

## **New report: China Ignoring Grave Risks of New Energy Corridor Through Burma**

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A new report “Corridor of Power” by the Shwe Gas Movement exposes how China is plunging ahead with construction of nearly 4,000 kilometers of dual oil and gas pipelines across the heartland of Burma despite financial and political risks from social unrest, re-ignition of fighting along the route and potential public relations disasters.

China’s largest oil and gas producer – the China National Petroleum Corporation – is set to begin construction this month. The pipelines will transfer oil shipped from the Middle East and Africa as well as natural gas from the Shwe Gas fields in western Burma to China’s Yunnan Province. The project will provide the military junta a minimum of 29 billion US dollars over 30 years.

Burma ranks tenth in the world in terms of natural gas reserves yet its per capita electricity consumption is less than 5% of neighbouring Thailand and China, as it exports most of its energy resources.

“People across Burma are facing severe energy shortages and this massive energy export will only fuel social unrest. These resources belong to our people and should be used for the energy needs of our country,” says Wong Aung, spokesperson of the Shwe Gas Movement.

The report unveils the detailed pipeline route from Arakan State to the China border as well as impending human rights abuses and environmental destruction, and analyzes the risks faced by the corporations, governments and investors involved in the project.

“The Burmese regime’s recent attacks near the pipeline route in northern Shan State and the exodus of 30,000 refugees into China show how volatile the area is,” says Wong Aung. “This is yet another example of how the regime is destabilizing the region.”

To feed China’s natural gas pipeline, an Indo-South Korean consortium led by Daewoo International will simultaneously construct offshore production platforms, an underwater pipeline to the Arakan coast and an onshore gas terminal.

“These corporations as well as the Chinese, South Korean and Indian governments are complicit in human rights abuses related to this project and will be held liable,” says Wong Aung. “We are calling for an immediate suspension of this project.”

For further details, contact Mr Wong Aung at the Shwe Gas Movement Tel: +66-87-3008354 or e-mail [global@shwe.org](mailto:global@shwe.org)

*An embargoed PDF version of the report and selected 300 dpi photos are available on request. The report and a detailed pipeline route map will be available on [www.shwe.org](http://www.shwe.org) on Monday September 7*