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Foundation Ethics & Economics

Stiftung Ethik & Ökonomie Fundación Ética & Economía



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**Open letter to the owner family Wang, executive
Lee-Chih-tseun and the other responsible managers
of FORMOSA PLASTICS GROUP in Taiwan**

2016 06 17

Members of the Wang family,
Mr. Lee and members of the management,
in 2009 ethecon - Foundation Ethics and Economy
presented you with the negative international
ethecon Black Planet Award for your approach to law
and order, ecology and peace, social rights and
human rights in the business activities of your
company FORMOSA PLASTICS GROUP (FPG).

Now we are contacting you about FORMOSA HA TINH
STEEL in Vietnam.

70% of FORMOSA HA TINH STEEL are held by FORMOSA
PLASTICS GROUP. Of the remaining 30%, 25% belong to
CHINA STEEL, a company that is still largely owned
by the Taiwanese government, and 5% belong to the
Japanese corporation JFE Holdings.

The steelworks FORMOSA HA TINH STEEL at the
Vietnamese coast started its production in early
2016. Immediately after it was put into operation,
masses of fish died off the Vietnamese coast. In
four Vietnamese provinces over a distance of 200
km, masses of dead fish were washed up. It is said
that at first residents were asked by the
government to stop eating fish because it might be
contaminated and its consumption might damage their
health.

please **turn over** >>>

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für Justiz Berlin
Document No. 3416/701-II.2.

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Apart from health implications, the widespread death of fish also affects the local fishing industry, which is in danger of being ruined by those deaths.

Local media report that a pipeline that leads straight from FORMOSA HA TINH STEEL into the sea caused the widespread death of fish. According to Vietnamese law, the company is not allowed to discharge used and contaminated water into the sea.

The Vietnamese deputy minister of the Environment, Vo Tuan Nhan, complains that he does not receive any information about the substances FPG discharges through the pipeline.

According to local media, FPG has also ordered 300 tonnes of highly toxic chemicals to clean the wastewater pipeline. FPG refuses to disclose what exactly was cleaned, what was removed and what amount of what chemicals was used. The Vietnam Environment Administration was informed neither of the chemicals being ordered nor about their usage.

Instead the speaker of FORMOSA HA TINH STEEL stated that the population would have to choose between fish and steel.

The speaker's dismissal shortly afterwards does not alter the fact that your irresponsible actions and outrageous criminal ethic are prolonging the catastrophe and the massive damages to people and the environment in Vietnam.

The fact that the sole purpose of your actions is personal gain is a threat to society as a whole and to the environment.

We urge you to face your responsibility towards humans and the environment and stop your environmentally destructive, criminal actions.

Immediately stop the water pollution and marine pollution in Vietnam. Make it possible for the local fishers to work again and for the Vietnamese people to eat healthy fish without fear.

Ensure ecological, humane working conditions in your company and your immediate environment.

Pay compensation for all health-related and economic damages people have suffered. Ensure that the biotopes are cleaned and restored.

Make sure that the crime is cleared up directly, comprehensively and unsparingly, and that all those who are directly or indirectly responsible have to face justice.

Do not use your money for personal gain. Instead, act responsibly and help those that your actions have brought close to ruin.

Stop your ruthless actions,
stop destroying our planet!

Axel Köhler-Schnura
(Chief of the Board)

Sarah Schneider
(Managing Director)