NoNukes Asia Forum

NO NUKES ASIA 2026
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Regional Statement: Asia Against Nuclear Power

The No Nukes Asia Forum is a network of civil society that has for 33 years have actively cooperated to build a nuclear-free Asia. The NNAF 2026 met in the Philippines (Manila- Bataan) where delegates shared stories, and developed strategies, and issued this statement :

Currently, the world faces a severe climate crisis. According to the World Meteorological Organization, 2025 was the second hottest year in recorded history. Massive environmental degradation is already leading to displacement and disrupting food systems. Asia is one of the most vulnerable regions, and the Philippines ranks highest in Southeast Asia for exposure and vulnerability to climate hazards.

In this context, various groups are calling for structural changes in our energy systems—moving away from fossil fuels and strengthening mitigation and adaptation actions. Yet instead of embracing safe, rapid, and just renewable energy, governments and corporations have fueled a resurgence of nuclear energy. Geopolitical tensions between China and the United States, along with alliances among wealthy nations, have sparked what is being called an “atomic race.” This race is funded not only by governments but also by corporations profiting from crisis. Public institutions like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank have reversed their bans on nuclear investments, while national governments—including the Philippines, India, Japan, and Korea—have taken significant steps to advance nuclear energy.

We, communities and civil society across Asia, reject this path. Nuclear energy is extremely dangerous, unjust for communities, and destructive to our environment. We refuse to let our taxes, our safety, and our sovereignty be gambled away.

Philippines

The Philippine government has created the PhilATOM Law (2025) and advanced plans to revive the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant and deploy Small Modular Reactors (SMRs). This move is strongly opposed by communities, people’s organizations, and environmental defenders. Nuclear energy is unsafe in a country on the Pacific Ring of Fire, where earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions threaten reactor safety. Climate change intensifies these risks with stronger typhoons and flooding that could damage cooling and power systems.

Nuclear energy is not an immediate solution to power shortages. It is extremely expensive and takes nearly a decade or more to build. Instead of addressing the energy crisis quickly, limited funds are diverted to slow, risky projects. The Philippines is rich in renewable potential—estimated at 808 gigawatts—yet privatization and corporate capture block this path.

Nuclear energy also carries risks in uranium mining, global supply chains, and waste disposal. There is no safe solution for long-term nuclear waste. Funding nuclear projects burdens the public with debt, as seen in the BNPP, where taxpayers paid billions for a plant that never produced electricity. The Fukushima disaster showed how governments bail out corporations, leaving citizens to pay the price.

Corruption and weak institutions make nuclear energy even more dangerous. Foreign startups like Valar Atomics exploit these weaknesses, turning Filipinos into guinea pigs for untested reactors. Nuclear energy is tied to geopolitical conflicts, trapping the Philippines deeper into foreign influence.

We demand: Stop all nuclear plans, repeal fast-track policies, and invest in community-owned solar, wind, and geothermal.

Taiwan

Taiwan was the first country in Asia to phase out nuclear power. Yet false “nuclear renaissance” narratives now attempt to reverse this hard-won progress. Taiwan already bears the burden of 4,700 tonnes of high-level radioactive waste with no disposal solution. For Taiwan’s youth, opposing nuclear power is about refusing to leave behind more radioactive waste and decades of management responsibility for the next generation.

We demand: No new nuclear power plants, no extensions for aging reactors, dismantle costly high-risk plants, and prioritize democratic renewable energy.

Australia

In the 2025 federal elections, Australians clearly rejected nuclear power. This positive move was welcomed across the region. Less welcome is the government’s plan for the AUKUS defense pact, which brings the risk of nuclear weapons and the certainty of nuclear waste to our region.

We demand: Australia must stand against nuclear weapons and urgently sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

Japan

Just fifteen years after the Fukushima Daiichi disaster, Japan has pivoted back to nuclear energy, setting a target of up to 14 new reactors by 2050. Cleanup of Fukushima remains unfinished, more than 20,000 evacuees remain displaced, and no final destination has been found for massive amounts of radioactive waste.

We demand: Japan must immediately phase out nuclear power and transition to a safe, fair, and stable energy supply centered on renewables and conservation.

Korea

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South Korea continues to expand nuclear power through lifetime extensions, new plants, and SMRs, while also pursuing military uses of nuclear technology. Communities have suffered decades of radioactive waste, yet now Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power (KHNP) is deeply involved in attempts to restart BNPP in the Philippines.

The recent announcement of new nuclear and SMR sites repeats the same undemocratic, top-down decision-making that has ignored local opposition and concerns for decades.

We demand: Korea must end nuclear expansion, withdraw from BNPP revival, and stop exporting nuclear risks across Asia.

India

India has accelerated its nuclear program, commissioning its first Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam in 2026 and announcing a target of 100 GW nuclear capacity by 2047. Current nuclear capacity is 8.78 GW, only about 3% of India's electricity mix. At the same time, India has achieved record renewable energy growth—adding over 50 GW in FY26 and now ranking third globally in installed renewable capacity, with solar alone exceeding 150 GW.

Despite this renewable success, India's nuclear expansion raises serious concerns. Uranium mining has caused pollution and health hazards in tribal regions. Security lapses, including uranium theft incidents, highlight weak safeguards. In a region marked by India–Pakistan tensions, nuclear expansion risks escalating instability. Nuclear projects are also plagued by delays and cost overruns, while renewables are faster, cheaper, and safer. !)

We demand: India must halt the expansion of its nuclear power program and begin phasing out the existing projects, and prioritize renewables and green hydrogen where it is already leading.

Unified Demands

- For Governments: Stop all nuclear projects, repeal fast-track laws, and prioritize renewable energy.

- For Public Banks & MDBs: End financing and sovereign guarantees for nuclear; fund community renewables and climate adaptation.

- For Local Governments:Declare nuclear-free zones, especially in disaster-prone areas.

- For Regulators: Ensure transparency, accountability, and independence; prevent corporate capture and corruption.

For the International Community:Do not use nuclear energy as a geopolitical weapon; support a just, people-centered energy transition.

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Amidst the worsening climate and livelihood crisis, nuclear energy is not the just, safe, or environmentally sound path for Asia. From Manila to Taipei, from Seoul to Tokyo, from Sydney to New Delhi, we stand united:

No nukes, no debt, no greenwashing! Corridors of life, not corridors of war!

Our future is renewable, democratic, and nuclear-free.