



## Health Energy Declaration

After participating in the two Coal and Health Seminar-Workshops organized by Health Care Without Harm-Asia in partnership with the Coal Free Bataan Movement and the Defend Zambales, we, the people of Mariveles and Limay, Bataan and Masinloc, Zambales, express that we have fully understood the health issues related to coal-fired power plants, and thereby agree on the following:

- The emissions and effluents released by coal-fired power plants, along with the coal ash and toxic chemicals, have severe effects on the health of people, leading to various illnesses affecting the lungs, heart, brain, skin and other parts of the body.
- In addition, due to their enormous greenhouse gases emissions, coal-fired power plants are one of the major drivers of climate change – now considered the greatest crisis being faced by the world today.
- Climate change also has grave effects on people’s health such as increase in vector-borne diseases, as well as illnesses brought about by typhoon, flooding and other extreme weather events.
- Coal-based electricity generation can be replaced by alternative sources and methods that do not have direct negative impacts on human health and also do not contribute to further climate change. Examples include the use of renewable energy such as solar and wind energy.

- Because of its rich natural resources, the Philippines has been shown to have very high potential for shifting to renewable energy, which is supported by our laws such as the Renewable Energy Act of 2008.

Thus, we, the people of Mariveles, Limay, and Masinloc, urge the leaders at the national, regional and local levels, as well as the entire community to:

- Oppose the expansion of coal-fired power plants that are currently operating as well as the construction of new plants.
- Promote renewable energy that does not harm both human health and the environment.
- Conduct an independent research on the effects of coal-fired power plants on human health and the environment.
- Implement the provisions of the Clean Air Act of 1999 to ensure air quality and protect the atmosphere from the pollution caused by coal-fired power plants.
- Effectively monitor the effects of currently-operating coal-fired power plants on human health and the environment in order to promptly address the negative environmental health impacts.
- Strengthen health services especially in communities hosting coal-fired power plants in order to protect and promote people's health.
- Consider the health of both people and the environment in the crafting of policies and implementation of projects pertaining to energy and electricity generation.

This Declaration has been approved by the participants of the two Coal and Health Seminar-Workshops held on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of February, 2015 in Mariveles, Bataan and Masinloc, Zambales.

