

**The Joint Statement of Korea for the Third
International Action Day Against Korea's Involvement
in Shwe Gas Development Project in Burma**

November 15, 2006

**Daewoo International, KOGAS and the Korean government
must establish measures to protect labor, human rights and
environmental rights for the Shwe Gas Development Project in
Burma**

Today, on November 15, 2006, social activists and human rights organizations unite globally from Thailand, United States, Bangladesh, England, Netherlands, India, Japan, and France in front of Daewoo International offices or Korean embassies to protest against Shwe gas development project.

Even if Daewoo International, KOGAS and the Korean government have been aware of concerns and claims of the international community on the Korea's involvement in Burma gas development project, they have not come up with the solutions. They are ignoring concerns and claims of the international community including Korean civil society and Burmese human rights activists.

Yadana – Yetagun gas development project that Total of France and Unocal of USA invested in the 90s received severe criticism from the international community due to violations of human rights such as forced labor, relocation and rape, and as a result Total and Unocal had to settle with large sum of compensation. In light of the precedents experiences from Yadana project and infrastructure projects in other areas of Burma, it is expected that Shwe gas development project will result in the expansion of militarization and violations of

human rights in the area involved by the Burmese military regime which has been in power for the last 44 years.

Burmese Activists are claiming that the numbers of military camps near Shwe gas project area are already increasing and violations of human rights such as land confiscation and forced labor in west Arakan state where pipeline will be laid are already happening.

Even if a large amount of gas deposit has been found in the area, the villagers are allowed to neither use the gas nor have the decision power on the use of the resource. Military facilities expected to be accompanied in the gas pipeline route will result in either expelling communities in the area or destroying remaining forest. The increase in exploitation of food supply for the military, random collection of taxes, confiscation of land for new military facilities and pipelines, forced relocation and labor of people in the vicinity of pipeline route, the increase in sexual abuse, limited free movement of people, dismantling of families, increase in refugees will occur and these will lead to the continuation of a vicious cycle of ignorance and poverty.

Moreover, Korean human rights activists who have recently visited Arakan region that is close to Burma Shwe gas development project and who have met internally displaced persons (IDP) say that another brutal human rights violations will be committed by the military when Korean gas development project do not prepare the measures for human rights since many forced labor is happening by Burmese military in Arakan region now.

In addition, Daewoo International is suspected for exporting strategic items to Burma. Since extension of military regimes and human rights violations on Burmese civilians is possible if strategic items are exported to Burma, such kind of suspicion on Daewoo International should be visibly clarified as soon as possible.

Korean corporations and Korean government should discuss labor rights and environmental rights most importantly when they talk about corporate social responsibility. In the case of corporate investment, respecting human rights and environmental rights are global trends these days. International societies such

as UN are discussing about providing the measures when direct and indirect human rights violations are expected, and even the investment itself might be re-examined.

On the Third International Action Day against Shwe Gas Development Project in Burma, we demand the following.

1. We strongly urge that Daewoo International, KOGAS and the Korean government should immediately look into the current situation of labor, human and environmental rights of local people in relation to Shwe gas project and present measures against expected human rights violations and environmental disruption.

1. Daewoo International should make it clear about all the suspicions of exporting strategic items to Burma and about gas development.

1. Korean government should establish some institutional mechanism to monitor illegal actions and human rights violations Korean corporations commit overseas. Also, Korean government should re-think about all the investments and diplomatic relations with Burma and work hard to bring democracy and human rights in Burma.

1. We hope that Daewoo International, KOGAS and the Korean government accept and respond to the concerns of the international society.

November 15, 2006

Burmese activists

CAN(Citizens' Action Network)

CSHR(Citizens' solidarity for Human Rights)

DLP(Democratic Labor Party)

FKTU(Federations of Korean Trade Unions)

FOA(Friends of Asia)

KCTU(Korean Confederation of Trade Union)

KFEM(Korean Federation for Environmental Movement)

KHIS(Korean House for International Solidarity)

MINBYUN-Lawyers for a Democratic Society

Nawauri

Sarangbang Group for Human Rights

Solidarity for Asian Human Rights and Culture

Solidarity for New Society

The Association for Migrant Workers' Human Rights