

**Center for International Environmental Law, USA • Friends of the Earth, USA • Greenpeace USA • Pacific Environment, USA • Rainforest Action Network, USA • The Sierra Club, USA • The Sunrise Project Australia • CASA Japan • Friends of the Earth Japan • Greenpeace Japan • JACSES • Kiko Network • WWF Japan • Liaison Committee to Protect the Green and Water of Kyoto • NPO Environment Tokushima Network • Renewable-Hydrogen-Network • Tokyo General Union, Tokyo College of Music Chapters • Wakayama Environmentalists Network**

August 27, 2013

Hiroshi Okuda  
Governor  
Japan Bank for International Cooperation  
By Email: [kankyo-hairyo@jbic.go.jp](mailto:kankyo-hairyo@jbic.go.jp), [s-izuishi@jbic.go.jp](mailto:s-izuishi@jbic.go.jp)

Dear Mr. Okuda

**Re: Thai Binh II Coal-Fired Power Plant, Vietnam**

Through your website<sup>1</sup> we are aware that last week JBIC approved financing for the Thai Binh II coal-fired power plant in Thai Binh Province, Vietnam. We are writing to urge you to immediately review this decision and reject support for this ill-conceived coal plant.

As you are surely aware, on July 18, 2013, the US Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im Bank) announced that it would not be providing financing for this project, due to violations of the agency's guidelines relating to high carbon intensity projects. The decision came after the release of President Obama's Climate Action Plan on June 25, 2013, in which President Obama committed to ending US financing for coal plants abroad except in extremely limited circumstances, as well as new energy strategies at the World Bank and European Investment Bank (EIB) to end funding for coal plants in all but a few rare circumstances. It is clear that the trend at international financial institutions is to move away from dirty and risky coal plants in favor of the booming renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors.

The U.S. Exim Bank decision, taken with policy changes at the World Bank and EIB, indicate there is a clear shift in energy lending that will impact coal financing more broadly, as well as the Thai Binh II plant specifically. The changes at the World Bank and EIB are also particularly pertinent for JBIC, given your institution's commitment in your social and environmental guidelines to use "as reference points or benchmarks, standards established by other international financial institutions, other internationally recognized standards and/or good practices established by developed countries such as Japan regarding environmental and social considerations."

If JBIC is to comply with the letter and spirit of its social and environmental guidelines, and if it is to remain competitive in the global marketplace, it must move away from coal finance and towards renewable energy and energy efficiency investments. The Thai Binh II coal plant, which has already had financing rejected from U.S. Exim, would be a good first step. **We therefore call upon JBIC to**

---

1 [http://www.jbic.go.jp/en/about/environment/guideline/projects/classify/review\\_monitoring.php](http://www.jbic.go.jp/en/about/environment/guideline/projects/classify/review_monitoring.php)

**immediately review its decision to support the Thai Binh II coal plant in Vietnam and reconsider its support for coal projects globally, in line with emerging international benchmarks.**

Financing should instead be directed towards no-regrets investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in Vietnam and regionally that can meet the country's energy needs while protecting the global climate and the health of local residents.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues with you at your convenience, and would appreciate a response to this letter at the email addresses below.

Sincerely,

Niranjali Amerasinghe  
Center for International Environmental Law, US  
namerasinghe@ciel.org

Karen Orenstein  
Friends of the Earth, USA  
korenstein@foe.org

Kyle Ash  
Greenpeace USA  
Kyle.ash@greenpeace.org

Doug Norlen  
Pacific Environment, USA  
dnorlen@pacificenvironment.org

Amanda Starbuck  
Rainforest Action Network, USA  
astarbuck@ran.org

John Coequyt  
The Sierra Club, USA  
john.coequyt@sierraclub.org

Aviva Imhof  
The Sunrise Project Australia  
aviva@sunriseproject.org.au

Mitsutoshi Hayakawa  
CASA  
QYJ06471@nifty.ne.jp

Mayuko Yanai  
Friends of the Earth Japan  
yanai@foejapan.org

Hisayo Takada  
Greenpeace Japan  
hisayo.takada@greenpeace.org

Yuki Tanabe  
JACSES  
tanabe@jacses.org

Kimiko Hirata  
Kiko Network  
khirata@kikonet.org

Toyoyuki Kawakami  
Japan Representative of Rainforest Action Network  
toyo@ran.org

Naoyuki Yamagishi  
WWF Japan  
yamagishi@wwf.or.jp

Yoshitsugu Sasaki  
Liaison Committee to Protect the Green and Water of Kyoto  
ysasaki5687@yahoo.co.jp

Isao Shimada  
NPO Environment Tokushima Network  
kantoku001@tv-naruto.ne.jp

Haruyoshi Ebara  
Renewable-Hydrogen-Network  
haru@rh2.org

Hiroshi Takahashi  
Tokyo General Union, Tokyo College of Music Chapters  
bruckner@parkcity.ne.jp

Tatsuya Usui  
Wakayama Environmentalists Network  
wenet@vaw.ne.jp