

April 5, 2021

Mr. SUGA Yoshihide, Prime Minister
Mr. MOTEGI Toshimitsu, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr. KITAOKA Shinichi, President, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Re: Japanese Government Must Not Support the Indramayu Coal-fired Power Plant Expansion Project in West Java, Indonesia

Individual signatures:
8221 from 114 countries

Organizational signatures:
112 from 34 countries

(Signatures collected till March 31, 2021/ The 2nd deadline)

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Re: Japanese Government Must Not Support the Indramayu Coal-fired Power Plant Expansion Project in West Java, Indonesia

We are writing to call on the Japanese government and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) not to support the expansion of the Indramayu coal-fired power plant (1,000 MW) (hereinafter, the “Project”) in West Java, Indonesia.ⁱ The local communityⁱⁱ as well as the international communityⁱⁱⁱ have long expressed concern and strong opposition to the Project.^{iv} There are mainly 6 reasons why this coal power plant must not be constructed as below;

- (1) The Project will destroy or adversely affect the livelihoods of thousands of local farmers and fishermen because the power plant will be constructed in the middle of farmland and along the fishing grounds.^v The tenants and day laborers have been growing their rice, vegetable and fruits all year long since their ancestors. When the season comes, the small-scale fishermen catch small shrimp called “*rebon*” along the coast. Monetary compensation and livelihood restoration programs, such as livestock-raising and skill-training, even if provided, are not sufficient to restore their livelihoods and thus not a true solution^{vi};
- (2) The Project will expose the local community to a higher risk of health damage.^{vii} The power plant will not use any of the BAT (best available technology) that are installed in most of the coal-fired power power plants in Japan even though the power plant will emit air pollutants, including SO_x, NO_x and PM_{2.5}^{viii};
- (3) The Project has failed to ensure appropriate consultation and sufficient information disclosure with local farmers and fishermen. They will be heavily affected by the Project but were not invited for any consultation to prepare an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) report.^{ix} Likewise, there was no appropriate participation by affected peasants in the planning of the Land Acquisition and Resettlement Action Plan (LARAP).^x These defective processes are clearly illegal under the Indonesian laws^{xi xii};
- (4) The Project has caused serious human rights violations and has threatened the freedom of expression at the local level. Several farmers who have voiced opposition to the Project became victims of criminalization, or were accused of false charges and put in jail for 5 to 6 months.^{xiii} According to the Indonesian law, the Indonesian government must protect farmers who try to protect the environment, but it failed to do so^{xiv xv};
- (5) The Project is not necessary for the Java-Bali electrical grid which has been pointed out to have excessive power supply. The Indonesian government’s plan^{xvi} also indicates that the reserve margin in the grid will be 30 to 45 % till 2028. Given the severe impact of COVID-19 on the economy, growth in electricity demand will also slow down. If the Project is pushed through with JICA’s loan, Indonesian state-owned electricity company Perusahaan Listrik Negara (PLN) or Indonesian government will have to repay this loan for decades for such unnecessary plant. This means an unreasonable burden on the future generations;
- (6) The Project entails the risk of becoming a stranded asset^{xvii} because it is necessary even for developing countries to completely stop the operation of coal-fired power plants by 2040 to achieve the Paris Agreement’s long-term goals.^{xviii} It is obvious that the building of this power plant, even with high efficiency or ultra-super critical (USC) technology, is inconsistent with the Paris goals^{xix} and must not be allowed in order to tackle the climate crisis and make a credible transition toward a decarbonized society. Furthermore, if the Project is pushed through with JICA’s loan, PLN or the Indonesian government will have to pay back for decades for such stranded asset. This means an unreasonable burden on the future generations again.

The Project must not be pushed through at the expense of the livelihoods and environment of the local community, or in exchange for future generations’ opportunities and choices, and

global climate. In addition, the Project does not align with the policies of the Japanese government and the JICA Guidelines for Environmental and Social Considerations (the Guidelines) as described in the footnotes. We strongly demand that the Japanese government and JICA not finance this coal plant for the Indramayu community and future generations in Indonesia and the world.

Cc: Mr. ASO Taro, Minister of Finance
Mr. KAJIYAMA Hiroshi, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry
Mr. KOIZUMI Shinjiro, Minister of the Environment
Mr. KATO Katsunobu, Chief Cabinet Secretary
Mr. WASHIO Eiichiro, State Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr. UTO Takashi, State Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr. ITO Wataru, State Minister of Finance
Mr. NAKANISHI Kenji, State Minister of Finance
Mr. NAGASAKA Yasumasa, State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry
Mr. EJIMA Kiyoshi, State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry
Ms. SASAGAWA Hiroyoshi, State Minister of the Environment
Mr. HORIUCHI Noriko, State Minister of the Environment
Mr. KANASUGI Kenji, Ambassador of Japan to Indonesia

LIST OF Individual SIGNATORIES: 8221 from 114 countries

LIST OF Organizational SIGNATORIES: 112 from 34 countries

INITIAL SIGNATORIES

Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia (WALHI – FoE Indonesia)
WALHI West Java
Friends of the Earth Japan
350.org Japan
Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society (JACSES)
Kiko Network, Japan
Mekong Watch, Japan

Indonesia:

Jatayu (Jaringan Tanpa Asap Batubara Indramayu)
350.org Indonesia
AEER (Action for Ecology and People Emancipation)
Aksi for gender, social and ecological justice
AURIGA Nusantara
Federasi Serikat Buruh Demokratik Kerakyatan (F-SEDAR)
FK3I JABAR
Gerakan Pemuda Dayak Indonesia
Greenpeace Southeast Asia
IndoWater CoP

Jatayu (Jaringan Tanpa Asap Batubara Indramayu)
Kalimantan Women Alliance
Koalisi Rakyat untuk Hak atas Air (KRuHA)
LBH Bandung
LPESM Riau
Nexus3 Foundation
Salim lahat
Sidoarjomelawan
Tim Kerja Perempuan dan Tambang (TKPT)
Trend Asia

Japan:

Greenpeace Japan
Greens Japan/緑の党グリーンズジャパン
Japan International Volunteer Center (JVC) / 特定非営利活動法人 日本国際ボランティアセンター
No Nukes Asia Forum Japan
特定非営利活動法人 アジア太平洋資料センター
インドネシア民主化支援ネットワーク
地球救出アクション97 (Save the Earth! Action97)
特定非営利活動法人 APLA
熱帯林行動ネットワーク (JATAN)
名古屋 NGO センター政策提言委員会

Other Countries:

11.11.11, Belgium
350.org Asia, Regional
Abibiman Foundation, Ghana
AbibiNsroma Foundation, Ghana
AEEFG Tunisia, Tunisia
AGHAM-Advocates of Science and Technology for the People, Philippines
Alliance for Empowering Rural Communities (AERC-Ghana) , Ghana
Amigos de la Tierra, Spain
Amigos de la Tierra Argentina, Argentina
ASEED Europe, The Netherlands
Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD), Regional
Associacao de Combate aos Poluentes (ACPO), Brasil
Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), Bangladesh
BankTrack, The Netherlands
Both ENDS, The Netherlands
Bukluran para sa Inang Kalikasan, Philippines
Centar za zivotnu sredinu/ Friends of the Earth Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED), Philippines
Center for Environmental Concerns – Philippines, Philippines
Centre for Environmental Justice, Sri Lanka
Centre for Human Rights & Development (CHRD), Mongolia
Centre for Research and Advocacy Manipur, India

Chemical Safety Agency, Ukraine
CLEAN (Coastal Livelihood and Environmental Action Network), Bangladesh
Cordillera Peoples Alliance, Philippines
Corner House, United Kingdom
CREPD, Cameroon
Danggayan Daguiti Mannalon ti Cagayan Valley (Regional Peasant Movement of Cagayan Valley) – KMP, Philippines
Dawei Development Association – DDA, Myanmar
Dawei Watch Foundation, Myanmar
EarthRights International, United State of America
Ecological Alert and Recovery - Thailand (EARTH), Thailand
Environics Trust, India
Fair Trade Foundation Panay Inc., Philippines
Friends of the Earth Asia Pacific, Regional
Friends of the Earth Canada, Canada
Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland, United Kingdom
Friends of the Earth International, International
Friends of the Earth Scotland, United Kingdom
Friends of the Earth Sweden/Jordens Vanner, Sweden
Friends of the Earth United States, United States of America
Frontera Water Protection Alliance, United States of America
Fund Our Future, South Africa
Fundacion Chile Sustentable, Chile
Fundacja "Rozwoj TAK - Odkrywki NIE", Poland
GreenID , Vietnam
Growthwatch, India
INSAF, India
International Accountability Project, International
Karen Environmental and Social Action Network, Thailand
Karen River Watch, Myanmar
Kalikasan PNE, Philippines
Kinabuhi Central Visayas People's Network for Life and Environment, Philippines
Korea Federation for Environmental Movement, South Korea
Ladlad Caraga Incorporated, Philippines
Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center-Friends of the Earth Philippines, Philippines
Market Forces, Australia
MONLAR, Sri Lanka
Namasufa-naflu-kmu, Philippines
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), United States of America
NGO Forum on ADB, Regional
Oil Change International, United States of America
Reclaim Finance, France
Right to energy coalition, Belgium
Rivers without Boundaries International Coalition, Russia
RSEU/ FoE Russia, Russia
Sahabat Alam Malaysia (Friends of the Earth Malaysia), Malaysia

Save Sual Movement, Philippines
Southern Youth Development Organization, Myanmar
Stamp Out Poverty, United Kingdom
The Sunrise Project, Australia
Ulu Foundation, United States of America
Umeedenoo, Pakistan
Urgewald, Germany
Women's Development Center, Inc., Philippines

Contact:

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ⁱ JICA conducted the feasibility studies of the Project in 2009-2010 and is currently disbursing its loan for the consulting service, such as the basic design, under the scheme of Engineering Service (E/S) Loan. The loan agreement of E/S loan was concluded in March 2013 with the amount of 1,727 million Yen (USD 16.08 mil). Japanese government and JICA have repeatedly explained, so far, that JICA will start its appraisal or review of the Project to decide whether JICA will provide its main loan, or not, once Japanese government receives an official request from Indonesian government.

ⁱⁱ Farmers from Indramayu visit Japan to submit a letter to demand the Japanese government and JICA stop their support (April 2019) <https://www.foejapan.org/en/aid/190423.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ 187 CSOs from 26 Countries Call on Japanese Government to Take Quick Actions on Two Farmers Illegally Detained in Indonesia - Human Rights Abuse Intensified against Local People Protecting their Life and Environment from JICA-Funded Dirty Coal Power Project in Indramayu, West Java (October 2018)

<https://www.foejapan.org/en/aid/181012.html> ; 280 CSOs from 47 Countries Call on Japanese Government to Reject Financing for Cirebon and Indramayu Coal Plants in West Java, Indonesia (March 2017)

<https://www.foejapan.org/en/aid/170323.html>

^{iv} This is a violation of the Guidelines which require the Project to ensure “social acceptability” among local stakeholders, such as local residents.

^v The Project acquires 275.4 hectares of land.

^{vi} This is a violation of the Guidelines which require the Project to improve or at least restore their standard of living, income opportunities, and production levels.

^{vii} Some local community members, especially children, have been already suffering from health damages, such as cough or respiratory diseases, due to the existing coal-fired power plant (330 MW x 3 units), which started its commercial operation in 2011.

^{viii} This is a violation of the Guidelines which require the Project to refer as a benchmark to internationally recognized standards and to the good practices etc. of developed nations including Japan. Please refer to the table which shows the comparison of the pollution control technology between coal-fired power plants in Japan and ones overseas supported (to be supported) by Japanese public financiers at https://sekitan.jp/jbic/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Comparison-of-pollution-control-tech-v11_en.pdf .

^{ix} The local farmers filed a lawsuit against the Project and won a victory once when the administrative district court in Bandung declared the cancellation of the environment permit for the Project in December 2017. The district court confirmed that the Indramayu Regency had no authority to issue the environment permit for the Project but the West Java Governor had it, while the Regency had issued it in 2015. However, the Higher Court in Jakarta and the Supreme Court dismissed the lawsuit respectively in April, September 2018, and October 2019, stating that such complain needed to be filed within 90 days since the authority disclosed the information.

But the information dissemination by the authority was insufficient and the farmers couldn't learn such important information in those times.

^x The process of the land acquisition has raised lots of questions. The government authority had started paying land compensation for landowners since December 2016 before the final version of LARAP was completed in September 2017. While the landowners, who are assigned to hand the compensation for crops to the tenant farmers after receiving it from the authority, usually don't provide any document or proper explanation, tenant farmers could not have any opportunity to express their opinion about or even to know about the standard of the compensation for crops. Likewise, it was not ensured that the fisherman and the daily farm workers could learn about the measures for their loss of livelihoods or income opportunity.

^{xi} These are violations of the Guidelines which require the Project to ensure consultations with appropriate participation by and information disclosure with affected people and communities when preparing an EIA or LARAP. Also, it is another violation of the Guidelines which require the Project to comply with the laws of host countries.

^{xii} Government Regulation No. 27/2012 on the environmental permit; Ministry of Forestry and Environment Regulation No. 17/2012 on Guideline for Public Participation in EIA and Environmental Permit; and Law No. 2/2012 on Land Acquisition in the Public Interest (Indonesia)

^{xiii} Since the farmers' victory in the district court in December 2017, criminalization by the Indonesian government against them has started. Firstly, three farmers were unjustly arrested in December 17, 2017 with a false accusation of "insulting national flag," or "raising the national flag upside down." Although having being released after 23 hours then, they were unjustly detained again since September 2018 and falsely convicted with 5 months in jail for two members, and with 6 months for the other one. Even though they firmly denied such false accusation against them, there was no justice from the Indonesian government. Aside from this "insulting national flag" case, there was another criminalization case, where four local residents, including one of the plaintiffs of the said administrative lawsuit, were imprisoned due to the violence case with a subcontractor of PLN over the construction of access road for the Project on November 29, 2017. These four residents were detained from the beginning of April 2018, and a 6-month prison sentence was ordered.

^{xiv} This is a violation of the Development Cooperation Charter of the Japanese government, which states that "Japan will pay adequate attention to the situation in the recipient countries regarding the process of democratization, the rule of law and the protection of basic human rights," as "Principles for securing the appropriateness of development cooperation." Also, it is another violation of the Guidelines which require the Project to comply with the laws of host countries.

^{xv} Law No. 32/2009 on Environmental Protection and Management (Indonesia)

^{xvi} Electricity Supply Business Plan (RUPTL) (2019-2028)

^{xvii} The latest report shows that the levelized cost of energy (LCOE) of new solar will cost less than new coal by 2020 and the LCOE of new wind will cost less than new coal by 2021 in Indonesia. It implies that the more new investments in coal power you make, the higher risk of stranded asset you need to face. (Carbon Tracker "How to waste over half a trillion dollars: The economic implications of deflationary renewable energy for coal power investments" (March 2020) <https://carbontracker.org/reports/how-to-waste-over-half-a-trillion-dollars/>)

^{xviii} Climate Analytics "Global and regional coal phase-out requirements of the Paris Agreement: Insights from the IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C" (September 23, 2019) <https://climateanalytics.org/publications/2019/coal-phase-out-insights-from-the-ipcc-special-report-on-15c-and-global-trends-since-2015/>

^{xix} This is not consistent with Japan's Long-term Strategy under the Paris Agreement (approved by Cabinet in June 2019), where the Japanese government states "the Government will promote the development and investment of energy infrastructure abroad in order to contribute to the global reduction of CO2 emissions consistent with the long-term goals stipulated in the Paris Agreement."