

An Open Letter from Taiwan Civil Society to the Formosa Plastics Group

On 19 May 2010 as civic groups in Taiwan present the ethecon 2009 Black Planet Award to the Formosa Plastics Group we collectively appeal to that enterprise to use its money in a manner that promotes dignity and a sense of responsibility.

We deliver this award to the Formosa Plastics Group for the reasons set out in this open letter in order that your true nature can be seen by all sectors of society.

1. Profits Before Human Rights; Profits Before Democracy

In 1989 the People's Liberation Army bloodily suppressed a student movement in Tian An Men Square in what has come to be known as the Tian An Men Massacre. While the world gasped at the atrocities committed by the Chinese government and all foreign commerce and investment came to a halt, your enterprise, the Formosa Plastics Group became the first major company to invest in China without any thought or concern for the severe human rights abuses of your host. You displayed absolute disregard for democratic principles and indeed you profit from the butcher's of Beijing.

2. "Formosa Plastics: We Make the Earth Miserable"

As the worlds largest producer of PVC you have spread your products around the world by giving producers of plastic piping, flooring, medial products, toys, shoes, stationary products and all other manner of goods, the means to befoul the health of present and future generations. The dangers of PVC throughout its life cycle are well established, including the fact that the production and disposal sites all contain high concentrations of dioxin and are sources for endocrine disruptors and environmental hormones causing sex changes in men and increases in the incidence of breast cancer in women. Yet despite the international consensus, Formosa Plastics, your attention has only one target and one goal – make as much money as possible with as little attention and expenditure on the social and natural environments.

3. You Have Wrung Taiwan's Largest River Dry

Even with your vast wealth and power you have forced the government to build the Jiji Wier and a special pipeline so that you can extract 345,000 tonnes of water a day; your pipes that run through farmers' fields and take their water leave them with no

choice but to pump from the aquifers resulting in our country's worst land subsidence and condemning the area to becoming a barren desert of dust storms.

4. You Blacken the Skies and the People's Lungs

In June 2009 Public Health Professor Chan Chang-chuan of National Taiwan University reported a "significant correlation" between your Sixth Naphtha Cracker Plant in Yunlin County and cancer rates among residents in the nearby townships of Mailiao, Taisi, Dongshih, Lunbei and Sihhu.

While you may sneer at academics, you can not deny that beginning with the discharge of VOCs from this plant in 1999 the incidence of liver cancer in Taisi Township has increased thirty percent and over-all cancer incidence increased eighty percent. In order to avoid the stench from your toxic discharge, school children must plug their noses and cover their mouths with facemasks. You blacken the skies and blacken the viscera of all who live within reach of your effluents.

5. You Disregard Global Warming as You Produce Even More Emissions

Through its fourth phase, the Sixth Naphtha Cracker Plant (6th NCP), along with your neighboring power plant (the world's fifth largest CO₂ polluting power plant) produce sixty eight million tonnes of CO₂ annually, one quarter of Taiwan's CO₂ emissions. But you aren't satisfied with this achievement, as you go forward with plans for the fifth phase of the 6th NCP ignoring the crisis facing humanity and your contribution to climate chaos.

6. Your Legacy of Polluting Water and Soil will go on for Millennia

In April 2002 vinyl chloride levels in the groundwater at your plant in the Lin Yuan Industrial Park outside of Kaohsiung City in southern Taiwan were in excess of standards resulting in the declaration of a 32 hectare plant as a "control site"; in March 2007 10.8 hectares of your Cianjheng plant was cited as a soil pollution control site due to excessive levels of zinc and mercury contamination.

Then in March 2010 the news broke out of one of the worst groundwater pollution cases in Taiwan's history: – the groundwater beneath the VCM plant producing PVC

your Renwu Plant tested for levels of 1,2-dichloroethane at **302,000 (three hundred and two thousand) times** the legal limit, ten other toxic substances were far in excess of the standards, and the 35.38 hectares had already been declared as a “remediation site”. You were aware in 2002 of the problem, but engaged in a cover up for eight years threatening the health of all inhabitants in the area as well as the 1,390 hectares of farmland in the plant’s vicinity.

7. The Ten Thousand Year Legacy of Your Industrial Waste

In 1998 with blatant disregard for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal your company surreptitiously shipped 2,799 tonnes of mercury contaminated waste to Kampuchea killing at least one worker who was exposed, and resulting in evacuations of thousands of others bringing the entire nation of Taiwan into international disrepute; in early 1999 another 8,700 tonnes of mercury-laden hazardous waste was discovered in the township of Liyushan in Pingtung, southern Taiwan and while all the evidence pointed to your culpability, in the end you collected a stipend from the government in the amount of 90 million dollars (about 3 million US dollars). The lunatics are indeed running the asylum!

8. You Are Liars and Cheats

In order to win the support from the people of Yunlin County, for your offshore petrochemical park-currently the site of the 6th NCP, you promised to build a medical center, a retirement area, shopping centers, nursing school, transportation center, a seaside resort, the Chang Geng Memorial Hospital and a whole new Mailiao City. You promised to bring 37,500 employment opportunities to the area. These promises have all ended up as bounced checks. How are you any different from a gang of con artists?

To the Black Hearted Formosa Plastics Group: Where is your conscience?

You have enjoyed to the maximum the support and subsidization by the Taiwan government while the legislature does what it needs to support you. Yet, you have nothing to show as far as giving back to either the land or the people of Taiwan. Your voracious appetite for growth continues to escalate unabated, externalizing the social and environmental costs while engaging in a protracted war on transparency and truth,

a campaign of lies and deceit, corrupting society into one that asks only about profit, one that never questions values. Formosa Plastics, you have truly arrived at the pinnacle of avarice and evil, taking your place as the leader among the blackest of the black hearted Taiwanese industrialists.

Your vast wealth comes from fossil fuels, but even if you were to spit out the entire amount of money that you have made from this exploitation, it would constitute but a tiny fraction of the cost of restoring the skies, the rivers, the ocean and the land.

As you scramble over the estate of the deceased Y.C. Wang, we hope you will at least give some consideration to the environmental debts that your company has incurred to the Earth and its inhabitants during Y.C. Wang's lifetime.

This open letter is addressed to Formosa Plastics, but it is also an appeal to the government of Taiwan to remove the cangue of misery that it has been working, through its laws and dispensations, tailor made at Formosa Plastics behest, ruining the lives of untold numbers of our current and future generations.

And to Formosa Plastics, we conclude with a bitter plea that you reflect on your behaviour, put aside your weapons of slaughter, and stop your pillaging of Taiwan at once, and for all.

台灣民間社會給台塑集團的公開信

2010年5月19日我們在台灣再度頒發 ethecon 2009 黑星球獎 (Black Planet Award 2009) 給台塑關係企業，一同呼籲該企業將金錢用於能促進倫理道德與人類團結的工作上。

台塑公司，我們在此公開頒發黑星球獎的理由，並請社會共同檢視。

1. 你們無視人權、民主，唯利是圖

1989年，中國人民解放軍血腥鎮壓在北京天安門發生的學生運動，史稱六四事件。在國際譁然、外商止步之際，而你們，是事件之後第一個到中國投資的大財團，全然無視普世追求的人權與民主價值。

2. 你們製造的商品危害全球

身為全球最大的 PVC 粉生產廠，你們將產品賣給被全球各地的廠商，讓 PVC 廣泛使用在數不盡的塑膠水管、地板、醫療用品、玩具和鞋類、文具等產品中，不知不覺中影響下一代的健康。儘管全球均已知曉 PVC 的整個生命週期都會對環境產生危害，比如 PVC 的生產與廢棄是戴奧辛的主要來源，PVC 的鄰苯二甲酸酯類塑化劑為環境荷爾蒙，會干擾人體內分泌，使男性雌性化，女性罹患乳腺癌機率增加，但你們還是繼續「向錢看齊」。

我們忍不住想送你一句企業標語：台塑出品，全球遭殃。

3. 你們榨乾了台灣第一大河·濁水溪

你們財大勢大，迫使政府在濁水溪上游興建集集攔河堰，專管直送六輕廠每日 34.5 萬噸的用水。搶奪了農業用水，迫使農民抽用地下水，加速地層下陷；榨乾台灣第一大河，導致河川生態丕變，中台灣的沙塵暴更為嚴重。

4. 你們的煙囪染黑了天空和人民的五臟六腑

2009年6月，台大教授詹長權揭露了雲林縣區麥寮、台西、東勢、崙背、四湖等鄉鎮罹癌率，與你們六輕廠造成的空氣污染有「顯著相關」。

你們可以對學者嗤之以鼻，但不能否認，六輕從 1999 年開始排放揮發性有機物 (VOCs) 後，台西鄉，民眾得肝癌的發生率成長了三成，全癌症的發生率成長了八成，小學生在嚴重的空氣污染威脅下，必須經常捏鼻子、搗嘴巴、戴口罩。你們的煙囪染黑了天空，還有居民的五臟六腑。

5. 你們無視全球氣候變遷加速排碳

六輕一期至四期，加上全球第五大的燃煤發電廠，每年製造了近 6,800 萬噸的二氧化碳，佔了台灣的四分之一。但是，你們還不滿足，還要擴建第五期石化廠，置全球氣候變遷、人類存亡警訊於不顧。

6. 你們污染水土，遺害萬年

2002年4月，位於高雄台塑林園廠，32公頃的廠區，地下水中氯乙烯的濃度超過管制標準，被公告為地下水污染「控制場址」；2007年3月，10.8公頃的前鎮廠，又因廠區土壤鋅和汞濃度超標，被公告為土壤污染控制場址。

2010年3月，仁武廠則爆發台灣史無前例的地下水污染事件，製造PVC的VCM廠地下水中，1,2-二氯乙烷超出管制標準30萬2,000倍，還有十幾種污染物也嚴重超標，35.38公頃的土地已被公告「整治廠址」。但是，2002年你們即已知情，竟長期隱匿，任由毒物威脅居民的健康，下游1,390公頃的農田承受污染風險。

7.你們丟的垃圾遺害萬年

1998年底你們無視於巴塞爾公約的規定，將2,799公噸的汞污泥「偷偷」運到東埔寨，至少造成一名工人死亡，在國際社會中羞辱台灣形象；1999年初屏東鯉魚山被發現8,700公噸的汞污泥，儘管許多證據指向你們，但最後你們反而獲得政府補貼9,000萬元處理費，荒謬至極。

8.你們是騙子

1993年，為了取得雲林人對六輕廠的支持，你們承諾興建醫護社區、安養社區、購物中心、護專、客運中心、海濱休閒遊憩中心、長庚醫院，以及15萬人的麥寮新市鎮，並引進37,500就業人口，然而，這些承諾幾乎全數跳票，以此角度，你們與騙子何異？

結論：黑心企業請拿出良心來

你們享盡台灣政府的扶植、優惠補貼、立法配合，卻未同等地回饋台灣土地，反而無所不用其極地追求利潤極大化，將各種成本外部化等，此等惡質行徑長期誤導「只見功利、不問是非」的社會價值，堪稱台灣黑心企業的標竿。

你們靠石化業所賺的錢，即使能夠吐出來，也難以復育乾淨的天空、河流、大海和土地；當你們正忙著在瓜分王永慶留下的龐大遺產時，勿忘將台塑王國在各地產出的「環境負資產」列入討論。

這封公開信除籲請台灣主政者破除金權的枷鎖、真正苦民所苦，全面檢討所有向財團傾斜的政策、制度與法令外，亦以最沈痛的心呼籲台塑集團痛改前非，放下不公不義的屠刀，停止掠奪台灣、製造環境毒瘤的惡劣行徑！