Myanmar Official Says Hpa-An Coal Plant Cancelled

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April 4, 2018, Hpa-An, Myanmar – Myanmar Union M inister of Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing announced at a press conference on M arch 14 that the M yanmar government will not grant permission for the proposed 1,280 M W coal power plant in Hpa-An, Karen State. Local communities and civil society groups who have campaigned tirelessly against the proposed coal plant are celebrating this victory and welcome the news from the new M inister of Energy.

"We are very happy and appreciative to hear the announcement of the Union M inister that this project has been cancelled. Despite our happiness at the result, we remain cautious. We hope that state-level government representatives will help reduce our concerns by following in the footsteps of the Union M inister and announcing their support for the project’s cancellation.” said Saw Aung Than Htwe, a member of one of the Hpa-An communities.

We, the undersigned 131 organizations and networks call on the Myanmar Union government to follow up on the Minister’s statement and officially cancel all proposed and suspended coal-fired power plants. We also call on the government to pass a national moratorium on coal power plants because of the devastating and irreparable harm they would cause to the environment and people of M yanmar. We further call on the government to create policies and laws to promote and regulate the implementation of sustainable renewable energy projects that are consistent with the needs and wishes of communities.

In April 2017, the Karen State Government (KSG and Toyo Thai Power M yanmar Co Ltd (TTCL) signed a memorandum of understanding to conduct a feasibility study for the proposed Hpa-An coal plant. In J une 2017, 42 Karen State-based civil society organizations and 130 other civil society organizations released a statement against the project. In October 2017, the
KSG and TTCL signed joint venture and lease agreements for 815 acres with a concession period of 40 years. The proposed project site was on the Thanlwin (Salween) River. Local civil society groups collected around 2,980 signatures from Karen State residents who opposed the project and submitted them to the Karen State Chief Minister. In November 2017, local communities gathered to demonstrate against the project. Despite knowledge of this opposition, TTCL persuaded the KSG to organize people from Hpa-An to go and visit Hekinan coal-fired power plant in Japan in an attempt to influence and promote their project in Hpa-An.

“Although the project has been declared cancelled at Union level this remains unclear at state level. Public access to information on the project remains limited, and land has recently been purchased by TTCL in the project area,” said Saw Nay Lin Htun, a member of one of the Hpa-An communities.

It was also reported that TTCL attempted to implement the Hpa-An project in Karen State after having failed to do so in Ann Dinn, Mon State. The local communities in Ann Dinn strongly opposed this project. Around 5,000 people protested the project in 2015, and as a result of this strong and continuous opposition, the Ann Dinn project was cancelled.

Communities in Myanmar have continuously opposed coal-fired power plant projects throughout Myanmar, expressing serious concerns over forced relocation from their lands, pollution to the air and water, the resulting loss of livelihoods, and harmful consequences to their health.

Renewable energy options also make projects such as the one proposed for Hpa-An unnecessary and inexcusable. Developing countries are installing renewable energy projects almost twice as fast as developed countries. Among the factors contributing to this shift is the decreasing cost of component materials and increasing efficiency of renewable energy technologies. In addition, renewable energy projects can bring electricity to communities across Myanmar much quicker than coal power plants and large hydropower projects.

Rural communities in Myanmar have already successfully implemented more than 3,500 off-grid sustainable renewable energy projects that are consistent with local energy needs and conserve existing natural resources.

“This moment presents an opportunity to discuss steps towards sustainable and decentralized community-managed alternative energy, and to open space for clear and people-centered plans for energy governance,” said Saw Tha Phoe, coordinator for Karen River Watch.

The global trend towards renewable energy is also due to increasing awareness worldwide that coal emissions are a primary contributor to climate change and cause devastating impacts to the environment and human health. If Myanmar continues to develop coal power projects, it will miss an opportunity to become a leader in renewable energy, instead sacrificing the health of its communities and the environment. There can be no justification for the continued use of fossil fuels for power generation.
Endorsing Organizations

1. ဖလ ုံပညာေရးးယူနစ္ (KSC)
2. ကရင္အမာသာမားကူးေရးအဖြဲ႔ (ကရင္ျပည္ူး္)
3. အမာသာမားကူးေရးအဖြဲ႔း (ကရင္ျပည္ူး္)
4. " အေျ လခမ္းသနစ္ " အေရးအသင္းအပ္နစ္း (ကရင္ျပည္ူး္)
5. ကရင္ျပည္ူးးြအစ္မားေရက္းျခံေရးဆားင္ရာ (ကရင္ျပည္ူး္)
6. တရားမချိန္းလော့လပ္ေသာ အမာသမားမားအပ္နစ္ (ကရင္ျပည္ူး္)
7. မားကူးေရးအဖြဲ႔အမာသမားေရခ႕ေဆာင္အပ္နစ္ (ကရင္ျပည္ူး္)
8. Youth Heart ဗားအေဆာင္ခွင့္ (ကရင္ျပည္ူး္)
9. Youth Community Centre (YCC)
10. " အေထာင္းလးာ " ပညာေရးနစ္းနစ္းအဖြဲ႔း (ကရင္ျပည္ူး္)
11. " ဇြကပင္ေျမ " လယမႈဖုံ့ေဖာင္းေဒးရခင္း (ကရင္ျပည္ူး္)
12. " Gate Way " ပညာမိုးေဆာင္းအသင္း (မလာပအန္တရား)
13. " အေထာင္းလးာ " ပညာေရးအဖြဲ႔း (ကရင္ျပည္ူး္)
14. " Bridge for All " ပညာေရးေဆာင္းအသင္း (ကရင္ျပည္ူး္)
15. MATA ဗားအေဆာင္ခွင့္ (KSC)
16. အမာသာမားေရဖာင္းေဒးရခင္း (ကရင္ျပည္ူး္)
17. " အခြင်းအရာ " ပညာေရးအဖြဲ႔း (ကရင္ျပည္ူး္)
18. Youth Community Centre (YCC)
19. " Bridge for All " ပညာေရးေဆာင္ခွင့္ (KSC)
20. " Millennium Self Access Language Center " ပညာေရးေဆာင္ခွင့္ (KSC)
21. " Millennium Self Access Language Center " ပညာေရးေဆာင္ခွင့္ (KSC)
22. " Bridge for All " ပညာေရးေဆာင္ခွင့္ (KSC)
23. " Youth Community Centre " ပညာေရးေဆာင္ခွင့္ (KSC)
24. " Youth Community Centre " ပညာေရးေဆာင္ခွင့္ (KSC)
25. " Youth Community Centre " ပညာေရးေဆာင္ခွင့္ (KSC)
26. Millennium Self Access Language Center (KSC)
27. Bridge for All
28. SuriyaSanda Generation
29. ကရင္ျပည္ူးးြအစ္မားေရက္းျခံေရးဆားင္ရာ (KSC)
30. Research Institution for Society and Ecology (RISE)
31. Interfaith Youth Cooperation Action For Peace (IYCAP)
32. Thwee Development Network
33. ဝါဒမာစာစျေးနိုင်ငံစာမျက်နှာ
34. မဟာဝါဒမာစာစျေးနိုင်ငံစာမျက်နှာ
35. ဝါဒမာအိမ်စျေးနိုင်ငံစာမျက်နှာ
36. မဟာဝါဒမာအိမ်စျေးနိုင်ငံစာမျက်နှာ
37. ဝါဒမာအိမ်စျေးနိုင်ငံစာမျက်နှာ
38. သိမ်းဆောင်ရွက်သောများစွာစာမျက်နှာစာမျက်နှာ
39. Karen Student Network Group (KSNG)
40. Thoo Mweh Khee Migrant School
41. Karen River Watch (KRW)
42. Karen Women Organization (KWO)

အားလုံးစားသက်မှုအခြေခံပေးသောအဖွဲ့အစည်းများ
43. Myanmar - China Pipeline Watch Committee
44. Peace & Open Society (Kyaukse )
45. Myanmar Alliance for Transparency & Accountability (Mandalay)
46. Farmer Union (Kyaukse )
47. Green For All ( နှစ်ထောင်ထားထား )
48. Green For All ( နှစ်ထောင်ပါ )
49. မီးလူးများ မီးကြည်
50. မီးလူးများ မီးကြည် (မီးနီးပါ မီးနီးပါ)
51. မီးလူးများ မီးကြည်
52. မီးလူးများ မီးကြည်မှုများစာမျက်နှာ
53. မီးလူးများ
54. POPP (Peace for Peaceful Plurism)
55. မီးလူးများ (Myat Won Thit)
56. Myiny Ma Kha Guard
57. Public Network
58. EDU Wave
59. East Light Development Group
60. Bago Youth Network
61. အလင္းသက္တူ္႔ (Yoma Vhit Thu)
62. မုံက်ရးသနစ္ (Maw Kun Thit)
63. ေမာ္ကူ္းသနစ္ (Thae Kone Youth League)
64. အလင္းေနစတမူ္ (Alin Say Ta Marn)
65. ေရရပ္နစနစ္ (Shwe Yeik Sit)
66. ေရကင္နစ္သယ (Shwe Kyin Chit Thu)
67. မႈင္းကူ္းက္ (Hmine Network)
68. PACE (Political And Civil Engagement Group)
69. MATA အဖြ႕
70. ေတာင္သယလး္သမား (Mun Kyaw Thu)
71. အလ ပ္သမား သမမဂ (အလယမႈအဖ ြ႔)
72. အလားယူးသမား (OMG)
73. ေကြေးလက္လယငး္ကူ္းက္ (OMC)
74. သနစ္ပင္ နစ္သယမားအဖြ႔ (PDO)
75. Humanity Institute (HI)
76. Our Future Initiative (OFI)
77. Southern Youth
78. ေမတတာနစမ္ (ပ က ဴ)
79. ေရးူခင္ (အခါး)
80. ေရးူခင္ (ကား)
81. ေရးူခင္ (အခါး)
82. ေရးူခင္ (အခါး)
83. ေရးူခင္ (ကား)
84. ေရးူခင္ (အခါး)
85. ေရးူခင္ (နစ္)
86. TANKS
87. TANKS
88. Humanity Institute (HI)
89. Our Future Initiative (OFI)
90. Southern Youth
91. သဝိုင္းပါးခဲ့ပြဲ (သံတွန်း)
92. သဝိုင္းပါးခဲ့ပြဲ (သံတွန်း)
93. သဝိုင္းပါးခဲ့ပြဲ.
94. Tanintharyi Fisheries Partnership
95. Tanintharyi Green Network
96. Motherland
97. သေင်ထို်ကျူးျပင္း (တူသာရ)
98. သေင်ထို်ကျူးျပင္း (ပေလာက္)
99. 88 ပေလာ
100. 88 မ းဆက္ (စမတ္)
101. အမ်းသီမားသမမဂ (စမတ္ ရ င္)
102. ဗုဒ္ဓကုန္းသမားသမမဂ
103. National Network for Education Reform (NNER) - Myeik
104. All Burma Students' Democratic Front - ABSDF စီးဝင္အဖို့လိုင္စီ
105. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender - LGBT
106. သေင်းေနစာင္ွင့္ေရးအဖ ြ႔ (သေ္ႏၶာ)
107. သေင်းေနစာင္ွင့္ေရးအဖ ြ႔ (တူသာရ)
108. ဗေဒ္ဓကုန္းသမားသမမဂ
109. FLEGT အဖို့လိုင္စီ
110. ဗေဒ္ဓကုန္းသမားသမမဂ (မူရင္းထားကုန္း)
111. ဗေဒ္ဓကုန္းသမားသမမဂ (ပေလာ)
112. OFI (ဗေဒ္ဓကုန္း)
113. Tanintharyi Fisheries Partnership
114. Dawei Development Association - DDA
115. Cambridge Student Liberal Democrats - CSLD
116. Dawei Watch Foundation
117. Cambridge Student Liberal Democrats - CSLD
118. မူရင္းထားကုန္းသမမဂ (ကလုံးထား)
119. Cambridge Student Liberal Democrats - CSLD
120. မူရင္းထားကုန္းသမမဂ (ကလုံးထား)
121. မူရင္းထားကုန္းသမမဂ - MPYA
122. မူရင္းထားကုန္းသမမဂ - UKSY
123. မူရင္းထားကုန္းသမမဂ - KNGY
124. မူရင္းထားကုန္းသမမဂ - KyWO
125. မူရင္းထားကုန္းသမမဂ - KNYO
126. မူရင္းထားကုန္းသမမဂ - KSSU - မူရင္းထားကုန္းသမမဂလတက္္က လႈပ္ရခားသယမား
127. မူရင္းထားကုန္း
128. Mong Pan Youth Association
129. သုံလင္သားမ ား သုံလ င္ျမနစ္
130. သုံလင္သားမ ေရးရွိအောင်ပြုလုပ်ရန် (SSN)
131. EarthRights International