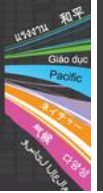


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## Power Problem: Timor-Leste Experience

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Only 32 percent of the households in Timor-Leste have access to electricity. The government promises that all the nation's districts will have a continuous 24-hour electric power by developing three electricity generating stations using heavy oil. The use of heavy oil to meet the electricity demands in Timor-Leste has sparked protests due to the environmental destruction that the project may cause. The opponents of heavy oil usage believe that the technology is difficult to manage. They are also concerned with the emission from heavy oil power plants that may cause acid rain and dangerous waste for the marine ecosystem. Many countries are moving away from using heavy oil and are shifting into more environmentally friendly options like liquid gas. However, the government justifies their decision with its economic advantages and the technological advancement of the generators.

There is a growing criticism in regard to this project. Some officials have described it as a transitional generation scheme which will provide electricity for 10-15 years while other generating sources are developed. They say it does not matter even if the old heavy oil engines only work for a few years because they will not have to operate for long. This foolhardy plan has yet to be stated publicly, but it would be wasteful and dangerous as well as contradicting other energy plans being implemented or studied by government and donors.

Source materials: 25 May 2011 by Casa de Produção Audiovisual (Documentary Film)