

J. C. M. P.

7 Dec. 1983

\$400m officially launches our nuclear power bid

By DONALD CHEUNG

The Hongkong Nuclear Investment Company Ltd has been incorporated with an initial capital of \$400 million.

However, the directorship of the Hongkong partner in the joint venture Daya Bay nuclear power plant project has yet to be submitted to the Registrar General's Department, the SCM Post learned yesterday.

The official application to register HKNIC was received by the Registrar-General's Department on Monday together with the company's memorandum and articles.

The nominal capital, according to official records, is divided into 400,000 shares of \$1,000 and at present one share each is held by CLP's chairman, Lord Kadoorie, on behalf of China Light and Power Co, its vice-chairman, Sir Sidney Gordon, and its deputy general manager, Mr William Stones.

The capital is still \$500 million short of the total that Hongkong has to pump into the \$34 billion project.

But sources pointed out that the nominal capital could be raised at a later date.

In a statement yesterday, a CLP spokesman repeatedly stressed that HKNIC's official registration reflected the company's determination to get it done "as quickly as possible."

"We want to get it done quickly. We don't want to waste any time. You don't have to wait until \$900 million is ready," he said.

The spokesman said CLP has not decided how much it would chip in.

However, it has been tipped that the company will provide about \$200 million while official sources have said the Government would contribute the same amount in loan form.

The statement read:

"Hongkong Nuclear Investment Company Ltd (HKNIC) was incorporated in Hongkong on December 5, 1983.

"The authorised capital of HKNIC is \$400 million and the subscribers are Lord Kadoorie (on behalf of China Light), Sir Sidney Gordon and Mr W.S. Stones.

"HKNIC is the corporate vehicle of Hongkong's participation, together with Guangdong Nuclear Power Investment Incorporated, in the joint venture company which will build and operate the proposed nuclear power station in Daya Bay."

A spokeswoman for Hongkong Electric said the power company has set up a special committee comprising management representatives to "investigate the feasibility of the project and its effects on the company."

But the bilateral talks, according to the spokeswoman, have not reached the company's top management level.

"The involvement of higher officials, such as chairman or managing director, will be decided at a later date," she said.

"We have received some information on the project and the committee has met with China Light, but no decision has been reached," she said.

● Meanwhile, the Deputy Secretary of Britain's Industry Department, Mr Gordon Manzie, is to leave Peking today following a three-day visit where he reportedly had talks with top officials of China's Ministry of Water Resources and Electric Power on the Guangdong power plant.

In Hongkong, officials said no date has yet been fixed to visit the power plant site in Shumchun.

At the same time, an anti-nuclear group hopes to meet Chinese officials in Shumchun later this month.

Miss Trini Leung, spokeswoman for the Joint Organisation of the Concerned for Nuclear Energy in Hongkong, said a letter has been sent to the proposed power plant's provisional office, adding that they are awaiting a reply from the Chinese authorities.

"We hope to open a dialogue with them and the visit will lay the groundwork for future discussions," she said.