

For Immediate Release  
November 26, 2015

### **Myanmar Community Representatives and Civil Society Appeal to Japan Not to be Finance or Support Coal-Fired Power Plants in Myanmar**

Tokyo, Japan – Three representatives from communities in Myanmar delivered a letter to the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) calling on them not to finance or promote the construction of controversial and polluting coal-fired power plants in Myanmar. The letter, endorsed by 72 civil society organizations and networks in Myanmar, called on Japanese actors to instead help to promote truly sustainable solutions to Myanmar’s energy needs using Japanese expertise and in consultation with local communities and civil society organizations.

“We need electricity in Myanmar, but we don’t want it from coal,” said Ni Mar Oo, a farmer from Ann Din, Mon State. Toyo-Thai Corporation PCL is expected to request funding from JBIC for its planned power plant in the area. “In Ann Din and other communities where there are proposed coal-fired power plants, we rely on natural resources for our livelihoods. If the coal-fired power plants are built, they will destroy our environment and therefore our livelihoods, and will cause many health problems for our people.”

Ni Mar Oo was joined by community members from two other projects that JBIC may also finance: the Mitsubishi-J-Power project in Nga Yoke Kaung, Irrawaddy Region, and the Marubeni plant in Thara Bwin, Tanintharyi Region. Communities and civil society across Myanmar are concerned about JICA’s involvement in drafting the National Electricity Master Plan, which suggests that as much as 33% of the power supply in Myanmar could be from coal by 2030. The plan does not adequately consider alternative renewable energy sources or off-grid decentralised energy systems.

“International and national financial institutions, such as the World Bank, are moving away from financing coal. Not only are JBIC and JICA’s involvement risking their own and Japan’s reputation, it is also putting entire communities and the whole world at risk with the environmental and social impacts of coal-fired power plants on nearby communities and the global climate. In this day and age, when there are clean and renewable energy options available, it is unacceptable that Japanese actors are promoting such polluting energy projects in other countries,” said Thant Zin, Coordinator of the Dawei Development Association (DDA), who joined the community representatives in Tokyo.

The letter to JBIC and JICA emphasized that any power plant must be developed only after thorough consultation with local communities. If any project goes ahead without the consent of the local community, this would be in violation of both JBIC and JICA’s respective Guidelines for Environmental and Social Considerations.

The Myanmar community and CSO representatives will also join the public march in Tokyo on November 28, calling on Japanese leaders to negotiate a strong agreement for climate justice at the Conference of Parties (COP) 21 in Paris, France.

*For more information or to speak with the representatives from Myanmar, please contact: +81 9084873161 or [dda.dawei@gmail.com](mailto:dda.dawei@gmail.com).*