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After nearly four (4) decades of mothballing the BNPP, the plan to revive the BNPP came up as it was debated to be the fastest way for the Philippines to include nuclear energy in their energy system. This idea arose for reasons relating to the Philippine response to current energy security and energy transition issues. With such a considerably high capacity, BNPP is expected to contribute up to 5% to the country's current energy supply to support growing energy demand while accelerating the country's effort towards carbon reduction.

However, considering the age of the plant and technology, reviving BNPP may give a lot of homework for the Philippines, both in terms of technical, social, and regulatory aspects.

Learning from Temelin Nuclear Power Station

Challenges in Reviving Bataan NPP and Way to Accelerate the Revival

Besides public opinion and safety, the high cost of revival also becomes a major hurdle. While Korea Hydro and Nuclear Power (KHNP) estimated it at USD 1 billion to revive the plant, the Philippines Department of Energy (DOE) suggested it might reach USD 2.3 billion. These estimates are substantial, especially considering the country's current economic situation and competing energy sources.

The revival of BNPP necessitates bridging various missing links to fit within the broader nuclear-specific policy and framework that may called the Philippines's Nuclear Power Program. These links include establishing a comprehensive legal framework for nuclear energy, investing in human resource development to ensure skilled personnel are available for safe operation, involving stakeholders in open dialogue and decision-making processes, developing robust emergency planning for potential contingencies, and addressing the crucial issue of radioactive waste management, which demands strict and sustainable procedures to minimise environmental and public health risks.

The Philippines should also focus on integrating nuclear power into its broader energy strategy, using it in



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combination with renewable energy sources to ensure a diverse, sustainable, and resilient energy portfolio. Considering the social and environmental implications, a comprehensive public awareness and education campaign is essential to build public trust and support for the revival of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant. In doing so, the Philippines can harness the benefits of nuclear power while ensuring the utmost safety and environmental responsibility.

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