

August 6, 2021
PRESS RELEASE

CSOs Submitted a Letter Demanding JBIC Not to Finance the LNG Canada Project Do Not Violate the Rights of Indigenous Peoples or Fuel the Climate Crisis

Today, civil society groups and an indigenous group in Japan and Canada submitted a letter demanding the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (hereinafter JBIC) not to finance the LNG Canada project.

The LNG Canada project plans to construct liquefaction plants and an export terminal. Shale gas used for the project will be extracted in the Montney Formation in British Columbia (BC) and transported through a 670 kilometer pipeline to the terminal in Kitimat, where the gas will be liquefied and exported to Asian markets. Investors of the project include Mitsubishi Corporation and Royal Dutch Shell.

There is already strong opposition by Indigenous Peoples and the civil society in the areas where gas is being extracted and pipelines will pass through due to concerns about cumulative effects of development.

In addition, a report released by the International Energy Agency in May warns that in order to achieve a net-zero society in 2050, we must stop supporting new oil and gas projects after 2021.

Molly Wickham (Sleydo'), spokesperson for the Gidimt'en checkpoint, a reoccupation and resistance site on Cas Yikh, a house group in the Gidimt'en Clan of the Wet'suwet'en Nation says, "Coastal GasLink Pipeline would supply LNG Canada and they need to be evaluated as one project along with the fracking fields in North East British Columbia. The LNG Canada project cannot be separated from the pipeline and the destruction that it would cause to our lands, ways of life and people. We never ceded our land to any companies." Wickham also insists that the associated Coastal GasLink pipeline has not received free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) in the project.

Ayumi Fukakusa, campaigner of Friends of the Earth Japan pointed out that "It is a clear violation of JBIC's guidelines if they finance the project without FPIC from Indigenous Peoples, as it is recognized as an international standard. The scope of the project JBIC is currently considering financing includes the construction of an additional pipeline, for which only environmental permits are disclosed on JBIC's website, but not an environmental impact assessment report or other documents required by JBIC's guidelines. This violation of JBIC's guidelines clearly shows that JBIC lacks environmental and social considerations. JBIC should not provide loans to the project."

Please see the letter for more detail.

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