

2 foreign firms to replace Mae Moh coal plant



The Mae Moh coal-fired power plant, seen in this 2012 file photo, is set to be upgraded with a new cleaner plant under an agreement announced Tuesday by Japanese trading house Marubeni Corp, which will build a 600-megawatt coal-fired power generator at the Lampang facility. (Bangkok Post/Greenpeace photo)

Japanese trading house Marubeni Corp said Tuesday it has signed a deal with the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (Egat) to build a 600-megawatt coal-fired power generator to replace a dirty power plant at the heart of a recently ended court case in Lampang province.

The joint project with French power company Alstom Power Systems SA, and its local unit Alstom (Thailand) Ltd, will be worth more than US\$1 billion.

Under the deal signed with the Egat on Monday, Marubeni and its French partner will replace four existing power generators at the country's Mae Moh lignite-fired power plant in Lampang with the new generator.

On Feb 24, the Supreme Administrative Court upheld a lower court ruling that ordered the Egat to compensate villagers affected by pollutants from its Mae Moh lignite power plant.

The ruling, which supported that of the Chiang Mai Administrative Court, granted a total 25 million baht to 131 victims, both alive and dead. The compensation is to help relieve years of suffering after they were exposed to dust and sulphur-dioxide emissions from Egat coal-fired plants in Mae Mo district.

