



Persatuan Pengguna Pulau Pinang Consumers' Association of Penang

檳城消費人協會 பினாங்கு பயனர்ப்பாணி சங்கம்

website: www.consumer.org.my

email: cap1@streamyx.com

PRESS CONFERENCE

19 March 2011

No to Nuclear Power Plants in Malaysia

The Consumers' Association of Penang (CAP) and Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM) are very disappointed with the Malaysian government's stand on the proposal to construct nuclear power plants in Malaysia.

Datuk Seri Peter Chin Fah Kui, Minister of Energy, Green Technology and Water, had stated that the Malaysian Cabinet has not decided on this matter as the Cabinet is awaiting report from the nuclear development agency.

We do not have to wait for any report or more studies on this matter. The crux of the matter is nuclear power plants are akin to time bombs and we do not want this dangerous technology built anywhere on Malaysian soil.

Likewise, there should be no more proliferation of nuclear reactors in other parts of the world. The catastrophic radiation leak and explosions in Fukushima nuclear power plant in Japan following the earthquake and tsunami is a grim reminder of the destruction that can be caused by nuclear power plants.

If the Malaysian government still insists on developing nuclear energy, then it is condemning generations to come with congenital deformities and a polluted environment. Besides the potential accidents and leaks which spread high levels of radiation, radioactive air and polluted water is routinely released through the operation of all nuclear reactors.

Experience from the disasters in Chernobyl, Three Mile Island and now Fukushima show that we could be completely devastated by such an accident, with loss of life, injuries, acute and chronic health problems, loss of income, loss of jobs and loss of resources from which it would take generations to recover. The environment would also be badly polluted.

Another major issue is the disposal of nuclear waste. Wherever it is buried or submerged in, we cannot guarantee for thousands of years that they will remain safe in their repositories. Thus, it is totally immoral and unconscionable for us to inflict our future generations with physical and environmental damage.

Many countries are reviewing their plans to develop new nuclear reactors in response to the explosions of the reactors in Japan. China has suspended the approval process for nuclear power stations in the country so that safety standards can be revised. Germany shut down temporarily all seven of its nuclear power plants that began operating before 1980.

Thai Prime Minister had ordered the energy ministry to review its plan to establish five nuclear power plants and to study two issues in detail - emergency measures and nuclear reactors' potential as terrorist targets.

Although these moves are commendable, it is not enough. There should be a complete phase out and proper decommissioning of existing nuclear power plants and no more new nuclear reactors built.

Malaysia must set a good example by renouncing its plans for nuclear energy and urge all governments to do the same.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Idris', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

S.M. MOHAMED IDRIS
President