

To

President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Naypyitaw

Date: September 26th, 2016

Subject: We, the indigenous Mon residents, don't accept the coal-fired power plant that has been proposed for Andin village, Ye Township, Mon State

1. We, Pharlain community residents, clearly say "No Coal-power plant" in Andin village, Ye township, Mon State, as proposed by Toyo-Thai Company Limited (TTCL) since 2014.
2. We, the indigenous Mon local residents who live to the west and north-west of Pharlain Mountain, make our living by fishing, farming and fruit gardening which depends on the natural environment. We strongly oppose the coal fired power plant project as it will be seriously detrimental to the costal eco-system.
3. We are seriously concerned about the coal-fired power plant project which will impact our local ethnic community's social values, culture as well as the public health.
4. The project, does not have any transparency and accountability as per the following points:
 - We, the local residents, were not informed when the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed nor when the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed on April 9, 2015.
 - TTCL left six copies of an English-language booklet at Andin village monastery on 25April, 2014, claiming it explained about the project. We requested TTCL to translate those six booklets into our local language but TTCL did not.
 - False pro-coal signatures were collected and used as propaganda in a submission letter given to the Mon State government on 10October, 2014.(For example, the names of dead people and people working in foreign countries appeared in the letter.)
 - TTCL conducted a consultation meeting with the public living (14) miles away from the projection location on 27December, 2014 and communities from Andin were not invited to this meeting. Meanwhile, the people invited to the event were misled by the title of the consultation which claimed to be about bringing electricity and power to their communities.(News in Burmese attached).
5. We, local indigenous residents, seriously oppose the project in many ways as per the actions of TTCL mentioned above.
 - We clearly expressed that we don't accept the project when TTCL conducted its first consultation meeting in Andin village monastery on April 25, 2014. (Photos, news and VCD are attached).

- Ye Social Service (Y.S.S) led a protest against the coal-fired power plant in Andin on 15 December, 2014 in Ye town. (News and photos are attached).
 - Respected abbots, community leaders and village administration members from Pharlain communities twice met with Mon State lawmakers and Ministers on 15 December, 2014 and on 4 May, 2015 calling for the coal-fired power plant project to be cancelled.
 - Over (6000) people from Pharlain came out to the Andin village football field and demonstrated against the coal-fired power plant on 5 May, 2015. (Photos, News and VCD are attached).
 - Over one hundred of Andin local residents gathered and protested when the Executive Director of TTCL came to Andin village monastery on 9 May, 2015. (Photos and VDC are attached).
6. With the clear message of “No coal-fired power plant”, community members have conducted research and gathered data on livelihoods and incomes, land and marine species, mangrove forest species and local cultural values and published a report.
 7. The community’s research shows that its income from paddy, betel nut fishing, as well as seasonal fruit crops reached 7 million kyat in the year 2014. The report was launched on 9 March, 2016, at Orchid hotel in Yangon. (Report book is attached).
 8. Thus, we, the indigenous Mon residents sincerely would like to urge the President of Republic of the Union of Myanmar to reject the coal-fired power plant project in Andin, Ye township, Mon State, which does not have any transparency, accountability and will have devastating impacts on our health, social life, culture and livelihoods.

Attached files:

- Letter to President Thein Sein
- Letter to Myanmar Investment Commission
- Abundance of Pharlain Resources report

Signed by the following community representatives:

1. Bhaddanta Cando, SanintKrate monastery, Sanint Karate village
2. Bhaddanta Jargara, SanintJanu monastery, SanintJanu village
3. Bhaddanta Sila (Thila),Andin monastery, Andin village
4. BhaddantaSaccakarra, Saigram monastery, Saigram village
5. Nai Thin Shaung, administrator of Andin village Tract, 10/ Ya Ma Na (Naing) 072254
6. Nai Taung Sein, member of Andin administration committee, Andin YwaThit village (Kwan Tamort Pea), 10 / Ya Ma Na (Naing) 046637
7. Nai Thin Yu, administrator, Duya village, 10/ Ma Da Na (Naing) 065939

Copies of this letter have been submitted to:

1. Office of the State Counselor,Naypyitaw
2. Speaker, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Naypyitaw
3. Chairman, Myanmar Investment Commission Office, Yangon
4. Chairman, Investment and Industrial Development Committee, Pyithu Hluttaw, Naypyitaw
5. Union Minister, Ministry of Energy and Electricity, Naypyitaw
6. Union Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Naypyitaw
7. Chairman, Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee, PyithuHluttaw, Naypyitaw
8. Chief Minister, Mon State Government, Mawlamyine
9. Speaker, State Hluttaw, Mon State, Mawlamyine
10. Union Minister, Ministry for Ethnic Affairs, Naypyitaw
11. Chairman, Environmental Conservation Committee, State Hluttaw, Mon State, Mawlamyine
12. Ministry of Energy and Electricity, Chief Engineer Office, Mon State, Mawlamyine
13. Media
14. Civil Society Organizations