landslides are caused each year by monsoon rains
- 7 months of rain: April – October
- 5 months are dry: November – March



- Rainwater is harvested in roof-top barrels
- No reliable water sources during dry season
- In some areas, water is delivered by truck at large costs



- Shifting cultivation agriculture (Jhum): Jhum plots are burned, seeded, harvested and left fallow for several years
- Lack of soil erosion protection measures
- Issue for water quality – sediment pollution