

IPEN Statement on Atmospheric Emission from Coal Power Plant and Cement Kilns

Yuyun Ismawati

10 June 2010

Thank you Mr. Chair,

There is an additional factor concerning air emissions from coal-fired power plants and cement kilns. This also connects efforts on mercury to climate change.

In the last five years, some of the big plants have become eligible to receive carbon credits by burning wastes instead of coal. In these plants 25% of the coal can be substituted with wastes known as co-generation process.

There are serious concerns about generating and emitting hazardous substances from this practice. This is because most of the wastes used in these co-generation plants are hazardous wastes, medical wastes, recyclables from municipal wastes, used oils, smelter sludge, chemical industry sludge, etc., because they are cheap. Many of them can contain mercury.

This practice creates the possibility that measures to reduce carbon emissions actually increase the emissions of mercury.

This air emission issue also needs to be addressed as more plants receive carbon credit support from burning hazardous wastes.

I thank you Mr. Chair.