

700,000 sign anti-plant petition

AN unprecedented 700,000 Hongkong people have signed a petition against the construction of the Daya Bay nuclear power plant, a campaigner said last night.

In the second wave of a massive signature campaign yesterday, 300,000 people added their names, said a spokesman for the Joint Conference for the Shelving of the Daya Bay Nuclear Plant.

Mr Lau Chin-shek said the signatures would be presented, together with 400,000 gathered in an earlier campaign, to the Chinese Government, the Hongkong Government and the China Light and Power Company.

These signatures would put great pressure on the authorities concerned to make them give the nuclear project second thoughts.

"This is the first time in Hongkong history that more than 700,000 people have signed up to support a campaign," he said.

"The signatories come from all strata of society and represent the common wish of Hongkong people," he added.

Mr Lau pointed out that 700,000 was only an initial figure. There would be more in the next few days when signatures returned through the post.

The joint conference, which organised the signature campaigns, comprises more than 100 labour, environmental, education and religious organisations.

About 1,000 members went to all the Mass Transit Railway and Kowloon-Canton Railway stations at 9 am yesterday to collect signatures.

They brought along banners and posters which called for a safe and unpolluted living environment.

Stickers with the words "We want sunshine, not nuclear power" were also handed out to passers-by.

The campaign ended at 10 pm yesterday.

Meanwhile, an Eastern District Board member is planning to conduct a large-scale survey to find out how Hongkong people view the construction of the nuclear plant.