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Media Statement

Global Protests/Compensation Is Too Small

FORMOSA PLASTICS (FPG) OFFERS US-\$ 500 MILLION

The FORMOSA PLASTICS GROUP (FPG) caused extraordinarily severe damage to people and the environment through polluted water that was discharged from its steel mill in Vietnam. Having shamed FPG's responsible managers and major shareholders with the International Black Planet Award in 2009, ethecon - Foundation Ethics and Economics decided to support the national protests in Vietnam. It organised international protests, especially in Taipei, Taiwan, where the headquarters of the chemical and heavy industry giant is located. The resulting pressure made it possible to enforce an initial compensation payment of US-\$ 500 million. The Taiwanese government assured ethecon that it would push for the payment of damages by FPG. ethecon criticises the amount and demands appropriate payments and compensation.

The FORMOSA PLASTICS GROUP has admitted its responsibility for [the death of many fish and enormous ecological damage in Vietnam](#). A compensation payment of [US-\\$ 500 million](#) could be enforced. In order to create public attention, the Vietnamese government have invited international scientists to get a picture of the damages on the ground.

Our international protests with partners in Vietnam, Taiwan and other countries have obviously been effective. Demonstrations in Hanoi and Taipei led to public pressure; the ethecon foundation informed the international media about the crimes of the FPG company in Vietnam; during the annual general meeting in Taipei, critical Taiwanese shareholders handed over an open letter from ethecon; many Vietnamese embassies as well as the government in Hanoi itself received an open letter by the foundation to the Vietnamese government; and the government in Taipei received a letter from ethecon as well.

However, the compensation payment is not enough. FORMOSA PLASTICS must repair all environmental damages done and also cover the costs for the damages to health. The responsible members of FPG must be taken to court and receive an adequate punishment. The environmental crime must be cleared up comprehensively and completely both by the conglomerate and by the government.

As a consequence, [the protests go on](#); people continue to hold large demonstrations in Vietnam as well.

Please be assured that we will continue to urge Taiwanese enterprises operating abroad to abide by the laws of the host countries and to fulfil their corporate social responsibility' , the Taiwanese government let us know through an [official letter from the Taiwanese environmental authority](#). Now the Taiwanese government must suit the action to the word. They must make sure that the environmental crimes are answered for, that there is just, appropriate compensation and that those who are responsible are rigorously punished.

The Vietnamese government must take action as well. We have spoken to Dr Schröder, a [member of the team of experts the Vietnamese government appointed](#). He expressed his regret, both to the '[Deutsche Stiftung Meeresschutz](#)' (German Foundation for Ocean Protection) and to us, that the team were [not allowed to take their own samples](#) of contaminated water and had to write their reports based on existent reports by local scientists. The Vietnamese government must ensure that the course, quality and scale of the catastrophe are made completely transparent.

Unlike the numerous foundations associated with business conglomerates, families, churches, political parties and the state, [ethecon - Foundation Ethics and Economics](#) is one of the few grassroots foundations and follows the motto 'For a world without exploitation and oppression!' The foundation is still young and is looking for further endowment contributions, donations and supporting members.

Since 2006 ethecon has awarded two international prizes per year, one positive and one negative: the [International ethecon Blue Planet Award](#) for outstanding commitment to the protection and rescue of the 'Blue Planet' and the [International ethecon Black Planet Award](#) for outrageous contributions to the ruin and destruction of the Earth. The Blue Planet was awarded, for example, to [Vandana Shiva, India](#), [Uri Avnery, Israel](#) and [Jean Ziegler, Switzerland](#). The Black Planet Award has shamed, amongst others, managers and major shareholders of the concerns [BP, United Kingdom](#), [TEPCO, Japan](#), [DEUTSCHE BANK, Germany](#) and [FORMOSA PLASTICS, Taiwan](#).

Further information is available from

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We can only avert imminent ecological and social catastrophes if we develop and implement economic and social models that are environment-friendly and fit for human beings. ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economics works with vision and perspective and far beyond the generations ahead.

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